

**Symposium – High time for a common integrated African policy on China,  
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**Main Points of Speech by Mr. Xiao Yewen, Counselor of Chinese Embassy in South Africa**

At the summit held in 2015, the Chinese President Xi Jinping and African leaders jointly decided to lift China-Africa relations to the level of comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation. Both sides announced that in the next three years, priority will be given to the implementation of ten major China-Africa cooperation plans in industrialization, agricultural modernization and other aspects. The result of the summit has ushered in a new age for China-Africa cooperation.

This is the second year after the Summit. We are delighted that major and gratifying progress has been made as far as follow-up actions are concerned.

The pragmatic cooperation, in particular, has yielded fruitful results. In the first quarter of 2017, the China-Africa trade volume reached US\$ 38.8 billion, 16.8% growth year-on-year. China is the largest trade partner of Africa, while Africa is the third largest investment destination and the second largest contract engineering market for China. More than 3,000 Chinese enterprises are investing in Africa with more than US\$100 billion gross assets. Nearly half of the US\$60 billion funding support that China pledged to Africa has been disbursed or arranged since the Summit. An initial contribution of US\$10 billion has been made to the China-Africa Fund for Production Capacity Cooperation. The Special Loan for the Development of African SMEs has been bolstered with US\$5 billion of additional funding. Three mega projects, the Addis Ababa to Djibouti railway, Mombasa to Nairobi Railway and Abuja to Kaduna railway, financed and constructed by China, have been completed.

Rapid progress has taken place in special economic zones and industrial parks development in Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Egypt. A significant number of large-scale infrastructure projects in port and airport in Togo, Djibouti and Benin are well underway. China also trained 100,000 technical personnel and provided to Africa 20,000 government scholarships. More important, the US\$60 billion funding support has led to hundreds of billions of dollars' investment and financing cooperation from China, which contributes a lot to Africa's employment and economy.

Partial statistics show that, since the Summit, 127 China-supported projects with a total value of US\$ 22.4 billion have been in operation and created about 122,000 jobs. 384 projects with a value of US\$ 51.5 billion are under construction, creating about 87,000 jobs. 95 programs' cooperation agreements worth US\$ 34.6 billion have been signed.

Full of vigor and vitality, the mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Africa has lived up to FOCAC's spirit of equality, mutual benefit, efficiency and practical results,

pointing to the vast potential and great prospects of win-win cooperation between China and Africa.

As a country of great significance in the world and the current co-chair of FOCAC, South Africa plays a leading role in the implementation process of the summit. China-South Africa cooperation has become a model for the continent. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1998, our bilateral relationship has developed across the board and advanced from a partnership to a strategic partnership. China has been South Africa's largest trading partner for eight consecutive years, and the two-way trade volume reaches US\$ 35.3 billion last year. Chinese investment in South Africa reached about \$13 billion.

Ever Since the Johannesburg Summit, early harvests have been made in a multitude of areas, covering industrialization, special economic zone, blue economy, infrastructure, IT application, financing, tourism, people-to-people exchanges, and human resources development. Last year, the Beijing Automobile Group (BAIC) and the Yangtze Optical Fiber and Cable Company (YOFC) set up factories in South Africa, expected to create tens of thousands of local jobs. Last year, Huawei launched in South Africa its first Innovation and Experience Center on the African continent and would train 1000 local IT talents over the next five years. Chinese companies are involved actively in the building of the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone. In addition, the two sides are working closely in preparations of major infrastructure projects, such as the Umzimvubu Water Project and the Moloto Rail Corridor Project.

Our people-to-people exchanges have also blossomed and created many No.1s. South Africa hosts the largest number of Chinese students, the largest number of Confucius institutes and classrooms and the largest number of sister provinces and cities with China in Africa. It's the first country on the African continent to include Chinese teaching in its national education system. It is also one of the most popular destinations for Chinese tourists. The efforts to set up scientific park are also well underway.

As a major step forward in the implementation of the outcomes of FOCAC Johannesburg Summit, the China-South Africa High Level People to People Exchange Mechanism (PPEM) was inaugurated this April. It's the first such high-level intergovernmental platform between China and Africa aimed at promoting people-to-people exchanges, constituting another milestone in the growth of China-Africa relationship.

Though in its best time ever, the bilateral relations between our two countries still desire for stronger momentum and brighter future. Therefore, we need to make every effort to fully implement the outcomes of the Summit with a view to translating opportunity into reality.

Two months ago, the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was successfully held in Beijing. As an important direction and goal of the Belt and Road Initiative, Africa is well positioned to conduct more strategic and practical cooperation with China in a larger landscape.

Under the principles of sincerity, practical results, affinity and good faith, China will work closely with African countries to combine the Ten Major China-Africa Cooperation Plans and the Belt and Road Initiative with AU's Agenda 2063, focus to promote industrial alignment and capacity cooperation, as well as opening up new dimensions for business cooperation. All in all, we hope that China-Africa comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership could bear more fruitful products that benefit more and more people in China and Africa.