



FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE REGIONAL AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP TOWARDS THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC) 2018

19th - 20th JUNE 2018, NAIROBI, KENYA

Preamble

Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is the premier platform through which trade and investment is mediated between China and African countries. Since its formation in 2000, FOCAC has evolved through six Ministerial Meetings (two of which were elevated to a summit level). Each FOCAC meeting led to a growing portfolio of development projects that have led to significant growth in investment and trade. This has benefited African countries as well as China. However, the partnership between China and Africa can still evolve into a win-win situation. While recognizing and appreciating this mutual development, it is important to ensure that FOCAC projects are integrated into and consistent with the SDGs, Agenda 2063 as well as National Development Strategies (NDS) and meet critical environmental and social sustainability standards.

The 2018 FOCAC Summit will be held in Beijing in September under the theme “win-win cooperation and join hands to build a closer community with a shared future for China and Africa.” The FOCAC 2018 Action Plan is expected to be influenced by the China’s “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2030 and Africa’s Agenda 2063 as well as the National Development Strategies (NDS) of various African countries.

To achieve the global and regional ambitions of sustainable development, the FOCAC framework must fully adhere to rigorous environmental and social sustainability safeguards and standards while deploying the best international standards and best practices in planning, implementation as well as progress reporting.

Africa is endowed with unique biodiversity and ecosystem services that support livelihoods and underpin national economic development. As Africa struggles to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change, it is the well-functioning ecosystems that cushion its resilience. Therefore, development projects coming through FOCAC should not compromise that natural coping capacity. After detailed discussion and review, the participants of the workshop made up of African Government representatives and Civil Society, identified the following key issues and developed recommendations that will be key in informing African countries’ engagement at the upcoming FOCAC 2018 Ministerial Conference and Heads of States and government Summit.

A) Key Issues raised during the workshop Include:

- China engages Africa as a bloc, with FOCAC commitments pronounced multi-laterally at meetings or summits but subsequent agreements are negotiated bilaterally between China and individual African countries. The dynamics must be clearly understood by each African country for vibrant and fruitful engagement with China.
- China has a comprehensive Africa policy while Africa has yet to develop one. “It takes two hands to clap - not one”. Africa should develop an African-grown comprehensive agenda/strategy going into negotiations with the Chinese that emphasises policy coordination under the African Union Agenda 2063 ambitions.
 - In this regard, African countries must develop a common position in their engagement at the upcoming FOCAC. We recommend that Africa identifies priorities at country levels, regional (RECs) and continental (AU) level.
- China is focusing on delivering Ecological Civilisation across economic, political, cultural and social sectors, and has signalled its intent to make the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties 15 a major event in addressing global footprint of domestic activities.
- The FOCAC process provides limited information to the general public on the extent and nature of commitments and their implementation by both African countries and China.
- Agenda 2063 and different AU sectorial programmes such as PIDA, CAADP, AIDA, as well as the High 5s of the African Development Bank (AfDB) can be used by Africa to engage China in the FOCAC process multi-laterally and a basis for bilateral engagements thereafter.
- African countries must negotiate for a win-win situation within the FOCAC framework.
- To engage well with China, Africa requires adequate and well-coordinated and timely preparation that is CRITICAL towards a common position for Africa.



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- There is need to develop a strategy to support Private Sector and Civil Society engagement in FOCAC processes.
- FOCAC provides an important process and platform for environmental conservation interests and opportunities to influence decisions on Chinese investments in Africa.
- China is one of the top four Africa partners in trade, infrastructure, FDI and ODA support. This is the reason why African countries should effectively engage in the FOCAC process as an opportunity presented by China.
- Trade is an enabler and so Africa should involve local entrepreneurs in FOCAC discussions as a way of spurring wealth creation while protecting the environment through innovative solutions.
- Investing in woman and youth will have multiplier effect for the continent.
- Countries must strive to apply best available decision-making tools including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental & Social Assessment (SESAs) to ensure sustainable investments through informed decisions.
- The FOCAC framework and African countries must define and promote local content in its projects and policies by integrating Africa's private sector players, including experts/consultants, suppliers, and contractors among others, in projects under the framework.

B) Overall Recommendations:

Process – preparation for and participation in FOCAC 2018.

We recommend:

- That preparation for FOCAC 2018 at national as well as regional levels should be inclusive and factor in input from relevant sectoral ministries, Civil Society, relevant private sector, think tank groups as well as media through a well-coordinated and inclusive process.
- That the AUC and RECs have stronger engagement in the FOCAC process in order to ensure regional and continental development strategies are fully considered and carry the aspirations of the African continent.
- African countries make a concerted effort to integrate FOCAC commitments towards actualizing SDGs and Agenda 2063 and its ten-year plans.
- The FOCAC framework financing mechanism be redesigned to allow for funding of regional projects supported by the RECs and the African Union in support of regional integration.
- That FOCAC provides meaningful financial support for successful implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063 and its ten-year plans.

Content of FOCAC commitments

- We recommend that the 2018 Action Plan should have:
- A clear financing as well as implementation-tracking mechanism with measurable indicators of success.
- A clear commitment to environmental and social sustainability and a tracking mechanism that secures a global deal for People and Nature.
- Provide a mechanism to facilitate public access to information on funding/investment flows under FOCAC commitments to allow for appreciation of the win-win commitments by China and Africa
- An overall Monitoring and Evaluation plan jointly coordinated by Africa and China that provides for stakeholder input with periodic reporting and unrestricted public access to the reports.

C) Thematic Recommendations -

Thematic recommendations on infrastructure, natural resource-based economies, wildlife, and renewable energy are provided as follows:

Infrastructure

- Promote green infrastructure through better design and planning of infrastructure that promote the use of social and environmental sustainability criteria.
- Promotion of national, regional and global policies that incorporate sustainability concerns and best practices.
- Protecting environmentally sensitive areas that may be too vulnerable to allow huge infrastructural activities.
- Use of planning tools for decision making to promote green infrastructure.

Natural Resource-Based Economies

- Strengthen legislation and enforcement to prevent the trade of illegally harvested, traded and transported timber, timber-based and non-timber products, and punish non-compliance and violations to the full extent of the law.
- China and Africa to develop and launch a traceability system (monitoring and evaluation) for trade in natural resources to ensure legality and sustainable extraction.



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Wildlife

- Recognize and address wildlife crime as a cross-cutting issue, which poses a threat not only to wildlife but also to regional security, rule of law, good governance, economic growth and social development which underpin the trust-based relationship between China and its African partners.
- Recognize wildlife trafficking as a predicate offence related to economic/financial crimes when prosecuting wildlife crimes.
- China continues to enforce its domestic ivory ban with maximum rigor and catalyze international action, including strengthening efforts to eliminate trade via social media and illegal imports by Chinese traders and tourists traveling to neighboring countries and overseas.
- China and Africa maintain their commitment to international agreements and processes on wildlife and wildlife trade.
- Africa and China should further strengthen their collaboration to stamp out poaching and illegal trade in ivory, rhino horn and other wildlife products along the entire supply chain.
- African elephant range countries should step up efforts to combat poaching and to stamp out corruption that is facilitating illegal trade.
- FOCAC should support actions to strengthen capacity of wildlife management agencies building on the commitments of the Johannesburg Action Plan.

Renewable Energy

- Engaging with the African Union (AU) to facilitate cooperation between African governments and the private sector on renewable energy access, particularly off-grid solutions.
- Strongly integrate sustainable energy in FOCAC to achieve the ambition of low carbon development and a shift away from carbon-intensive activities through ambitious policies that favour renewable energy in Africa.
- Promotion of technology transfer through cooperation on research and development; and development of energy efficiency standards.
- Strengthen policy, legal and institutional oversight for effective management of environmental and social economic impacts associated with large-scale renewable energy projects such as large-scale hydropower, solar PV, geothermal, wind, biofuels and other related.
- Need to Shift FOCAC finance towards a low carbon development in Africa.