

Research on Sustainability of China's Economic Cooperation With Africa

YANG Li

China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), Beijing, China

DONG Shaoxuan

Beijing Qianhui Brand Consulting Co. Ltd., Beijing, China

QIAO Zaiqin

China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), Beijing, China

Africa is one of the important polars in the current political and economic pattern of the world. This paper explores the problems in China's economic cooperation with Africa from the perspective of Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa being pioneers and barometers in the cooperation, and researches sustainable development of China's economic cooperation with Africa focusing on connectivity and integrating African characteristic.

Keywords: China's economic cooperation with Africa, connectivity, Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa

The Development Trend of China-Africa Economic Cooperation

Africa is an alive continent with 30.29 million square kilometers of land and only 27% of its arable land has been utilized. With a population of about 1.3 billion, it is expected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, and its workforce will surpass that of China and India by 2034. In addition, Africa now has more than 200 million young people aged 15 to 24. Africa's youth population is expected to make up a quarter of the world's youth population by 2025 (Wang & Li, 2017). Factors, like rich labor force, accelerating urbanization rising levels of spending power, and so on, enlighten growth prospects in Africa. Most African countries are eager to realize industrialization and economic diversification, and are in urgent demand of foreign investment and technology transfer, so they have close economic contacts with the world (Wang, 2015).

Five countries, namely France, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, and India, which have a certain influence in the history of African development, are selected for trade comparison with Africa in this paper. As shown in Figure 1:

(1) Before 2009, the trade data of the United States with Africa was always higher than that of China, but the financial crisis in 2008 was the inflection point. Since then, the trade data of China has surpassed that of the United States, and the gap is getting wider and wider.

(2) France and the United Kingdom were the early colonial countries. Africa was colonized mainly

YANG Li, Ph.D., professor, School of International Economics (SIE), China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), Beijing, China.

DONG Shaoxuan, master, teaching assistant, Beijing Qianhui Brand Consulting Co. Ltd., Beijing, China.

QIAO Zaiqin, master, teaching assistant, School of International Economics, China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU), Beijing, China.

between the United Kingdom and France from the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century. France got involved in Africa earlier, Morocco and Algeria were the first African colonies, and France and the United Kingdom had different policies on colonial occupation: the United Kingdom mainly occupied the densely populated and economically developed coastal areas, while France paid attention to the size of its territory. France occupied a slightly larger area of Africa than the United Kingdom. Therefore, France and the United Kingdom have a certain basis for trade and investment in Africa.

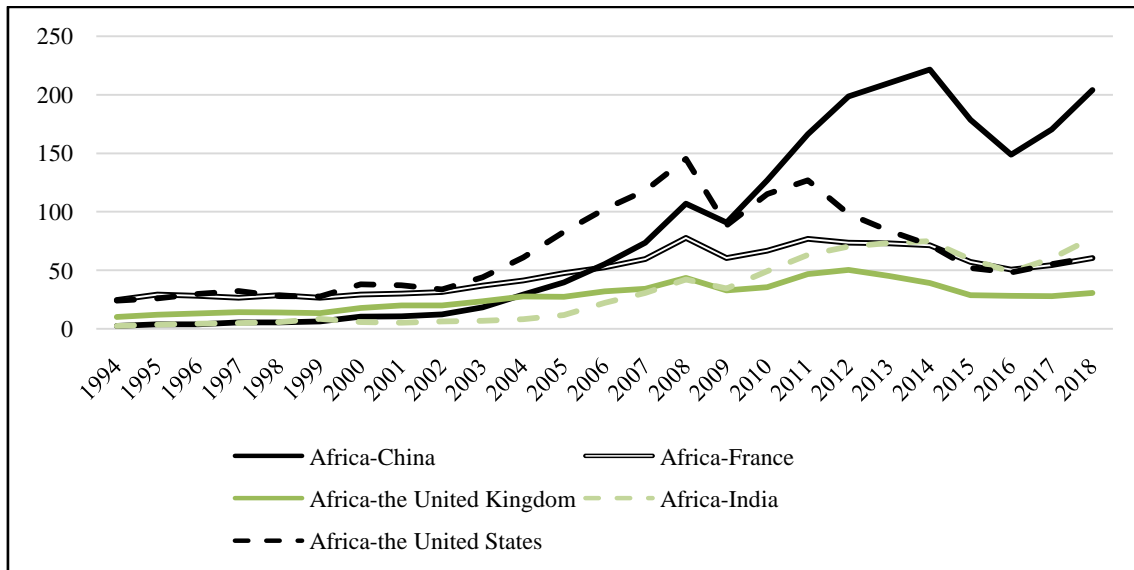


Figure 1. Trade volume of France, the UK, the US, China and India with Africa (Source: UN Comtrade Database, <https://comtrade.un.org/data/>).

France, like the United States, started with a closer cooperation with Africa in 1994 than China, India, or even the United Kingdom, but the gains are limited and volatility is modest. The United Kingdom's trade volume with Africa has been lower than that of France and the United States for a long time, also with a limited growth and modest volatility. China surpassed the United Kingdom on the trade volume with Africa in 2004, and even lower than India after 2009. The growth rate of The UK's economic exchanges with Africa has been lower than that of the world economy.

(3) As an emerging market with a large population, India has attached great importance to cooperation with Africa in recent years. Compared to the United States, the United Kingdom, France, India, and China both have less trade with Africa before 1999. China-Africa trade volume surged in 1999, while India-Africa trade volume in 2003. India's trade with Africa surpassed that of the United Kingdom in 2009 and France in 2014. The data of 2018 showed that the trade volume between India and Africa has increased even more than that of France and the United Kingdom, showing great potential for cooperation.

(4) The trade volume between China and Africa has grown rapidly since the 2008 financial crisis. Differ from other kinds of monotonous rising economic data, the trade data between China and Africa volatile, reached the peak in 2014, and then decreased, and has been the partial linear shape since 2006, not flat, up and down, not only because of the unstable political situation in current Africa, but also imperfect development models in a way, which need to be improved.

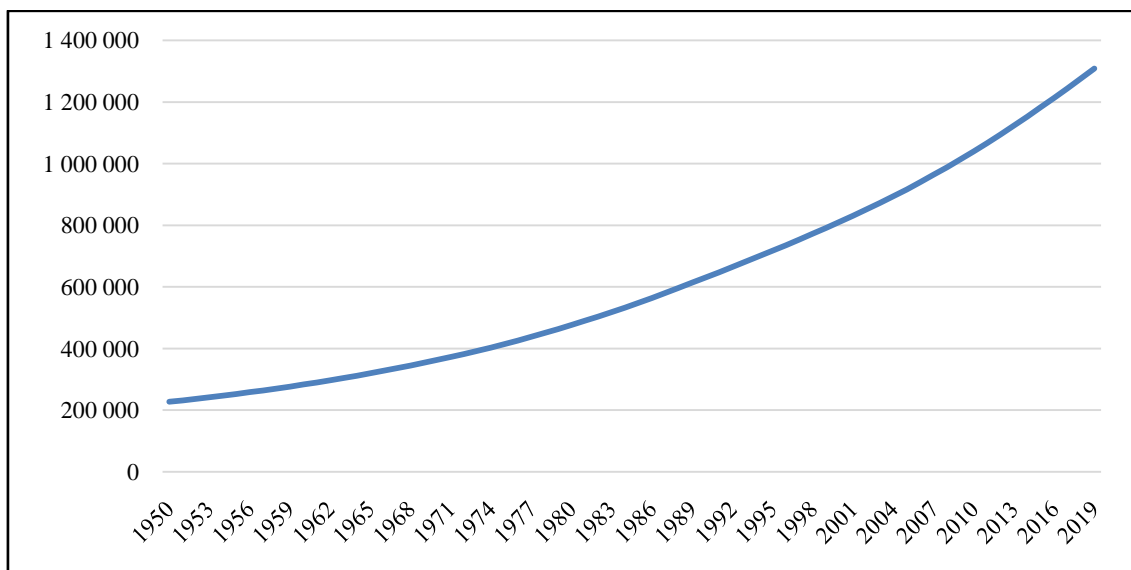


Figure 2. Population growth in Africa (thousands) (Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects 2019, <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>).

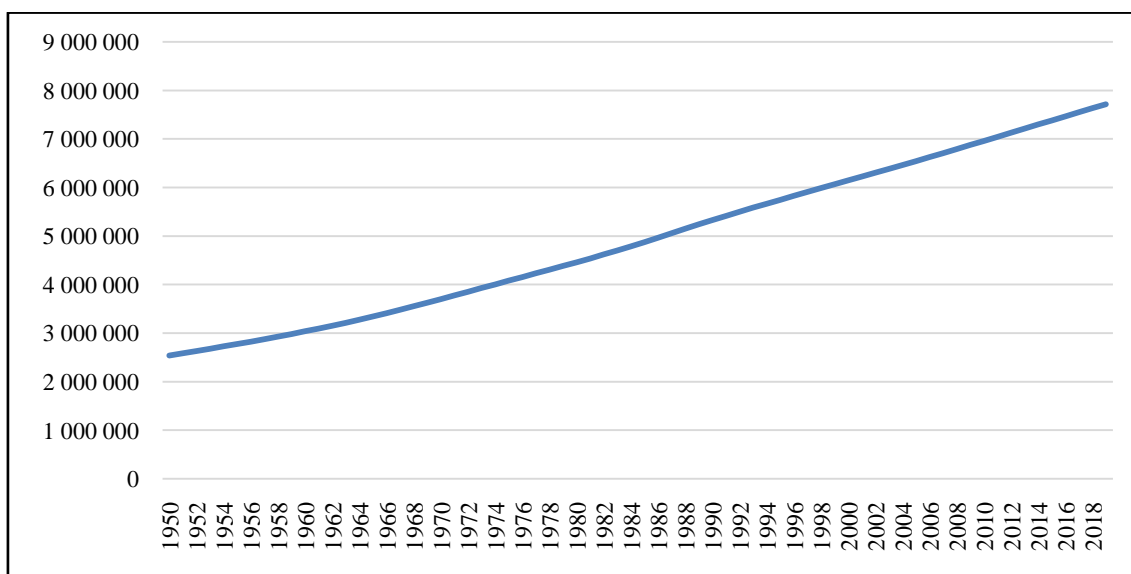


Figure 3. World population change (thousands) (Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects 2019, <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>).

As shown from Figures 2 and 3, the population change trend of Africa is the same as that of the world. The population growth rate of Africa does not deviate from the track of world population development. The growth of world population is mainly driven by Africa and some developing countries. Similarly, Africa is facing or will face the difficulties encountered in the course of economic development of the developing countries in the world. Population, food, and environment are huge problems to Africa at present. The rapid growth of population leads to the severe shortage of food, accompanied by hunger and poverty in Africa. The economic model is unitary, the industrial structure is unreasonable, the productivity level is low, the agriculture and animal husbandry production is backward, therefore the overall economic development is backward; with the population soaring, food supply shortage, people plunder nature in a single, primitive way, and the pressure

on the land and environment from human is increasing, which leads to environmental pollution. There are also problems, like urban diseases caused by regional over-concentration of population (China Economic Net, 2016).

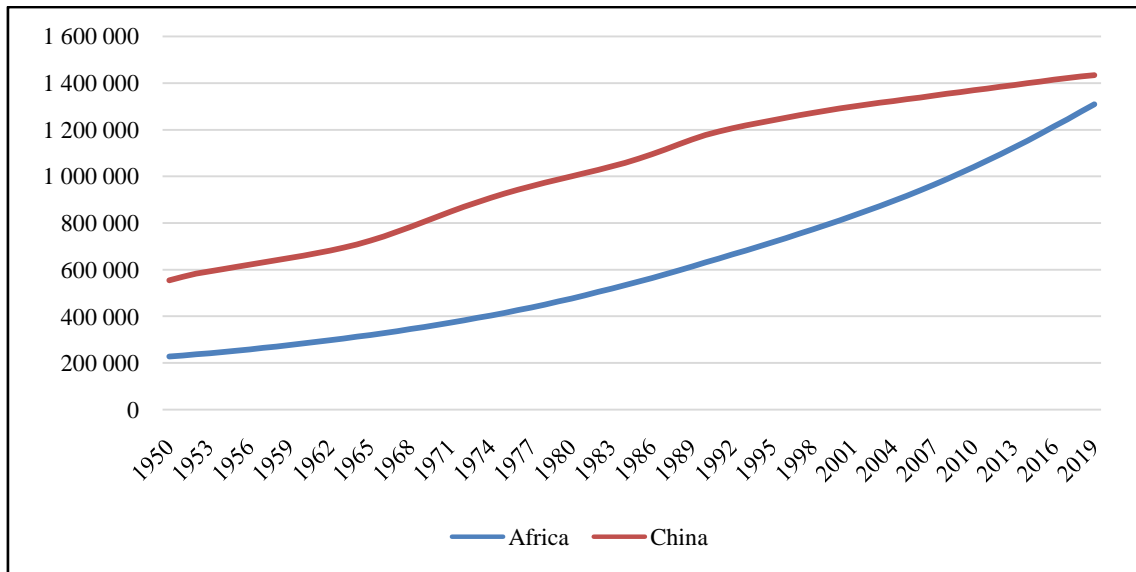


Figure 4. Population comparison between China and Africa (thousands) (Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects 2019, <https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Standard/Population/>).

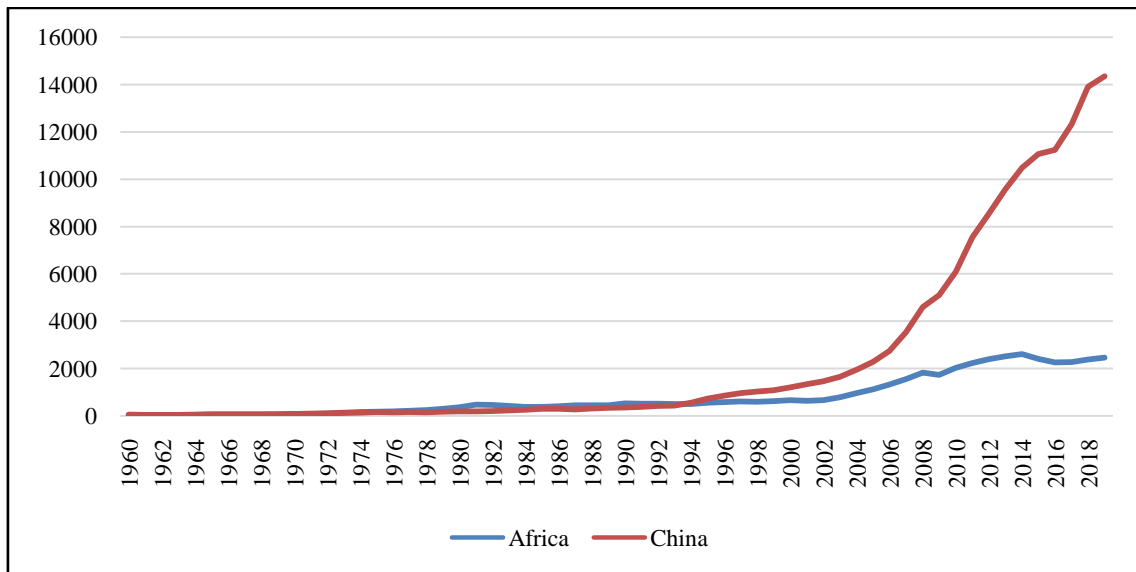


Figure 5. GDP comparison between China and Africa (current US\$) (billion) (Source: World Bank Open Data, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD>).

As shown from Figures 4 and 5, although the population of Africa has the same change trend with that of the world, the population of China grows more slowly than that of Africa.¹ The total population of China was 554.419 million, while the total population of Africa was 227.794 million, which was 41% of that of China in

¹ Due to the incomplete data of some years in Africa, different years are used in different figures.

the early days of the founding of China in 1950. The population of Africa has been about 91% of that of China by 2019, narrowing the gap by about 125 million. However, as the population of China and Africa approaches, the GDP gap between China and Africa becomes wider and wider. Especially, China's economy has been developing rapidly, while the overall development of Africa has been slow except for some countries since 1994.

There is a special relationship between China and Africa, which is mutually beneficial and complementary. Due to abundant labor and resources, Africa, like China in the past, is gradually becoming a global processing plant and needs to learn from China in terms of technology and management means. The degree of acceptance of Africa today is similar with that of China forty years ago.

China and Africa have a profound foundation for friendship. After The independence of Africa, China has provided a great deal of friendly aid to Africa, which laid the foundation for accumulating friendship. Africa is willing to learn from China's successful experience and development model.

China's economic cooperation with Africa based on mutual benefit and win-win results, China-Africa joint efforts to promote policy coordination, unimpeded trade, building people-to-people bonds. Forming China-Africa community of interests and China-Africa community with a shared future is the general trend (Jiang, Ren, L. H. Zhang, Chen, & Z. K. Zhang, 2016). On the premise of fully considering the protection of natural environment and the sustainable development of society in Africa, as well as the requirement and influence on economic cooperation from different parts of Africa, the strategies are conducive to the sustainable development of economic cooperation between China and Africa should be discussed.

The Leading Chinese-Funded Companies in China's Economic Cooperation With Africa

The cooperation between China and Africa faces a huge difference in regions, geographical and natural conditions, economic development and the requirement of economic cooperation, so the phenomenon, like companies first, practice first, crossing the river by feeling the stones and lack of theoretical guidance, is relatively common. Therefore, existing problems in the development of China-Africa cooperation over the years, and the experience and lesson of risk prevention and control in China's economic cooperation with Africa should be summarized (Shen, 2017).

Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa are pioneers and barometers in China's economic cooperation with Africa. As China's investment in Africa continues to grow, Chinese-funded enterprises have basically covered 45 countries and six regions in Africa, with diversified investment modes and targeted investment directions. Africa is China's second largest market for overseas contracted projects. The energy, electricity, and transportation sectors account for an important proportion of the market. Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa are mainly engaged in project contracting, mining, manufacturing, and processing and commodity trade, which involve agriculture, infrastructure, processing and manufacturing, resource development, finance, trade and logistics, and other fields.

Chinese-funded enterprises investing and developing in Africa can be classified into the following categories: (1) enterprises developing African agriculture, such as those engaged in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, grain storage and processing, etc.; (2) information and communication technology enterprises participating in the construction, operation and service of information networks in African countries; (3) engineering construction enterprises, mainly engaged in highway, railway, regional aviation, road, bridge, port and power infrastructure construction; (4) energy enterprises represented by China General Nuclear Power

Corporation are committed to exploring new energy markets in Africa; (5) manufacturing enterprises investing and building factories in African countries; (6) enterprises carrying out investment cooperation in the field of service trade; (7) enterprises that promote the development of African culture; (8) enterprises engaged in drug research and development and cooperation in the field of medical and health in Africa; (9) enterprises related to the development of tourism; (10) enterprises engaged in domestic and international logistics in African countries; and (11) financial institutions that promote the development of local financial industries, support corporate financing, etc.

China's investment in Africa includes joint ventures, cross-border mergers and acquisitions, and investment creation, among which investment creation is the main mode of China's direct investment in Africa. China's investment in Africa tends to be resource-seeking foreign direct investment (Gao, 2016). Most of them choose to establish labor-intensive and resource-intensive enterprises in Africa. Africa is rich in agricultural and mineral resources, but backward in industry, unable to meet the huge market demand from not only Africa, but also global market. Chinese-funded enterprises can make full use of the cheap labor force and abundant natural resources in the investment of processing and smelting industries in Africa, which meet the needs of local markets and create common economic benefits.

The summary of the development experience of Power Construction Corporation of China (Yan & Zhang, 2016), Sinotruk and other enterprises in Africa is conducive to the sustainable development of China's economic cooperation with Africa. Take Power Construction Corporation of China as an example, which is one of the top 500 companies involved in the energy, electricity, infrastructure, water resources and environment industries in world. Power Construction Corporation of China ranked 157th among the top 500 companies in 2020, higher than 161th in 2019. It has achieved eight consecutive ring from 390th in 2010 to 157th in 2020.² It is also one of the top 250 international engineering contractors in world, whose business covers more than 102 countries. The enterprise is one of an active practitioner of Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa. Its member enterprises have been developing in the eastern and southern African market for more than 30 years, covering more than 26 countries in eastern and southern Africa, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. A large number of landmark projects have been completed, including the "China Road" on the Nairobi-to-Sika highway in Kenya, the Zambian Kariba North Bank Power expansion project in Zambia, etc. Even in the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic in 2020, China and Africa still signed up two important projects: the first phase oil refining project with an annual capacity of 5 million tons in Ghana and the design and construction projects of Thika high speed bus rapid transit (BRT) corridor in Kenya.³ The BRT project, located in Nairobi, Kenya, included the design and construction of bus rapid transit lanes, stations, and other affiliated facilities. The total line length of the project is about 27 kilometers, and the length of the special lane is 20.18 kilometers. There are 13 groups of 25 intermediate terminals on the whole line, including rebuilding 10 overpasses, building two bus stops and origin and terminal station and related supporting facilities, which make positive contributions to benefit the wellbeing of the people. Power Construction Corporation of China has become a model of "South-South cooperation" and made positive contributions to the development in Africa and improvement of local people's lives. Such as Sinohydro, a subordinate enterprise of Power Construction Corporation of China, has undertaken many projects that have

² Fortune, <http://www.fortunechina.com/global500/585/2020>, login on October 10, 2020.

³ Power Construction Corporation of China signed two No. 1 in African market, https://www.360kuai.com/pc/9bec556d392aae250?cota=3&kuai_so=1&sign=360_57c3bbd1&refer_scene=so_1, 2020-7-18.

produced good economic and social benefits in Africa over the years. The subordinate enterprises of Power Construction Corporation of China also actively fulfill the social responsibility, such as organizing activities including donating capital for education, donating food against drought, protecting the ecological, etc., which establish a good image of Chinese-funded enterprises and welcomed by local people in Kenya.

Problems in China's Economic Cooperation and Construction With Africa

Analyze from the perspective of Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa:

(1) The system of China-Africa cooperation lacks completion. Although the existing international political, economic, financial, trade, energy, cultural and other systems of China-Africa cooperation have not come easily, they are still complex and incomplete, hindering China-Africa cooperation.

(2) The impact of political transformation. In some African countries, frequent political changes, such as political parties or governments lead to the lack of stability and continuity of policies, on the other hand, African countries are greatly affected by the complexity of the development and evolution of the international structure.

(3) High security risks, such as terrorism, disease, and social security. The security situation in some African countries is not optimistic, such as regional security problems caused by sovereign territorial disputes, border issues, ethnic and religious conflicts, the presence of anti-government forces, threats posed by terrorism, small-scale armed conflicts, etc.

(4) Unreasonable industrial structure. The unreasonable proportion of the structure of primary, secondary and tertiary industries in African countries causes the problems existing in the African economic structure (Li, 2016), which also puzzled foreign investment including Chinese investment in African countries.

(5) The business environment needs to be improved. African countries hope to receive foreign investment, but the laws and regulations for attracting and protecting foreign investment are not perfect, preferential policies are not matching each other, government services are inadequate, tax systems are incomplete, and legal environment is not standardized in some countries. Laws and regulations in some African countries need to be improved in terms of foreign trade, investment, taxation, labor, customs, foreign exchange, insurance, and other aspects, and there are also obstacles in law and policy implementation.

(6) Impact of external economic environment. The ongoing global economic downturn and the sharp drop in international commodity prices have directly affected Africa's energy and mineral exports and the international community's enthusiasm for investment in Africa, and seriously undermined the development momentum of African countries.

(7) Development hits a bottleneck. Local resources are limited, infrastructure and supporting services are insufficient, especially transportation, logistics, and electricity conditions are not mature, resources are scarce, and gap in capital demand is large. On the other hand, raw materials, skilled technicians and industrial workers are in short supply, and it is difficult to provide corresponding supporting equipment or services for the production of enterprises.

(8) The local government is inefficient. Many African countries have low administrative efficiency, which hinders the development of enterprises. Widespread corruption among government officials has made it difficult for some Chinese-funded enterprises to advance projects in Africa.

(9) Serious trade deficit. The huge trade deficit between China and African countries affects the sustainability of policy equity in the countries.

(10) Weak anti-risk capability and strict foreign exchange control in financial institutions. Many African countries have weak economies, immature financial systems and small foreign exchange reserves. Moreover, some African countries impose strict foreign exchange control, and their financial institutions are less able to withstand risks and their currencies are unstable. Some countries have high inflation, which is easy to generate monetary credit and financial risks. Especially for those countries that rely heavily on resource exports to earn foreign exchange, any slight change in the international economic situation may lead to drastic exchange rate fluctuations.

For example, the Zambian currency depreciated from 7.5 kwacha to 14.5 kwacha per dollar in August 2015. Similarly, Angola, Nigeria, and Egypt have seen their exchange rates fall sharply over time. Some Chinese-funded enterprises have had to leave the country because the currency has depreciated so much.

(11) It is difficult for enterprises to integrate into the local environment in Africa. There are great cultural differences between China and Africa, which makes social integration more difficult. Some Chinese concepts and customs are not accepted by Africans. For example, Chinese people are willing to work overtime, value recreational activities, and some of their eating habits are unacceptable.

(12) High unemployment rates prevail in African countries. In particular, the youth unemployment rate is twice that of adults. They are worried that Chinese enterprises will enter and grab jobs, or they have too high expectations for Chinese enterprises to provide jobs.

(13) Problems in terms of use and management of labor workers. Relevant laws in some African countries stipulate that the proportion of local employees employed by foreign investment enterprises or foreign contracted enterprises shall not be less than a certain percentage. However, the skill level and quality of work of local employees may not meet the requirements of Chinese enterprises, which may cause damage to the operating benefit of Chinese-funded enterprises.

(14) Homogenized competition among Chinese-funded enterprises is fierce. Chinese-funded enterprises do not cooperate with each other, causes the phenomenon of ignoring the long-term healthy development of enterprises. In the early stage, the Chinese-funded construction industry established its market in Africa by low price and reliable quality. However, when more Chinese-funded construction enterprises flocked to Africa, they competed with each other by price war and homogenized competition, which was bound to affect the project quality and long-term cooperation.

(15) Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa are strongly closed. For the sake of safety, Chinese-funded enterprises are relatively closed. In this way, they seldom deal with the media, sometimes causing misunderstanding to the outside world and causing disputes over the development mode of Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa. Because of this, in many cases, whenever Chinese-funded enterprises are judged by the media to have done something wrong, negative news reports will appear and they will be regarded as rule-breakers.

Strategies China Should Adopt to Build a China-Africa Community With a Shared Future

The sustainable development of China's economic cooperation with Africa should be based on focusing on connectivity and integrating African characteristics.

The Building of People-to-People Bonds

Mutual understanding and inclusiveness are the prerequisite for China-Africa economic cooperation and the foundation for advancing China-Africa economic cooperation initiative. People-to-people bonds help

communicate academic circles and universities, accelerate the development of African tourism, give priority to the development of agricultural parks, accelerate the development of the restaurant industry in Africa, and popularize medical aid. In addition, activities, such as Power Construction Corporation of China's money donation for education and grain donation to fight drought cannot be ignored.

(1) Paying attention to the communication between academic circles and universities. To build closer people-to-people bonds in China-Africa economic cooperation should not only focus on Africa's educational assistance and personnel training, but also promote communication between academic circles and universities in China and Africa. At present, there are still limited academic exchanges between Chinese and African academic circles, such as international conferences and visiting scholars. In addition, there are already some Chinese students in Africa graduate and work in these countries, which plays a positive role in building closer people-to-people bonds.

(2) Accelerating the development of tourism in Africa. Africa has many natural tourist attractions, such as Kenya, South Africa, Egypt, Morocco, Namibia, and other countries, not only have famous tourist attractions, but also safe and affordable. China should vigorously develop tourism to Africa. This will not only create conditions for closer people-to-people bonds, but also help China and the rest of the world to better understand Africa and benefit the African people. Support will be given as soon as possible to open pilot of direct flights between some China local provinces and cities and Africa to promote China-Africa tourism cooperation. Start from African countries with safe environment, and use the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) to select destination country, which rates African countries in four categories: personal safety, laws and regulations, national security, and accountability system.

(3) Giving priority to developing agricultural parks. In a way, the economic depression of Africa is not restricted by its natural environment. China should give priority to developing agricultural parks in Africa, so that Chinese technology can contribute to Africa's agricultural modernization development. At the same time, China's concept of interconnected development rather than help the poverty will be gradually recognized in Africa.

(4) Accelerating the development of the restaurant industry in Africa. The role of promoting Chinese food to the world is obvious to all, and the development of restaurant industry in Africa should be paid attention to as soon as possible. For example, by learning from the China Railway 14th Bureau Group Cooperation, limited promoting the localized employment of overseas chefs, which not only greatly reduces the employment cost for Chinese-funded enterprises, but also enables local women to master a skill, and at the same time, it also widely spreads Chinese food culture in the local area.

(5) Extending medical assistance. The level of medical care in Africa is generally low. Medical assistance to African countries is the most practical and acceptable, and it is an important means of building people-to-people bonds. The process also focuses on helping promote Africa's health care industry, build hospitals and train doctors. And it also helps improve the quality and quantity of drugs in Africa to cooperate with Chinese-funded enterprises. Africa has a high proportion of young people, a high fertility rate, and attention should be paid to improve the detection rate of birth defects and so on.

(6) Making full use of various effective resources. To explore the use of local overseas Chinese, Chinese chamber of commerce, overseas students, information communication and experience presentation in local well-developed Chinese enterprises, and the economic and commercial counselor's office of each embassy need to establish a business information integration platform for the investment information. The adoption of

various effective resources and means, such as holding multinational table tennis competitions and get-together parties, will help promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges and the healthy development of Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa.

The Building of Policy Coordination

(1) Formulating top-level strategic planning. The state should be able to make far-sighted judgments on the political situation, economic operation trend, investment environment and other deep-seated issues of African countries, give macro guidance, achieve policy communication with domestic enterprises, and more importantly with foreign countries. Increased communication between domestic authorities and African governments will help to achieve more bilateral agreements more quickly on key issues relating to the implementation of trade and investment and to clarify more operational details on the basis of the agreements already signed.

(2) Playing the role of typical examples. For example, Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, the first modern electrified railway in Africa, built with Chinese standards and equipment, was opened to traffic, and Kigamboni Bridge, the largest cable-stayed cross-sea bridge in East Africa, was officially opened in Tanzania. These important infrastructure facilities can promote the development of local economy and can be promoted as typical examples.

(3) Collaborative development of Chinese-funded enterprises. According to the forecast from "Large Projects and Infrastructure Spending 2025" by PricewaterhouseCoopers (Liu, 2016), from 2015 to 2025, Africa's road (including bridges and tunnels) is expected to spend 200 billion dollars with an average annual growth rate of 8.2%, railways (including stations) are expected to spend 78 billion dollars with an average annual growth rate of 8%, Ports are expected to spend 25 billion dollars with an average annual growth rate of 7.8%, and airports are expected to spend seven billion dollars with an average annual growth rate of 7.1%. Countries with high project expenditures include Nigeria, South Africa, Mozambique, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, etc. Infrastructure construction is China's strength. Chinese companies should strengthen cooperation to compete for projects on the premise of ensuring the healthy economic development of Africa.

(4) Encourage provincial and municipal governments to take the lead. Provinces and cities of government have a full understanding of the management, technology, innovation and talent advantages of the enterprises under jurisdiction. They should comprehensive utilization of their respective advantages, support more enterprises under the jurisdiction to develop in tandem with other countries or regions with complementary advantages, in order to expand areas of cooperation, enhance cooperation level, and achieve long-term mutual benefit.

The Building of Unimpeded Trade and Financial Integration

(1) Cross-border e-commerce. Unimpeded trade can enhance the use of cross-border e-commerce, especially the opening of China Railway Express to develop cross-border e-commerce with Africa. As an important "Online Silk Road", cross-border e-commerce has gradually extended its development model to Africa: cross-border payment and cross-border delivery in cross-border e-commerce (Hu & Wang, 2016). Chakrabarti & Ghosh, 2014), data protection related to shipping can be further optimized, such as exploring ways to provide support for cross-border e-commerce in Africa, similar to trade facilitation agreements, using the overland Silk Road and China Railway Express to drive development.

(2) Investment in Africa's light industry market and retail market: Africa generally suffers from imperfect supporting facilities, limited production capacity and relatively high production cost of light industry, so

China's light industrial products just meet the needs of these countries and regions in the Africa. Africa's retail market is growing fast and has begun to build shopping malls. Retail could be boosted by opening e-commerce businesses in Africa.

(3) Focus on green credit in financial integration: The essence of green credit is to include environmental factors in financial accounting and decision-making and regulate credit supply by means of credit (Zhao, 2015). China should increase its support for green credit in Africa's financing, take actions to enhance Africa's capacity for green, low-carbon, and sustainable development, take into full account that Africa's ecological environment and long-term interests will not be sacrificed, and reduce the fears of the African people that China's investment in Africa will damage environment.

Conclusion

With population resources, urbanization rate and consumption level increasing in Africa, it has a good prospect of economic growth. Deepening the sustainable development of China-Africa economic cooperation can inject strong kinetic energy into the economic in China and Africa. With China strengthening its economic and trade cooperation with Africa and enhancing its foreign assistance to Africa by the instruction from the Belt and Road Initiative, China and Africa have become inseparable and indispensable economic and trade partners, making positive contributions to the steady and healthy development of economic and trade in the country and region.

Because there are many similarities in the development path of China and Africa, China and Africa have mutually beneficial complementarities, and Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa have become an important link for Africa to learn China's successful experience and development model. Some leading Chinese-funded enterprises carry forward the spirit of exploration and win-win cooperation, and make full use of Africa's cheap labor force and abundant natural resources in infrastructure, processing and smelting industries to meet the needs of the local market and create common economic benefits. With the completion of a series of landmark projects, it has established a good enterprise image for Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa, provided valuable experience for "South-South cooperation", and made positive contributions to the development of Africa and the improvement of the lives of local people.

At the same time, China's economic cooperation with Africa still faces complex risks and challenges. From the perspective of Chinese-funded enterprises in Africa, they are facing the problems like unstable China-Africa cooperation system, African political system and social security; limited resources, lack of infrastructure, lack of supporting services and other external constraints; weak ability of financial institutions to resist risks, strict foreign exchange control, unreasonable industrial structure, imperfect business environment and so on.

Therefore, in order to deepen the sustainable development of China-Africa economic cooperation and build a China-Africa community with a shared future, we must combine the characteristics of Africa with the emphasis on interconnection. To develop the building of people-to-people bonds from the perspective of focusing on the exchanges between academia and universities, accelerating the development of Africa's tourism, agricultural parks and catering industry, the popularization of medical and making full use of various effective resources; To develop the building of policy coordination from the perspective of formulating top-level strategies, playing the role of typical examples, strengthening the cooperative development of Chinese-funded enterprises and encouraging governments at all levels to take the lead; To develop the building of unimpeded

trade and financial integration from the perspective of using China Railway Express to develop cross-border e-commerce with Africa, investing light industry and retail markets in Africa, and paying attention to green credit.

Reference

- Abudu, D., Echima, R. A., & Andogah, G. (2019). Spatial assessment of urban sprawl in Arua Municipality, Uganda. *The Egyptian Journal of Remote Sensing and Space Sciences*, 22(3), 315-322.
- Chakrabarti, S., & Ghosh, I. (2014). FDI in Africa: A comparison of the Indian and Chinese experience. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 15(7), 36-52.
- China Economic Net. (2016). The experience of domestic industrial parks begins to be copied to the whole world. Retrieved from http://www.ce.cn/xwzx/gnsz/gdxw/201601/21/t20160121_8427490.shtml
- Collier, P. (2017). African urbanization: An analytic policy guide. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 3(33), 405-437.
- Gao, Y. (2016). China's trade perspective on Africa's OFDI motivations—Empirical analysis based on gravity model. *Economic Economics*, 33(1), 60-65.
- Hu, Y., & Wang, T. (2016). Analysis on Indian investment in Africa. *South Asia Research Quarterly*, 2, 55-66.
- Huang, Z. L. (2018). Slums and informal communities in contemporary African cities: A case study of Nairobi. *Urban Planning International*, 33(5). Retrieved from <http://www.upi-planning.org/PDFShow.aspx?ID=47590>
- Jiang, D. L., Ren, H., Zhang, L. H., Chen, Y. Y., & Zhang, Z. K. (2016). Coupling relationship between population and economy in Africa. *Tropical Geography*, 36(5), 823-832
- Li, J. (2016). Analysis on the formation of colonial dependent economic structure in Africa. *New Economy*, 5(Middle), 24-25.
- Liu, P. X. (2016). Grassroots construction: Analysis on part of 2016 overseas project contracting market. Retrieved from <http://go.gdcom.gov.cn/article.php?typeid=32&contentId=5183>
- Ma, J. L., Xu, X. L., & Qi, G. B. (2017). Embedded history: The operation logic of Chinese capital in Africa—A case study of a Chinese-funded enterprise in Tanzania. *Journal of Southwest Minzu University (Humanities and Social Sciences Edition)*, 38(11), 9-14.
- Meng, L., Li, X. Y., & Qi, G. B. (2008). Chinese enterprises in Africa: Empirical construction of culture and “empirical trap”. *Journal of Guangxi University for Nationalities (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 40(3), 2-9.
- Mu, X. (2019). Prevention and mitigation of labor legal risks in Chinese-owned enterprises in South Africa—Focusing on legal regulation of collective labor relations in South Africa. *Journal of Shaanxi Normal University (Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 48(5), 17-27.
- Ostby, G. (2016). Rural-urban migration, inequality and urban social disorder: Evidence from African and Asian cities. *Conflict Management and PeaceScience*, 33(5), 491-515.
- Shen, C. (2017). China-Africa economic and trade cooperation zone: Ten years of construction achievements and reflection. *Overseas Investment and Export Credit*, 1, 45-48.
- Wang, N. (2015). Africa: Indispensable participant of “One Belt And One Road”. *Asia-Pacific Security and Maritime Affairs*, 3, 97-109.
- Wang, S. B., & Li, N. (2017). African union president: Hope to turn Africa's youth population into a demographic dividend. *Huanqiu.com*. Retrieved from <http://mt.sohu.com/20170131/n479726786.shtml>
- Yan, X. B., & Zhang, G. D. (2016). Current situation and development trend of African project contracting market. Retrieved from <https://www.chinca.org/IEAService/info/20160421105015>
- Zhao, Z. (2015). Asian Investment Bank is an important pillar of non-economic cooperation strategy. *International Finance*, 5, 24-26.
- Zhu, W. D. (2018). What legal issues should be paid attention to in China-Africa production capacity cooperation. *People's Forum*, (15), 81-83.