



### [CGF-ODI-AERC Conference 2024 | China-Africa Economic Interactions: Past, Present and Future](#)

China's infrastructure investment in Africa has experienced remarkable growth. In 2005, only four African countries received infrastructure investment from China, while by 2023, this figure had risen to 46. However, recent trends indicate a significant shift. The high growth of China's infrastructure investment in Africa in the past two decades is primarily attributed to the pre-COVID period (61.45% from 2005 to 2019). We have seen a decline in this investment (-23.49 % from 2020-2023) due to ongoing adjustments of China's model of operating overseas infrastructure investment since COVID-19. Join us at this critical conference as we gather leading researchers, policymakers and practitioners to explore the evolving dynamics of China-Africa economic interactions. Through in-depth analysis and insightful discussions, we will delve into the implications of China's infrastructure investment for Africa's development trajectory. ODI Think Change.

### [China-Africa Trade Edges Higher in the January-July Period](#)

Trade between China and African countries increased to \$167 billion in the January-July period of this year, 5.5% higher than the same period in 2023, according to data from China's General Administration of Customs. Chinese exports to African countries amounted to \$97 billion during that period, while African exporters registered \$69 billion in sales. China Global South Project.

### [France seizes three Nigerian jets for Chinese firm](#)

A French court has seized three jets owned by the Nigerian government amid a long-standing dispute with a Chinese company. The row stems from a 2007 contract between Zhongshan Fucheng Industrial Investment and Nigeria's south-western Ogun State to develop a free-trade zone where a massive industrial park was to be developed to attract investors. The agreement was terminated between 2015 and 2016. According to the Financial Times, Zhongshan said it was forced out of the deal through a "campaign of illegal acts". The authorities in Nigeria have fiercely condemned the seizure of its planes, suggesting Zhongshan had a sole objective of "undercutting and scamming" an African government. A total of three presidential planes have been grounded in France after Zhongshan obtained orders from the Judicial Court of Paris. The planes were receiving "routine maintenance" at the time, Nigeria's government said. ABC News.

### [China's Zhongshan frees seized Nigerian presidential jet](#)

A Chinese firm at the heart of a legal dispute with Nigeria has released a government-owned jet seized on its behalf by a French court as a "gesture of goodwill" to allow for talks, the company said on Friday. Zhongshan Fucheng Industrial Investment Co. Ltd. said in a statement that it had lifted the seizure of the Nigerian presidential Airbus A330 to show it has "consistently sought to act reasonably and fairly in the course of a legal dispute" that was not of its making. 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 because the company had -

according to the Nigerian government - done no more than erect a perimeter fence on the land earmarked for the free trade zone. "Zhongshan remains committed to talks with representatives of the Federal Government of Nigeria, this time serious and substantive on both sides, with a view to reaching a reasonable compromise settlement rapidly," the company said in a statement. Reuters.

### [Tussle With Chinese Firm: How A Mismanaged Deal Is Costing Nigeria Fortunes](#)

Barely 10 months after a court overturned \$11 billion damages against Nigeria in the controversial Process & Industrial Developments (P&ID) deal, the federal government is facing another legal battle involving a Chinese firm, Zhongshan Fucheng Industrial Investment Co. Limited, which is seeking to enforce a \$70 million arbitration award against Nigeria. But does the federal government stand a chance of emerging as the victor in the current case? Seasoned analysts weighed the odds in what they described as a mismanaged deal in separate interviews with Weekend Trust on Friday. Zhongshan recently got an order from a court in France to enforce the award following an aborted contract between the company and the Ogun State Government, which was initiated in 2007. The order, which authorised the seizure of the three presidential jets under maintenance in France, has since been validated by a United States court, dismissing Nigeria's sovereign immunity defence to the enforcement of the \$70 million award. Daily Trust.

### [Chinese warships on five-day visit to Egypt](#)

Two Chinese naval warships, Jiaozuo and Honghu, arrived in Egypt's Alexandria Port on Monday, kicking off a five-day visit to the North African country. During the visit, the vessels will conduct a series of exchanges, including official meetings and a deck reception. Chinese and Egyptian naval officials and soldiers will visit each other's ships, engage in professional exchanges, and participate in activities such as friendly soccer match. CGTN.

### [China and the US battle it out over Africa](#)

The growing presence of China in Africa has captured the attention of both Africa and the West. As Chinese trade and investments have eclipsed those of Europe and the United States, their leaders have warned that Beijing is exploiting African resources, threatening African jobs, buttressing African dictators, and showing general disregard for human rights, good governance, and sound environmental practices. While leveling the same criticisms, African civil society organizations have noted with irony that the West has long engaged in similar practices. Chinese interest in Africa—and Western concerns about Beijing's influence—are not new. Understanding the current standoff requires an understanding of its history. The most recent wave of Chinese interest in Africa began during the Cold War. In April 1955, representatives of twenty-nine Asian and African nations and territories, and numerous liberation movements met in Bandung, Indonesia at the Conference of Asian and African States. Responsible Statecraft.

### [China urges respect for South Sudan's sovereignty](#)

Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, on Wednesday urged the international community to earnestly respect South Sudan's sovereignty and ownership in its political transition, and refrain from interventionist pressurising or imposing external standards. South Sudan has been making great efforts to promote political transition and maintain national stability, and the international community should support the country in better implementing the Revitalised Agreement, encourage parties to engage in political dialogue, unity

and mutual trust, and garner more political consensus from the general elections, Dai said in remarks at the Security Council briefing on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). “China welcomes South Sudan’s announcement to hold general elections in December, and supports South Sudan in capitalising on this opportunity to move forward towards peace,” he said. New Era.

#### **Algeria officially announces use of Chinese anti-ship missiles for coastal defense.**

Algeria announces the arrival of anti-ship missiles of Chinese design, a major first and a shift in the regional balance of power. Indeed, tensions are high in the south of the country with an increased presence of terrorist groups operating in the area. There are also significant tensions to the north and at the borders, especially with Morocco concerning the Western Sahara issue. The YJ-12B is an improved version of the Chinese supersonic anti-ship missile, the YJ-12. Designed to engage surface ships at great distances, this missile enhances China's maritime strike capabilities. Capable of reaching speeds between Mach 2 and Mach 3, the YJ-12B is particularly difficult to intercept for conventional air defenses. With an effective range of about 500 kilometers, it allows for long-range attacks. The YJ-12B can be deployed from various platforms, including aircraft, ships, and mobile coastal launch systems. Army Recognition.

#### **EV Battery: Morocco attracts new Chinese mega-project, whetting investors’ appetite**

Morocco’s electric vehicle battery ecosystem is gaining momentum with the announcement of a new \$363.5 million investment to be injected by China’s BTR New Material Group in its second plant to be built in Mohammed VI Tangier Tech City. In its latest press release, the Shenzhen-based firm said its 2nd factory in Morocco will produce annually 60,000 tons of anode materials for Li-ion batteries to power electric vehicles, becoming more and more popular. BTR also said it will sign a supply deal with American car maker, Ford Motors, expected to place a \$120 million pre-order for EV batteries made in Morocco, whetting investors’ appetite. The Chinese company has invested \$496.6 million in its first lithium-ion battery cathode factory in Northern Morocco. Its construction works started last April. The plant is expected to produce annually 50,000 tons of cathode for lithium-ion batteries. The North Africa Post.

---

Please note: The news items presented here are for informational purposes. The views expressed within them are those of the authors and/or individuals quoted, not those of the Africa Policy Institute.

---