

## Facing barriers in West, China to push green products at Africa summit

As the West clamps down on imports of green technology products from China, the world's biggest manufacturer is looking for new markets, and that is a topic analysts say will dominate the agenda next month at a Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, or FOCAC, in Beijing. The high-level meeting, held every three years, will be the first since the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic and China suffered its own economic slowdown. It also comes amid growing geopolitical rivalry and as China shifts the priorities of its global infrastructure-building project, the Belt and Road Initiative, or BRI, to what it has dubbed "the green BRI" and "small is beautiful" projects. The theme of the meeting, which takes place from September 4-6, is "Joining hands to promote modernization," and Lin Jian, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, said it will "open up new vistas for China-Africa relations." Voice Of America.

# Can FOCAC adapt to meet Africa's long-term needs?

African countries' bilateral deals with China should be clearly aligned with the continent's development goals. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has been a cornerstone of Africa-China relations since its inception in 2000. But the ninth summit in Beijing from 4 to 6 September 2024 takes place amid rising geopolitical tensions that will see China prioritise its position in relation to other world powers. At this summit, African countries need to rethink the future direction of the partnership. If approached correctly, FOCAC could foster a new era of cooperation that is both sustainable and mutually beneficial. The forum facilitates discussions, agreements and cooperative projects between China and African nations. It is the primary mechanism for major policy coordination, and convenes every three years. Historically, FOCAC has yielded notable financial commitments: the 2021 summit saw a US\$40 billion pledge spanning infrastructure, agriculture, and manufacturing. ISS Africa.

#### China-Africa green partnership energizes shared sustainable future

The ever-closer partnership between China and Africa in renewable energy has been propelling the continent towards sustainable development and thereby a greener future, exemplifying how South-South collaboration can address global challenges. Africa, one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change, faces an urgent need to transition to a green, low-carbon economy. The continent's dependence on agriculture, highly susceptible to climatic fluctuations, increases its vulnerability. Despite these challenges, Africa holds immense potential. Its young and dynamic population, coupled with a policy shift towards green energy and sustainable growth, positions the continent for significant progress. China, with its extensive experience and resources, emerges as an ideal partner in Africa's green transition. A leading innovator, manufacturer, and exporter of renewable energy products, China is helping to provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy to regions that need it most. CGTN.

## China hails BRI cooperation with African countries

Over the years, under the framework of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has followed the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith, and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests, and firmly supported African countries in improving infrastructure and connectivity for sustainable development, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday. Spokesperson Lin Jian made the remarks at a regular press conference in Beijing in response to a query regarding the important role high-quality Belt and Road cooperation has played in enhancing connectivity in African countries, noting that infrastructure lays a solid foundation for Africa's development and realizing connectivity is the common aspiration of African countries. "Over the years, China and African countries have worked together to build and upgrade close to 100,000 kilometers of roads, more than 10,000 kilometers of railways, nearly 1,000 bridges and nearly 100 ports," Lin said. CGTN.

#### China has always staunchly supported Africa's poverty alleviation: spokesperson

China has always been a staunch supporter of Africa's exploration of new paths to modernization and an important contributor to Africa's effort to find new ways of poverty alleviation, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Monday. Spokesperson Lin Jian made the remarks at a regular press conference in Beijing in response to a query regarding China-Africa poverty reduction cooperation, which African media and scholars think brings new hope to Africa for realizing food self-sufficiency, poverty reduction and a better life. Noting that eliminating poverty is the common mission of mankind and a common aspiration of the African people, Lin said poverty reduction has always been an important part of China-Africa cooperation. CGTN.

#### China's lending to Africa rises for first time in seven years, study shows

Chinese lenders approved loans worth \$4.61 billion to Africa last year, marking the first annual increase since 2016, an independent study showed on Thursday. Africa secured more than \$10 billion in loans a year from China between 2012-2018, thanks to President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), but the lending fell precipitously from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Last year's figure, a more than three-fold increase from 2022, shows China is keen to curb risks associated with highly indebted economies, the study by Boston University's Global Development Policy Centre found. "Beijing appears to be looking for a more sustainable equilibrium level of lending and experimenting with a (new) strategy," said the university centre, which runs the Chinese Loans to Africa Database project. Reuters.

#### Why South Africans are flocking to a Chinese hospital ship

Miserable winter weather, snow on Table Mountain and gale force winds have not dampened Cape Town residents' enthusiasm for free medical care being offered on a Chinese ship, currently docked in the South African city's harbour. A financial crisis in one of Africa's biggest and most developed economies has left public services underfunded, and many people say they cannot afford private healthcare because of soaring prices. It comes months after the government signed into law a controversial new health scheme, which aims to provide universal healthcare for all, but is facing threats of legal challenges. Since China's so-called Peace Ark arrived last week, more than 2,000 South Africans have been treated on board - ranging from maternity check-ups and cataract surgeries to cupping therapy. China enjoys a strong political partnership with South Africa, and this is Beijing's latest show of soft power. BBC.

# Key milestones of China-Africa cooperation under Belt and Road

China released a report on Thursday on the achievements of China-Africa cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative. Chinese companies have made significant contributions to infrastructural development in Africa, participating in the construction and renovation of over 10,000 kilometers of railways, nearly 100,000 km of highways, close to 1,000 bridges and nearly 100 ports. Additionally, they have built 66,000 km of power transmission and transformation lines, along with 150,000 km of backbone communication networks across the continent. By the end of this June, China had implemented zero tariffs on 98 percent of products originating from 27 of Africa's least developed countries. China has also signed bilateral agreements on the promotion and protection of investment with 34 African countries as well as agreements on the elimination of double taxation with 21 African countries. CGTN.

#### China to join hands with int'l community to promote Africa's prosperity: FM spokesperson

Supporting Africa's development is the common responsibility of the international community, and China stands ready to join hands with the international community to promote Africa's prosperity and bring benefits to the African people, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said in Beijing on Wednesday. Spokesperson Lin Jian made the remarks at a regular press conference in response to a Kenyan economist's remarks on cooperation between Africa and China. He said that African countries are not forced to change their own policies, and Africa-China cooperation is driven by the needs of Africa. This approach has also made Western countries and other non-regional partners consider the needs of Africa and establish equal partnerships with African countries. Lin said that China's cooperation with Africa, rooted in the fundamental interests of the Chinese and African people, has always been guided by the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith as well as the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests. China Org.

## China-Africa Ties: Ethiopian ambassador to China: China-Africa ties based on win-win principle

China is preparing to host African leaders next week in Beijing for the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which takes place every three years. CGTN reporter Zheng Yibing spoke to Ethiopia's ambassador to China, Tefera Derbew about China's ties with the continent. ZHENG YIBING CGTN Reporter "Some western media say that China is exploiting the resources in Africa. From your perspective, it that true?" TEFERA DERBEW YIMAM Ambassador of Ethiopia to China "I beg to disagree with the western view. Practically, when you look at the cooperation between China and Africa, both historically and current trends, it's based on a win-win principle. Lots of opportunities have been actually put in place for African countries to make use of the developing Chinese market and the areas of cooperation where China and Africa are currently engaged in are really in line with the needs of Africa. CGTN.

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