



## REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### JOINT STATEMENT CHINA-AFRICA LEADERS' ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE HILTON HOTEL SANDTON, 24 AUGUST 2023

In an effort to further enhance and strengthen multilateral and international cooperation and partnership for the benefit of Africa's development, H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa and H.E. President Xi Jinping co-chaired a China-Africa Leaders' Roundtable Dialogue in Johannesburg on 24 August 2023, under the theme "*Promoting African integration and jointly building a High-Level Africa-China community with a shared future*".

The Dialogue was attended by the H.E. Mr Azali Assoumani, the President of the Union of Comoros and Chairperson of the African Union (AU); H.E. Mr Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and co-chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC); H.E. Mr Hakainde Hichilema, President of Republic of Zambia and Chair of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); H.E. Mr Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and Chair of the East African Community (EAC); H.E. Mr Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti and Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); H.E. Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo and representative of Central Africa; Mr H.E. Dr Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and representative of Southern Africa; H.E. Mr Mossa Elkony, President (Second) of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Libya and representative of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA); H.E. Mr Saleh Kebzabo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Chad and representative of the Community for Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD); H.E. Mr Kashim Shettim, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and representative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and H.E. Mr. Albert Muchanga, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism Industry and Mining at the African Union Commission.

The Chinese side extended its warm congratulations on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the predecessor to the AU. China also welcomed the decision to declare the AU Theme for 2023 as "*The Year of AfCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation*". Both sides stressed the importance of the AfCFTA, having the potential to transform and positively impact upon all sectors of African economies once fully operationalised. The Chinese side committed to promote Africa's regional economic integration by strengthening and integrating intra-Africa trade, promoting investment, facilitating the development of

value chains, and boosting mutual capacity to produce and export value-added manufactured products.

The Chinese side expressed its full support for South Africa's BRICS Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogues, which provides a platform for the African Continent to play an even greater role in global governance and international affairs. China expressed its strong support for the AU to become a full member of the Group of 20 (G20) forum.

The African side commends China for introducing the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, in support of strengthening multilateralism and trusts that China and Africa's development will bring more opportunities for peace and development in the world. Both sides will continue to synergize China-Africa high quality Belt and Road cooperation with AU's Agenda 2063 and the national development strategies of African countries, to elevate China-Africa cooperation to higher levels.

The two sides agreed that since its inception in 2000, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has proved to be an effective platform for south-south cooperation, focused on achieving common prosperity and sustainable development of all the people of Africa and China. Both sides expressed their appreciation for the progress made in the implementation of the first three-year plan of China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035, including its Nine Programmes. In this regard, the African side welcomed the Chinese side's announcement of the Initiative on Supporting Africa's Industrialization, the Plan for China-Africa Cooperation on Talent Development, and the Plan for China Supporting Africa's Agricultural Modernization, to support sustainable development on the African Continent.

China acknowledged that Africa's Continental programmes and projects, as espoused in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, are critical to the achievement of socio-economic development in Africa, and that the RECs play a central and strategic role in the implementation thereof. Both sides underscored that support for African developmental challenges should be aligned and synergised with the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. A focus by all developmental partners on supporting these African-identified priorities will ensure better coherence, and more action-orientated and strategically identified interventions on the Continent.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further advancing the institution building of FOCAC. Both sides welcome the efforts for implementation and evaluation of follow-up actions should be strengthened to ensure efficient, results-orientated and smooth implementation of FOCAC outcomes.

Both sides reaffirmed their strong commitment to the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, and their staunch support for each other in upholding territorial integrity,

sovereignty, security and development interests. The Chinese side supported African countries in exploring development paths compatible with the national conditions, and the African side reaffirmed its firm commitment to the one-China policy.

China and Africa noted the importance of the AU Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as a strong normative framework for addressing security challenges and threats on the Continent. In this regard, the Chinese side will provide support for the AU Peace Fund to effectively address conflicts across the continent.

The Chinese side welcomed the constructive and creative initiative undertaken by African leaders towards ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Both sides call for increased dialogue and engagement to build trust and confidence, and the creation of an environment conducive for dialogue between the warring parties.

Both sides agreed that China-Africa cooperation should draw attention to the strengthening of existing global institutional mechanisms to ensure the participation of developing countries, thus allowing for inclusiveness and global trust. In this regard, the long outstanding issue of reform of multilateral financial institutions and the United Nations Security Council should be addressed.

The Chair of the AU, the co-chair of FOCAC, representatives from the various regions in Africa and the representative from the Africa Union Commission thanked Presidents Ramaphosa and Xi for their joint initiative to co-chair the China-Africa Leader's Roundtable Dialogue and congratulated South Africa on its successful hosting of the XV BRICS Summit.

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