

# China-Africa Cooperation: “The Chinese Dream” for Africa

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Ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

It is an honor and a real pleasure for me to be invited to this important conference, which takes place at the period when we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the China-Africa Think Tank Forum. Also, this is the year of the 21st anniversary of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). On this occasion, first of all, please allow me to pay a vibrant tribute to the founders of the CPC, to the visionary founders of the FOCAC, especially to the torchbearer of these heroes. I appreciate President Xi Jinping, the leader who is writing glorious pages of the Chinese nation, historical pages of the world governance, and memorable pages of the China-Africa Cooperation and the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen, speaking of China-Africa cooperation, or rather “the Chinese Dream” for Africa, let me invite you to try to understand the Chinese Dream and to figure out a particular place Africa set in this dream. In July, 2021, the whole world applauded the ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. On the sidelines of this great event, the CPC organized a summit enabling the Secretary-General Xi Jinping and more than 500 political parties’ leaders, and nearly 10,000 representatives of political parties from more than 160 countries to discuss the theme: “For the Well-being of the Peoples: The Responsibility of Political Parties.” Africans were there, too.

Since he was elected General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee in 2012, the speeches and interaction of Xi Jinping with us have quickly helped us to understand the noble responsibility of the CPC, which is none other than the fulfillment of “The Chinese Dream.” In 2012, during the visit to the exhibition entitled “The Ways of Rejuvenation” which traces the history, relates the present, and outlines the future of China, Xi Jinping shed light on the Chinese Dream. I paraphrase: “Each person has his ideals, his aspirations, a dream he would like to realize. Today everyone is talking about the Chinese Dream. In my opinion, achieving great national renewal has embodied the greatest dream of the Chinese since the beginning of the modern era. It carries the hopes of generations of compatriots, reflects the interest of the whole nation and all the people, and is shared by all the children of the nation. In short, only when the state and the nation are doing well, will the Chinese people be

able to live well. Achieving the great renewal of the Chinese nation has been the most ambitious dream of the Chinese people since modern times.”

The primary content of the Chinese Dream is the happiness of the people and the renewal of the Chinese nation. To make this dream come true, “You have to follow the Chinese path, promote the Chinese spirit and rally the strength of China. The Chinese Dream seeks the happiness for not only the Chinese people but also others in the rest of the world. To achieve it, every Chinese must work hard and accomplish concrete actions.” The realization of the Chinese Dream is closely related to the Chinese spirit, the core of which is patriotism. Chinese patriotism is neither narrow nationalism nor blissful egocentricity. The dedication to making this dream come true has enabled the Chinese people to successfully build a middle-income society, perform human miracles, including the complete eradication of extreme poverty in China. The content of the Chinese Dream remains in the objectives of the two centuries defined by the CPC: to achieve a “moderately prosperous” society by 2021 (goal achieved before date) and the achievement of “a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious” by 2049, the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

While speaking of the Chinese Dream, some people are tempted to compare it with the American Dream. Such a comparison is simplistic. Hollywood and American politicians have expertly cultivated the American Dream to extend the image and influence of the USA in the world. The American Dream is a myth built on “the conquest of the Western, the image of the adventurer creating his own life on a virgin land and the wave of immigration from 1860 to 1920.” The extermination of indigenous peoples, racial segregation, and the black African slave trade have largely contributed to making the USA the world’s leading power. The American Dream is at the same time a historical construction, a tool of political propaganda, a purveyor of imagination and a formidable way of creating consensus. Martin Luther King’s “dream” (“I have a dream”) in 1963, a real indictment of the American segregationist system, is excluded from the American Dream. Martin Luther King’s claims, his fight against racism and poverty are ignored. Other prominent black figures in the struggle for civil rights, such as Malcolm X, Angela Davis, Mohamed Ali, are rejected from the so-called American social consensus. The USA presents itself as an exceptional nation, “the only indispensable nation” globally.

The essential characteristics of the Chinese Dream (peace and development, shared prosperity, win-win cooperation, the pursuit of the happiness of the Chinese people and all peoples in the world) are humanistic characteristics shared by China and Africa. The Chinese Dream is shared by African peoples who express their dream in the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Seven Aspirations. The African peoples manifest the desire to share prosperity and well-being. The African Union Agenda 2063 plans to build “a prosperous Africa at peace, governed by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.” African peoples will have a high living standard, health, and well-being. Africa will be “an active and equal participant in world affairs, an engine for peaceful coexistence and fully capable of financing its development.”

With the founding of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2000 in Beijing, the great China-Africa family has endowed itself with “its platform for dialogue and its mechanism for pragmatic cooperation,” an incomparable instrument for sharing their knowledge and dreams. The FOCAC has produced concrete results that have taken China-Africa Cooperation from the level of “new type partnership to a new type strategic partnership and then to the level of comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership.”

Each Summit has put in place specific cooperation measures. The successes of Johannesburg 2015 Summit and Beijing 2018 Summit have helped promote development in Africa while injecting positive energy into the world economy. The Beijing 2018 Summit anchored China-Africa cooperation in building a prosperous future for Chinese and African peoples. The “China-Africa Extraordinary Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19” held in Beijing in June 2020 demonstrated the productivity of the FOCAC and marked China’s active solidarity with African countries. At that Summit, President Xi Jinping declared: “China will continue to do what is possible to support Africa’s response to the Covid-19, to give greater priority to the cooperation in the areas of public health, the reopening of businesses and the well-being of the populations.” By granting his first official overseas visit to Africa in early 2021, Wang Yi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, demonstrated China’s commitment to its initial engagement with Africa.

During the 21 years since its inception, the FOCAC has spearheaded the rest of the world’s cooperation with Africa and has become the gold standard for South-South cooperation.

The 8th Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC to be held on November 29, 2022 in Dakar, Senegal, on the theme “Deepening the China-Africa partnership and promoting sustainable development to build a China-Africa community of shared future in the new era” will undoubtedly carry out the evaluation of the implementation of the results of the Beijing 2018 Summit as well as the joint China-Africa efforts in the united fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference will chart a course for China-Africa cooperation to face adversity in the international arena. It will strengthen the strategic consensus between China and Africa and point the way for Sino-African cooperation’s sustainable and high-quality development.

The spirit of “The Chinese Dream” and the African people’s dream are spirit of peace, of shared development that China and Africa must nurture. This spirit has its roots in history, especially the assaults of Western powers. African and Chinese peoples would benefit from working in solidarity towards realizing their dreams for “the construction of an even stronger China-Africa community of destiny.”

To end my speech, thanks to the success of China in the fight against the Covid-19, I hope to be physical with you face to face during our next conference.

Thank you for your kind attention!

(Editor: JIANG Qing)