



[Biden's 'last-ditch' Africa trip exposes US indifference to continent's development, focused instead on vying for influence against China](#)

In his nearly four years in office, US President Joe Biden will finally set foot on the African continent ahead of the November presidential election as his presidency approaches its conclusion. While the White House is keen to portray Biden's trip to Angola as fulfillment of "a commitment" to go to Africa, analysts view it as symbolic, saying that it once again exposes US' lack of regard for the continent's call for development and it is merely focused on vying for US influence against China. Biden will travel to Luanda, Angola, from October 13 to 15 after spending three days in Germany. This will mark his first trip to an African country as president and the first visit to the continent by a sitting US president since 2015, according to media reports. Global Times.

[China continues to dominate trade with the continent. But overlending—and US initiatives to extend its security and investment footprint—are challenging its position.](#)

China solidified its position as Africa's largest bilateral trading partner last year, as trade with the continent reached a record \$282.1 billion, up 1.5% from 2022. But a 7.5% surge in Chinese exports, to \$173 billion, was not matched by imports from Africa, which fell by 6.7% to \$109 billion, widening Africa's trade deficit with China to \$64 billion from \$46.9 billion in 2022, according to China's Ministry of Commerce. African nations' rising debt to China began raising sustainability concerns early in the last decade as more of them turned to the Eastern colossus to finance critical infrastructure projects. By 2023, several African countries had accumulated significant debt to Beijing, primarily on infrastructure and development initiatives. Global Finance Magazine.

[It is time for Africa to rise in the new era](#)

The so-called rules-based international order that started its maneuvers on the heels of the end of World War II has not brought about the development that Africa needs. The highly hierarchical order has rather hijacked international multilateral organizations and has been using them to systematically perpetuate hegemonic relations among the wealthiest Western nations and the poorest African countries. Africa needs a renewed world order where its people can live a dignified life. Such an order should allow the African people to properly utilize their resources to extricate themselves from abject poverty, and it should facilitate the continent's dearly useful youths to find the proper niche to invest their labor, skills and knowledge in for the good of their society. China Daily.

[China backs peace in Africa area](#)

China's envoy to the United Nations on Tuesday reiterated support for the Democratic Republic of the Congo's efforts to protect its sovereignty, territorial integrity and security and emphasized China's readiness to continue promoting peace and stability in the region. The situation in Africa's Great Lakes Region, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), continues to be "alarming" due to ongoing violence in the country's eastern areas, according to Xia Huang, the UN special envoy to the region, during a UN Security Council briefing.

For decades, the Great Lakes Region, including countries like Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda has been plagued by conflict and political instability dating to the 1960s. "It is the civilian population who will continue to bear the heavy toll of war daily: loss of life, sexual violence, health problems and malnutrition in displacement camps," said Xia. Ecns.cn.

['China-South Africa relationship at its best in history', says head of visiting Chinese delegation Li Yunze](#)

Director of China's National Financial Regulatory Administration (NFRA), Li Yunze, who is on a visit to South Africa has pledged Beijing's support to assist Pretoria to achieve its economic goals through working together on programs like the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The embassy of China in South Africa, led by Ambassador Wu Peng, hosted a briefing dissecting the outcomes of the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, where Li was given an opportunity to decode what the conclusions mean for China-South Africa relations in the new era. "For the Chinese people, South Africa is a partner in mutual assistance and in the same boat through thick and thin, and the two sides have shared a common vision in the struggle for national liberation, have supported each other in advancing national development and construction, and have united and collaborated in the pursuit of international fairness and justice. IOL.

[Can India navigate a China-dominated BRICS?](#)

As leaders prepare for the BRICS summit in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan later this month, India appears to have a unique position within the bloc. BRICS used to refer to Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, but the group expanded in January 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). On the one side are China, Russia and Iran, which have expressed strong anti-Western positions. In contrast, other members like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt maintain a delicate balance between their Western partnerships and strong economic ties with China. For example, all BRICS members except India and Brazil are part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Even though Brazil is not officially part of the BRI, China is courting the country, as it buys around one-third of Brazilian exports. Deutsche Welle.

[Chinese company bags contract for Morocco's high-speed rail](#)

China's Railway Shanhaiguan Bridge and Germany's Vossloh Cogifer have won contracts worth \$56.2 million to supply critical components for Morocco's high-speed rail expansion. The upgrades will support the Kénitra-Marrakech line, the nation's most vital transport corridor, Morocco World News reported, citing a statement by the national railway operator (ONCF). The contract worth \$9 million awarded to the Chinese company includes the turnouts (movable track) for the conventional line, which will run parallel to the new high-speed route. The high-speed line will extend from Kenitra, north of Rabat, to Marrakech, connecting major cities along the country's Atlantic coast, the report said. Zawya.

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.
