

# African Priorities at the Upcoming China Summit

African leaders and their delegations are making final preparations to travel to Beijing soon for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit that will begin on September 4th. This year's gathering comes at a critical time in the relationship between these two regions. African leaders are looking for ways to move their economies up the value chain in a bid to capture more revenue and generate higher rates of employment, particularly among young people. But to do that requires infrastructure, especially energy. So, they'll be looking to China for financial and technical assistance. China Global South Project.

# China-Africa economic, trade relations deepen

China and African countries have developed closer economic and trade ties with ever-increasing trade volume, diversified commodities and services on both sides, latest data showed. Trade between China and Africa rose 5.5 percent year-on-year to 1.19 trillion yuan (\$166.6 billion) between January and July, data from the General Administration of Customs showed. China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 15 consecutive years, the Customs data showed. China-Africa trade reached a record high of \$282.1 billion in 2023, up 1.5 percent year-on-year, showing strong resilience. In 2023, China's new energy vehicles, lithium batteries and photovoltaic product exports to Africa increased by 291 percent, 109 percent and 57 percent year-on-year, respectively. Meanwhile, China's imports of African nuts, vegetables, flowers and fruits increased by 130 percent, 32 percent, 14 percent and 7 percent year-on-year, respectively. China Daily.

# Young Africans benefit from China-Africa educational cooperation

The young generation in Africa is benefiting from China-Africa educational collaboration: from schools and libraries built with Chinese aid to practical skills through vocational training programs and chances to study in China. Moreover, the "Talk with Taikonauts" event – Chinese astronauts talked from space with young Africans – has inspired young minds to reach for the stars and ignited a passion for science. CGTN.

# <u>Minister of Economy Hwej invited to head Libya delegation to Forum on China-Africa Cooperation this</u> <u>September in Beijing</u>

Joint Libyan Chinese Economic Forum to be held in Tripoli in Q1 of 2025. The Tripoli based Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohamed Hwej, received an invitation from his Chinese counterpart to visit China at the head of an economic and trade delegation to participate in the summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held on 6 September in Beijing. The invitation came during a meeting held by Minister Hwej with the Chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Libya, Liu Jian. The meeting discussed the progress of trade and investment relations with the aim of enhancing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. During the meeting, the Minister stressed the importance of developing and activating the agreements and memoranda of understanding concluded between the two countries in the fields of trade and investment,

expressing the Ministry's readiness to provide possible facilities for Chinese companies and investors to enter the Libyan market with the aim of creating a real partnership between the private sectors. Libya Herald.

### Enhancing African Agency Amid Global Geopolitical Competition

This piece explores how engagements with global powers unfold, the complexities they introduce, and what can be done to enhance African agency globally. Africa's strategic importance has long attracted the interest of global powers and is regaining momentum in recent years. The involvement of global powers like the US, China, Russia and European nations brings opportunities and challenges for African states. This piece explores how these engagements unfold, the complexities they introduce and what can be done to enhance African agency globally. In the past two decades, China moved from being a marginal player in Africa to rising to a level of central importance despite a recent decline in investments and loans. China's Belt & Road Initiative has significantly increased its presence on the continent through extensive infrastructure projects, trade relationships and strategic investments. South African Institute of International Affairs.

### After \$300bn promise, what next for Africa's exports to China?

Trade between Africa and China looks set to reach the targets offered in 2021; but what will it take to shift it toward value addition on the continent? In 2021, at the eighth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China pledged to import total African products worth \$300bn over three years. This was not an overly ambitious target given that, based on Chinese import figures, Africa exported \$275bn worth of goods to China between 2019 and 2021. Indeed, China has been Africa's largest bilateral export destination since 2009. Nevertheless, it was still an important target because it was not only the first import target that China had set for Africa, it was also the first import target that had been set for Africa by any development partner. A key reason for the target was to respond to African demands to reduce growing trade imbalances between Africa and China. African Business.

# NSG hosts symposium on China-Africa relations

China-Africa Media and Publishing, in collaboration with the National School of Government of South Africa, is set to hold a symposium titled: "The Governance of China: Forging a Closer China-Africa Community of a Shared Future, in Pretoria on Thursday. Thursday's event will bring together South African and Chinese government officials, scholars, experts, and journalists for a robust exchange of ideas and insights. The seminar serves as a critical forum to discuss and shape the future of China-Africa relations and is a side precursor event to the upcoming Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) which will be held in early September in China. The FOCAC summit is expected to unveil new measures to deepen cooperation over the next three years, laying a stronger foundation for a closer China-Africa community with a shared future. Government Communication and Information System.

#### China to screen arrivals showing mpox symptoms as cases spread outside Africa

All aircraft and vessels from areas affected by the disease will need to comply with health measures, customs officials said. China has announced that it will start screening arrivals from overseas who show signs of mpox, which has been declared a global health emergency. Customs authorities said on Friday that all aircraft and vessels – including cargo and container ships – arriving from countries or regions affected by mpox will need to comply with health processing measures. According to a statement issued by the General Administration of Customs,

people who have been in contact with cases of mpox or are showing related symptoms should make a declaration upon entering the country. Symptoms include "fever, headache, backache, myalgia, swollen lymph nodes, skin, and mucous membrane rashes", the statement read. South China Morning Post.

#### Chinese firm says US\$900,000 of gold stolen in armed attack on mine in Ghana

Workers including Chinese citizens were injured in the robbery in April and suspects have been detained, according to Beijing Xiaocheng. A Chinese mining company has revealed that it lost 12kg (26lbs) of gold – worth US\$900,000 – in an armed robbery in Ghana earlier this year. Shenzhen-listed gold mining firm Beijing Xiaocheng Technology Stock Co disclosed in its half-year financial report released on Wednesday that "five to six" suspects had been arrested and detained at a police station in Ghana. Security agencies in the West African nation were "still searching for the whereabouts of the gold", according to the company. Africa has been a major investment destination for Chinese companies seeking minerals and resources overseas, but there are growing concerns over the security risks, and Beijing has vowed to ramp up protection for workers and assets abroad. South China Morning Post.

### Hunan: An ideal hub for China-Africa trade

Hunan remains one of the most active Chinese provinces in economic ties with Africa with its efforts in boosting bilateral trade and investment. Professor Dai Li at Hunan University and Dr. Khalifa Sy Diop on the Hunan China-Africa Economic and Trade Cooperation Promotion Council explain how latest developments have made the central province an ideal springboard for African companies hoping to enter China. Hunan's provincial government aims to assure African traders of security, access in China. Hunan keen to try out new things, encouraged to take leadership role in working with Africa. CAETE features products not commonly seen at international expos to help Africa grow. Policymakers encouraged to develop trade routes to reduce costs, further reforms, stabilize bonds. CGTN.

#### Nigeria accuses Chinese company of trying to seize government assets

The Nigerian government has accused a Chinese company of mounting a campaign to seize its assets overseas, including presidential jets, a government spokesperson said on Thursday. Presidential spokesperson Bayo Onanuga said Zhongshan Fucheng Industrial Investment Co. Ltd. is using "unorthodox means" to target Nigerian government property, despite having no contractual obligations with the federal government. Zhongshan did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The dispute stems from a 2007 contract between Zhongshan and Nigeria's southwestern Ogun State to develop a free trade zone, which was terminated in 2015. Onanuga said when the Ogun State contract was revoked in 2015, Zhongshan had done no more than erect a perimeter fence on the land earmarked for the free trade zone. Reuters.

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