



[China endorses ‘small and beautiful’ projects in Africa despite challenges](#)

China renewed its commitments to Africa this September at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing. The renewal included endorsing “small and beautiful” livelihood-improving projects and bankrolling sustainable energy projects. The idea of small and beautiful projects has been highlighted by Chinese officials and media since 2019. Referring to smaller and less risky overseas infrastructure projects, it can be seen as a response to financial and environmental problems faced by some larger ones. However, despite the promising potential of these smaller efforts, Chinese investors are increasingly wary of overseas markets. Heightened regulatory scrutiny and growing risk aversion have pushed up transaction costs. That is, no matter the size of the project, many of the transaction activities stay the same, making limited-scope investments less appealing. Dialogue Earth.

[Boiling 54 Eggs: China’s Approach to Africa](#)

A colloquial Chinese saying goes something like “boil one egg or boil 10 eggs – it takes the same amount of time.” Yet this wisdom is questionable when one considers that peeling 10 eggs adds a whole different dynamic to the process. During the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit in September 2024, the Chinese government hosted 51 African nations. While the event was presented as a story of success in China’s relations with the whole continent, this idea of homogeneity disregards the notion that bilateral relations have been unpacked individually, through time, using different levers on different levels. Viewing China’s relations with individual African states as a unified policy direction is misleading both for China and for those watching from afar. The Diplomat.

[Africa on path to economic integration](#)

Thirty African countries are set to join the guided trade initiative of the African Continental Free Trade Area, or AfCFTA, which is intended to assist countries that have ratified the agreement to conduct seamless trade. The initiative was launched in 2022, with eight countries putting in place measures to trade under its rules. At the AfCFTA Biashara Afrika business forum held in Rwanda between Wednesday and Friday, Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the AfCFTA Secretariat, confirmed more African countries have met the conditions to join the framework. "This year when we launched the second edition of the guided trade initiative, we co-opted 30 more countries which will be trading under the rules of the AfCFTA. What has had to happen within this two-year period since 2022 is that most countries were undertaking reforms, putting in place legislation and custom systems that will enable the trade to happen," Mene said. China Daily.

[Despite tariffs, China drives toward dominating EV market all over world](#)

As China pursues tit-for-tat actions against the European Union in response to tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, Beijing's drive for global dominance in the automotive sector continues unabated. Over the past year, companies such as EV giant BYD and others have made inroads in markets from Southeast Asia to Latin America

and Africa, even as they face tariffs of up to 100% in Canada and the United States, and up to 45% in the European Union. Chinese EV companies have announced plans to invest millions to build new factories in Thailand and Brazil, and they have opened showrooms in Zambia, Kenya and South Africa. Voice of America.

[BRI Colonialism In Africa: China's Exploits Can Help The West Reengage The Continent](#)

The West faces a critical juncture as China, through its Belt and Road Initiative, expands into Africa to secure resource dominance. With African sovereignty and global order threatened, how can the West reengage Africa? It must leverage China's missteps— bureaucratic inefficiencies, debt-trap diplomacy, and resource extraction reminiscent of colonial France—to foster genuine partnerships. In doing so, the West must advance free-market principles, local human capital development, and sustainable infrastructure projects. Hoover Institution.

[Weighing in on "Small & Beautiful" projects in China Africa cooperation \(II\)](#)

"Small and Beautiful" projects emerge as a vital component of China-Africa cooperation. These initiatives focus on providing localized, targeted solutions to Africa's unique social and economic challenge. As they continue to gain momentum, they demonstrate the potential for China's engagement in Africa to address not only top-down, macro-level growth but also everyday needs of Africans. Africa's development challenge isn't due to a lack of initiative or determination, but rather the West's stifling of its modernization efforts. "Small and beautiful" projects are increasingly integrating Africa's rural areas, driving growth from the ground up. CGTN.

[Angola caught in tug-of-war between China, US](#)

US President Joe Biden was scheduled to visit Angola this week, but the trip was postponed at the last minute due to the looming threat from Hurricane Milton in Florida. While a new date for Biden's visit remains uncertain, his tentatively planned trip to the oil-rich country — which would be his first visit to Africa as US president — underscores the growing importance of Angola for the United States. "From a more historical perspective, the US has always been present in Angola, even though it seems as if it has been indirectly within the oil sector," said Edmilson Angelo, a researcher and specialist in African studies focusing on Angola. Angelo told DW that Angola's leadership has been trying to establish closer ties with Washington. "President [Joao] Lourenco was received by President Biden at the White House in November 2023," said Angelo. "It's just a continuation of something that has already been established between Angola and the US." Deutsche Welle.

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