

On the subject of debt, during the press conference on the sidelines of the 2018 Beijing Summit, the President of the Republic of Senegal, Macky Sall said: “We [Africans] know what we want in our cooperation with China.... The debt we have with China is very well under control. There is no doubt about it.” Despite this solemn declaration, inappropriate, if not arrogant, statements are still being made about Sino-African cooperation.

Over the past two decades, through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, China has helped Africa build more than 10,000 kilometers of highways, 6,000 kilometers of railroads, hundreds of airports, ports, and power plants, as well as more than 130 medical facilities, 45 stadiums and more than 170 schools. More than 21,000 Chinese health workers have been sent to Africa to treat over 200 million patients. Today, China is the largest provider of scholarships and training to African countries. From January to November 2022, Africa-China trade amounted to \$258.9 billion. This exceeds the total amount of trade between Africa and China in 2021, which is \$254 billion. As a result, China maintains its leading position as the continent’s largest economic partner. Chinese imports of African products reached \$70.6 billion in seven months. China has signed an exchange of letters with 12 African countries on zero tariffs for 98% of their export products to China. Many African agricultural products have already reached the Chinese market. The China-Africa joint centers for exchange, demonstration and training in modern agrotechnology have been launched. Chinese companies are increasing their investment in the agricultural sector in Africa. Through the “100 Enterprises in 1000 Villages” initiative, Chinese companies are helping to create jobs, reduce poverty and improve the livelihoods of rural households in Africa. In the field of health, China has supplied more than 189 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to African countries. Currently, the joint production of COVID-19 vaccine in Africa has reached an annual capacity of about 400 million doses.

The field of peace and security recorded the second China-Africa Forum on Peace and Security. China has provided military assistance to countries in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the Gulf of Guinea. China is the first country to support the African Union’s membership in the United Nations Security Council and the G20. It intends to encourage the G20 to take strong actions to support an enhanced role for the AU and African countries in the global governance system.

On January 11, 2023, the new Chinese Minister of

Foreign Affairs, Qin Gang, dedicated his first trip abroad to Africa, when he went to Addis Ababa to participate in the ceremony marking the completion of the headquarters of the Africa CDC [Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention]. He thus followed the tradition established by Chinese diplomacy for 33 consecutive years [that China’s foreign minister makes Africa the destination of his first overseas visit each year]. On this occasion, he reaffirmed that “the strengthening of solidarity and cooperation with African countries remains a priority of Chinese diplomacy, and that whatever the hazards on the international scene, China and Africa will constitute a community of shared future.” The AU Conference Center, the headquarters of the African CDC, the Mombasa-Nairobi and Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway lines, the numerous road, electricity, telecommunication, port, and other projects carried out all over the continent, undoubtedly contribute to the reinforcement of the self-reliant and sustainable development capacities of African countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to conclude my speech by saying that in view of the concrete achievements, the ongoing projects, and the common ambitions for the shared development of China and Africa, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the Belt and Road Initiative remain flagships of sincere, exemplary South-South cooperation that bring hope to the peoples in the field of international cooperation.

Dr. Fred M’membe
Africans Have a Duty To Stand By China

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Shared past experiences and similar ends and goals have brought China and Africa close together. In our fight for national liberation and independence, China and African countries supported each other and expanded mutual and political trust in

the process. On major international and regional issues, China and Africa have coordinated their positions and jointly safeguarded international equality and justice.

China-Africa friendship has not been an overnight achievement. It is something that has been built over a long period of time. China and Africa have been through a lot together. China was there for us, when we can say, nobody or very few were there for us. Our cooperation started with our forefathers. Chairman Mao and leading leaders of our countries and the national liberation movements studied together, shared common agendas, common ideals on which this relationship has been built. Ours is not a happenstance relationship. It's a strategic alliance or coming together.

Africa has a lot to learn from China. The path of development that China has opened for countries of the South, can benefit Africa a lot. The path of development that western Europe took is no longer open for us. It was development built on the exploitation of other countries, of other peoples. The Chinese path is one of win-win relationships.

Africa has no other countries to exploit, to colonize, to oppress, so it means it has to deal with development in a totally different way, and that way is the way China has shown us. China has never had colonies. China cannot be said to have exploited any country. China has been seeking win-win economic and political relationships. This is what Africa needs. Without that we can't develop.

Politically, on key international issues, we have been standing together. China has supported the oppositions, and we Africans have got a duty to also stand by China, when its sovereignty, its territorial integrity and other achievements are threatened. Today, China is target number one of those countries who feel only they have the right to develop, only they have the right to peace, only they have the right to a secure future. There are countries, there are politicians today in this world, choking with envy over the achievements of China. China threatens no one. China provokes no one. If anything, China is the country that has been threatened all the time, that has been provoked all the time, but with the exceptional, the outstanding leadership China has been able to construct over the decades, they're able to cope, they're able to deal with all these provocations in the most mature way we have ever seen. To stand for China, to support China, is to stand for ourselves, is to support ourselves, is to stand

for our future, is to support our future.

If China today was to be defeated, was to be destroyed, the future of us all who live in the poor world would be threatened. In short, we would have no future. So it is our collective duty to defend the progress China has made and is still making. And China is showing us that a more fair, a more just and humane world is possible. Win-win relationships are possible. Relations with best and honest humility, equality, mutual respect are possible. What does that entail? This entails spending more time studying, discussing, and trying to understand China more and more. China needs to understand us, but we also need to understand China, better and better. We need more meetings, we need more exchanges on our relations with China, on Africa's cooperation with China.

It shouldn't be something we get into blindly. In short, all our leaders and all our people need to understand what we are doing, what we want to do with China. We need to interact with China more than we have ever done before. We need to visit China more, especially institutions in China that deal with the battle of ideas. Chinese think tanks need to interact more and more with African thinkers as well.

There is more to do, there is more to be said, there is more to reflect over, so that we started to see things for ourselves, we started to analyze things for ourselves and come to our own conclusions. I say that, because there's so much lies, there's so much deceit, there's so much propaganda against China; this propaganda, this deceit, these lies have to be exposed. The truth needs to be known. Africa-China relationship, Africa-China cooperation is the only thing that can secure us a peaceful world and some prosperity for our people. Thank you very much.

Dialogue: The Struggle for African Sovereignty and the Assassination of Lumumba

During the discussion segment, a question came in by email that concerned the assassination of Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba:

Elison Karuhanga: ... I think what is important to note, and I stand again to be corrected, is that the African relationship with the metropolitan centers of