

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE TEN PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN INITIATIVE BETWEEN CHINA AND AFRICA

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Abstract

The Chinese influence in Africa is high on the world's agenda, as China in a short period has become a vital political and economic power in Africa, especially when the China-Africa partnership took a new multilateral dimension with the establishment of Forum on ChinaAfrica Cooperation on the 10th October, 2000, which was first convened in Beijing. Since its formation, the Forum has become a mechanism for collective dialogue, consultation and cooperation for political, economic and socio-cultural development. This paper is a critical analysis of the Ten Action partnership initiative plan of China in Africa for the next three years announced by the Chinese President, Xi Jinping during his address at the ninth summit of FOCAC held in Beijing. The study used primary and secondary data and analyzed them qualitatively. The study adopted liberalist theory as a framework for analysis. The findings revealed that Chinese presence in Africa is for economic, political and social benefit of the two parties but conclude that China is having the larger share of the spoils. The study recommend that Africa should curb corruption through legislation to pave the way for smooth implementation of the ten-action plan as promised by China.

Key words: Action-Plan, Partnership, Initiative, Integration, Investment.

Introduction

The Relationship between China and Africa began with trading in North – East Africa before Christ (BC). During this period, there was no official contact between China and Africa as individual Chinese Merchants visited the continent for personal businesses and adventures. The significant contact with Africa took place during the Ming Dynasty when the fifth and sixth voyages of the famous Zheng He naval fleet reached the north – east coast of Africa during the first quarter of the fifteenth century (Shinn, 2019). A hiatus in the China–Africa relationship set in for several centuries until Chinese labourers and traders came to several regions of Africa beginning in the later part of the eighteenth century (Shinn and Eisenmen, 2012). The relationship has continued to grow in phases largely depending on the global happenings, and political and economic developments in China, not in Africa. The first phase was the Chinese support for Africa’s revolutionary movements to liberate Africa from the scourge of colonialism; thus, was followed by the Great Leap Forward; the Cultural Revolution; the cold war and the Sino-soviet split during the leadership of Mao Zedong (Shinn, 2019). The next stage that followed was the Pragmatic foreign policy, which was focused more on China’s domestic reforms and the gradual withdrawal from Africa under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping. Jiang Zemin, partly concerned with the contentious consequence from the Tiananmen square events, went ahead to renew contact with Africa, which set a stage for a pragmatic expansion of China Africa relationship. Hu Jintao took advantage of his efforts and notably increased China’s trade, aid and investment with Africa.

Xi Jinping has continued the economic engagement which started under Hu Jintao, expanding China’s involvement in the areas of security, culture and political sectors. Xi Jinping took up his position as a general secretary of CPC central committee in November, 2012. From then, his global policies, including those in Africa, have been marked by new assertiveness. He made his first trip outside China to Tanzania, South Africa and the Republic of Congo. In 2015, he visited Zimbabwe and opened the 6th FOCAC Conference in South Africa where he announced an historic 60 billion US Dollar financing package, although some of that programme had not materialized by the end of 2018, under his leadership, the CPC has continued to encourage party-to-party exchanges with larger numbers of African party leaders coming to China (Shinn, 2019).

In a follow up from the 6th FOCAC, China released its second Africa policy paper emphasizing the following themes:

- i. Enhancing political mutual trust
- ii. Deepening economic and trade cooperation
- iii. Strengthening development cooperation between China and Africa.
- iv. Deepening and expanding cultural and people-to-people exchanges.
- v. Promoting peace and security in Africa.
- vi. Strengthening exchanges and cooperation in consular, immigration, judicial and police areas (China, 2015).

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) submit held on the 4th–6th September, 2024, was a watershed to China-Africa relationship, which is arguably the most followed

“Africa + 1” summit and cornerstone of diplomacy for over two decades. Over 50 African Heads of state were present at the summit. At the end of the summit, the Chinese President, as usual, announced a substantial financial commitment to support various initiatives across Africa, which will strictly follow the Ten-Action initiative plan aimed at developing Africa. This work is a critical analysis of the Ten-Action plan initiative by China.

From 2000 to date, China’s engagement with African countries through trade, overseas development finance and foreign direct investment (FDI) has bolstered ties and increased policy relations, particularly in the areas of economic, political social development. Past trends in economic engagement have led to both benefits and risks to African governments spinning economic growth and environmental impacts on biodiversity. However, China’s Presence in Africa has produced lessons that could inform the next phase of African countries development trajectory. African countries are presently emerging from several years of economic underdevelopment and political instability brought about by the Western Capitalist system, which is accompanied by debt burden, contractions in economics growth, thereby worsening the cost of servicing debt. Given China’s past decades of economic interactions with Africa, China is one of many Nations’ partners willing to contribute solutions to these African challenges.

The emergence of China as a global economic power that placed her a the second largest in the world, has developed a high level of trust in African countries as China is seeing as a new strategic partner in economic, political and socio-cultural relations in contemporary global order. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has become a veritable instrument and multilateral tool for China and African countries to conduct collective consultations and execute pragmatic cooperation (He, 2010). Since its establishment in 2000, nine ministerial conferences convened every three years with the recent one held from 4th to the 6th of September, 2024 in Beijing, China, which the Chinese president, Xi Jinping announced an elaborate Ten-Action initiative plan to be implemented between 2025–2027. The study sets out to critically analyse the Ten-Action Plan resolutions for China-Africa relations.

Material and Method

The study used both primary and secondary sources of data. The primary source consists of phone calls with few individuals who participated in the recent ministerial conference that took place in Beijing between 4th to 6th of September 2024, while the secondary date, which is the major source of data utilised, was obtained from online publications, the Chinese ministry of foreign affairs through the ministry of commerce website. Books and periodicals were consulted, reviewed and analysed qualitatively to add value to the work.

Literature Review

The China–Africa Ten Actions Partnership Plan not only highlights the deep-rooted friendship between the two parties but also represents tangible cooperative achievements; capacity building; health and hygiene; people-to-people exchanges; peace and security; solidarity and mutual assistance and multilateral cooperation.

According to Sani (2024), the China-Africa Ten Actions partnership plan transcends mere cooperation plans; it embodies the commitment of both parties to the ideals of shared development and mutual benefit. We completely agree with Sani on his position considering

the zeal and political will the Chinese government has taken to heart its relationship with Africa, especially in the areas of economic, political, and socio-cultural partnership. The Ministerial Summit which took place in Beijing from 4th to 6th of September, 2024, is a proof of total commitment to genuine partnership and multilateral integration which will benefit the two parties.

According to Stein (2019), Integration of this kind can have many benefits, including increased economic efficiency, improved political cooperation, and cultural understanding. He however pointed out that it can also be controversial, as it can potentially lead to loss of sovereignty and creation of imbalances of power. We also agree with Stein in this position because some of the bilateral and multilateral agreements entered into by parties tend to favour the stronger nations while the weaker ones find solace in the crumbs, and sometimes exposed to unwarranted abuses. For instance, despite the relationship that exists between Nigeria and the People's Republic of China, Nigeria's Presidential Jets and other properties were recently seized by a French court on the basis that there was a breach of contractual agreement between Ogun state of Nigeria and a Chinese Company, which the Chinese company took the government of Nigeria to the court without considering the diplomatic relationship with Africa and Nigeria in particular. Apart from the seizure of Nigeria's property abroad, the Chinese companies operating in Africa have been accused severally by indigenous people of disregard to human rights and labour laws.

China has taken a multi-pronged approach in relations with Africa, according to Deborah (2016), China is a significant source of foreign direct investment in Africa, offers development loans to resource-rich nations like Sudan, Nigeria, Angola etc; invests in Agriculture; and develops special trade and economic cooperation zones in several states, including Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zambia. She equally contends that Chinese banks and companies are offering finance that allows them to secure a greater share of the business deals in Africa as part of their move to go global. Deborah however cautioned African countries that these gestures are not without risks for African borrowers as well as opportunities. On the perception of China in Africa by Africans, opinion surveys have shown that the majority of respondents in African countries view China favourably, both in terms of its influence as well as its contributions to the continent's development. According to Albert (2017), Africans view China's economic, social, political and cultural influence as somewhat or very positive. He believes that many African leaders have lauded the benefits of Chinese investment to support the growth in their countries. In aligning with Albert's postulations, we believe China, which has fought its own battles to modernize and grow to the point where it is today, has much greater sense of personal urgency of development in Africa than many western nations.

The presence of China in Africa is not without discordant voices and controversy. Some African countries have pushed back against China's development activities. According to Sun (2012), grievances range from poor compliance with safety and environmental standards to unfair business practices and violation of local laws. The impression that China had exploited resources without building up local economics has triggered fierce criticism from some leaders. For instance, in 2011, Michael Sata won Zambia's Presidency in part by tapping into anti-Chinese sentiment after Chinese managers shot protesters at a large coal mine in Southern Zambia (Albert, 2017). In the same vein, the governor of Central Bank Nigeria, Lamido Sanusi (2011), cautioned Africa that "*We must be China for what is it: a competitor*". He added: *Africa*

must recognize that China-like the U.S; Russia; Britain; Brazil and the rest is in Africa not for African interests but its own”.

In recent time, African workers have also begun to accuse Chinese companies operating on the continent for unfair labour practices, including disputes over wages and working conditions (Wu and Taylor, 2017). He further argued that there is a disproportionate level of international attention, publicity and scrutiny paid to Chinas–Africa engagement. In his view, Sun (2012), asserts that governance systems in Africa countries are ill-equipped or too weak to protect against potential damage by Chinese companies operating in Africa. He contends that many African countries are worse than China as they attached low priority to environmental protection, have understaffed environmental bureaucracies, and even worse records for countering corruption. Taking into account the role China has played and still is playing in the development of Africa, it becomes very difficult to dismiss the China–Africa relationship with a wave of hand as it is yielding political, cultural, economic and social results for mutual benefit of both parties.

Theoretical Framework

A theory, according to Kerlinger (1973), is a set of interacted construct and propositions that present a systematic view of phenomena by specifying relations among variable with the purpose of explaining and predicting the phenomena. Theoretical Framework, on the other hand, is a device for adopting or applying the assumptions, predictions and principles of a theory in description and analysis of a research problem. There are so many theories that can fit the topic of discussion such as Functionlist theory Federalism theory and Intergovernmentalism. However, we adopt liberalist theory as our theoretical framework. Liberalism, is one of the early approaches to the study of international relations. It was dominant from the early 1900s through to late 1930s (Saleh, 2013). According to Shiraev (2014), Liberalism is an independent school that is hinged around three fundamental forces. These forces, he explained, are:

(i) rejection of power politics as the only possible outcome of international relations or integration, (ii) it emphasises mutual benefits and international cooperation and (iii) implement international organizations and non-governmental actors for shaping state preferences and policy actions. The liberalists, like the functionalists and neo-functionality, believe that integration is fruitful because it brings state together with basic functions to perform and for the better survival of members of the region (sheriff, 2016). The liberalist believes that, even though the international system is anarchic in nature, cooperation and interdependence will reduce the level of tension and enmity among states, while the existence of international institutions and organizations will aid in achieving the desired goals for cooperation and integration. This reflect the rationalist thinking of one cannot easily attack his provider. It is irrational in a normal circumstance for one to wage war against a nation that provides for its goods and services. When states interdepend and deepen cooperation among themselves, they may see themselves as one entity and not to fight themselves.

Limitations of Liberalist Theory

In social science, every theory used in analysing phenomena has short comings, and as such, liberalism is not an exception. Some of the critics of liberalism argues that it has the tendency of breaking the walls of defence for the weaker nations while in flinging on their sovereignty.

They argue that it is delusional that countries will operate and treat themselves the same in international system that is full of anarchy and the pursuit of national interest. Critics also contend that the current economic woes in the world is caused by the liberalists' ideas of opening up the borders for bigger economics to dominate the weaker partners, which is another form of exploitation.

Application of Liberalist Theory

Despite its shortcomings, liberalist theory is the most relevant to the study for the following reasons;

- i. The Chinese presence in Africa has brought development devoid of power politics. The relationship between China and Africa is defined on mutual benefit and equal partnership, as advocated by liberalists.
- ii. The relationship, as advocated by liberalists, is fostering interdependence and cooperation between China and Africa.
- iii. The coming together of China and Africa has brought together with basic functions to perform for the survival of the members of the regions. Considering the above reasons, this study has found liberalist theory fascinating and the most relevant, therefore, it is adopted as a tool for analysis.

Findings and Discussions

The Beijing summit and ninth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in Beijing from 4th to 6th September, 2024 with the Heads of state, government and delegation of China and 53 African Countries and chairperson of the African Union Commission and their Ministers of Foreign Affairs and economic cooperation in attendance of the summit and ministerial conference respectively, was another milestone in this multilateral relationship. In this summit, the two partners appreciated the FOCAC's achievements over the past 24 years of its existence. It has kept pace with the prevailing trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation; overcoming challenges posed by the changing and turbulent international environment, sluggish global economic recovery and the COVID pandemic and promoted the comprehensive and in-depth development of friendship and cooperation between China and Africa (China, 2024).

According to Chen (2024), the 2024 summit reflects a reset in China-Africa relations post COVID -19. This occurs in a context where China's official financing to Africa post-COVID is rising again, though likely to remain constrained in the wake of domestic financial sector risks and African debt sustainability challenges, where Chinese lending has been a contributing, though often overplayed, factor. However, the 2024 summit did not end without China making some vital commitment as it has been in the culture of China-Africa relationship.

The Ten-Action Plan for Africa

The 2024 summit was another opportunity for the Chinese government to further make more commitment to work with Africa in the next three years to implement ten partnership action plan to advance modernization and development for China and Africa.

The Partnership Initiative for Mutual Learning Between Civilizations

China will join hands with Africa to build a dialogue partnership for the global civilization initiative and a platform for governance experience-sharing between China and Africa. The Chinese president also promised to support the establishment of China-Africa network of knowledge for development and 25 China-Africa research centers. The African Leadership Academy will be leveraged to train governance talent and 1000 African political party personages invited to China for exchanges (China, 2024).

The Partnership Initiative for Trade Prosperity:

The government of China will grant duty-free treatment to 100% of the tariff lines of products from least developed countries (LDCs) with diplomatic ties with China; sign framework agreements on economic partnership for shared development with interested African countries; and strengthen cooperation on inspection and expand access for agricultural exports from Africa. Furthermore, China will deepen China-Africa e-commerce cooperation, support African countries in setting up country pavilions in China's Silk Road e-commerce cooperation pilot zone, and host cloud lectures to train Africa e-commerce talent. China will equally implement the China Africa quality enhancement program establish the China-Africa Center for Standardization Cooperation and Research, and the China-Africa Trade Digitalization Trust Verification Platform and implement the China-Africa conformity assessment capacity building initiative.

The Partnership Initiative for Industrial Chain Cooperation:

In this area, China has promised to support Africa in developing local value chains, manufacturing and deep processing of critical minerals, build growth circles for China-African countries and hold 100 training sessions on industrialization. Furthermore, it will advance the development of the pioneering zone for in-depth China-Africa trade and economic cooperation and establish a corresponding fund to promote the integration of industry and trade and interconnected development of industrial parks. China will again implement an African Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs) empowerment initiative, which include financing support for African SMEs, 50 match-making activities and 1000 training opportunities for African business managers. A China-Africa digital technology cooperation center will be jointly built, facilitate Chinese businesses in undertaking 20 digital transformation demonstration projects in Africa (China, 2024).

The Partnership Initiative for Connectivity

China promised to firmly support African integration and help implement 30 infrastructure projects in Africa and continue to provide support for the development of the African Union (AU) and Africa continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA). It will promote interconnected development between transport infrastructure with industrial park built and operated by Chinese companies in Africa; build a multimodal sea rail transport network that connects China's central and western region to Africa. The Chinese government also promised to enhance financial market connectivity, China will deepen cooperation with Africa in local

currency settlement and financial technology and welcomes the issuance of panda bonds by African countries.

The Partnership Initiative for Development Cooperation

China has promised to publish with Africa the joint statement on Deepening cooperation under the framework of the Global Development initiative, jointly build the Global Development Promotion Center network, and help deliver 1,000 “Small and beautiful” projects to improve people’s livelihood.

China further promised to support Africa in holding the 2026 summer youth Olympic Games and the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations. It will establish a demonstration Centre for China-Africa (Ethiopia) – UN (UNIDO) cooperation for least developed African countries with diplomatic ties with China and will also waive their intergovernmental interest free loans due by the end of 2024 (China, 2024). The Chinese government promised to replenish the China-World Bank Group partnership facility with 50 million US dollars, which will mainly be used to support inclusive and sustainable development in African countries. China also calls for collective actions of the international community and secure liquidity and other funding support from the private sector for Africa’s sustainable development.

The Partnership Initiative for Healthcare

In the area of healthcare, China promised to establish an alliance of Chinese and African hospitals, work with African countries to build a number of joint medical centers and traditional medicine centers to enhance cooperation on traditional medicine and smart medicine and implement a program on minimally invasive medicine. It will also deepen technical cooperation on public health with Africa, train 100 professionals, support the development and operation of Africa CDC headquarters and five sub-regional centers, send 2000 medical personnel and public health experts to African countries, launch the free medical services program of “100 medical Teams in 1000 villages”, and continue to provide assistance against epidemics in Africa with China’s capacity.

China will further implement ten healthcare facility programs. It will encourage Chinese businesses to invest in the production of medicines and vaccines in Africa to increase local medicine production capacity.

The Partnership Initiative for Rural Revitalization and People’s wellbeing

China promised to support Africa in eradicating hunger and achieving food security and sustainability agricultural technology demonstration centers, build no less than 100,000 MU (6,667 hectare) of overseas demonstration areas of Chinese agricultural standardization and provide African countries with RMB 1 billion of emergency food aid. China will establish a China Africa agricultural Science and technology innovation alliance, build 100 demonstration villages for poverty reduction through agricultural development, send 500 agricultural experts to African countries, provide training for 1,000 leaders in pursuing a better life through agricultural development, and advance the development of a China–Africa Joint cooperation center and a China–Africa bamboo center. China further promised to continue with the initiative of “100 Companies in 1,000 villages” and implement 500 public welfare projects in

such area as women's and children's health education and training rural development and clean drinking water. It will equally encourage Chinese business in Africa to create no less than one million local jobs.

The Partnership Initiative for People to People Exchanges

This is a program where China will continue to implement future of Africa a project for China–Africa cooperation on vocational education, build with African countries schools of engineering technology, and set up or upgrade 10 urban workshops and 20 schools. It will also offer 60,000 training opportunities to Africa, with priorities given to programs for women empowerment and youth development. China will equally refine the mechanisms and platforms for China-Africa Science and education cooperation and establish China-African regional cooperation centers for digital education. It will also implement ten people-to-people exchange projects; work with African countries to advance the China-Africa “Cultural Silk Road” program, invite 1,000 African culture and tourism professionals to China for training, carry out a plan of cooperation on radio television and audio-visual innovation, and designate the year 2026 as the year of China-Africa people-to-people exchange (China, 2024).

The Partnership Initiative on Green Development

China promised to support Africa in enhancing climate adaptation capacity, provide new energy technologies and products, implement 30 clean energy and development projects and set up a special fund for China-Africa Green Industrial Chain. It will strengthen capacitybuilding and joint research in such areas as disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, biodiversity protection, environmental improvement, and desertification treatment, and work with Africa to construct a meteorological early-warning service platform. China will set up the China-Africa forum on peaceful use of Nuclear Technology, build joint laboratories together with African countries and the African center of China-Africa cooperation center on satellite Remote Sensing Application, carry out marine pace planning, and support African countries' participating in international lunar research station project and China's Lunar and Martian exploration.

The Partnership Initiative on Common Security

Security, being the most important sector that determines the peace, progress and success of every society; the Chinese government will join hands with Africa to establish and implement a Global security initiative partnership, build a demonstration zone of Global security initiative and conduct early-stage cooperation of Global security initiative. It also promised to provide Africa with an RMB 1 billion military grant to support African countries in strengthening their armed forces, train 6,000 military personnel for Africa, and invite 500 young African military officers to visit China and conduct joint exercises, training and patrols. It will also carry out the initiative to help Africa in demining and deepen China-Africa communication and jointly ensure the safety of the personnel (China, 2024).

The china-Africa relationship has developed rapidly over the last two decades with increasing investment in Africa from 75 million USD in 2003 to 5 billion USD in 2021(Marcus, 2023). This has had both positive and negative impacts on Africa in the areas of infrastructure improvement, job creation, and overall economic growth can be listed as positive results, leading to improved connectivity, trade and transportation in a continent where infrastructure

integration has always been challenging. Creating such opportunities Africa has supported lower unemployment rates, particularly among young people, which is fundamental in a continent that enjoys a positive demographic bonus. Through Chinese investments, African countries have diversified their economies and exports, with greater access to new sources of income generation and economic growth and improved overall prosperity.

Unlike the Western countries, China has not made significant efforts to export its governance model to Africa; it has not pursued the building up of a network of states obliged to supply natural resources and locations for military bases, and has heavily invested in Africa. The relationship is built on mutually beneficial cooperation without interference in domestic politics and internal affairs of African countries.

Despite these laudable achievements by Chinese in Africa, there are still dissatisfactions by many in Africa and the western analysts who believe that China's investments in Africa are not meant to help Africa but debt trapping, economic dependence and prioritization of Chinese interests over local needs. There are accusations of increased corruption in Africa, bribery and unfair business practices to secure transactions (Marcus, 2023). For better understanding of the claims by critics, it is pertinent to take a critical look at the budgetary provision made by Chinese government for the implementation of the Ten-Action Partnership initiative as captured in the table below:

Table 4.1
Financial provision for Ten-Action Plan

S/N	Projects	Amt (in billions)	Percentage (%)
1	Credit lines	RMB 210 billion	58.3 %
2	Assistance/Grants	RMB 80 billion	22.2 %
3	Investment	RMB 70 billion	19.5 %
4	Total	RMB 360 billion	100 %

Source: Field Work, October, 2024

The table above shows that the Chinese government under the leadership of Xi Jinping will provide the total sum of RMB 360 billion for the Ten-Action Initiative Plan for Africa. From the total sum, the amount of RMB 210 billion is earmarked for credit lines for African countries, this represents 58.3 % of the total sum meant for the Ten-Action Plan within the period of three years starting from 2025-2027.

From the critical point of view, the amount of RMB 210 billion representing 58.3% earmarked for credit facility for African countries, is another way of mortgaging the future of Africa with the burden of foreign debts. One of the greatest challenges of Africa is foreign debts, which usually come with stringent conditionalities. These conditions include the devaluation of currency, removal of subsidies on very important services and products that have direct and negative impact on the citizens. Sometimes, the difficulties brought upon the citizens by these conditions serve as catalyst for conflicts, political instability, economic stagnation and proliferation of wars in Africa.

China as a new partner to Africa should not follow the imperial and neocolonial footsteps of the western countries whose interest is to exploit the human and mineral resources of Africa for their industries in Europe and America while the continent remain underdeveloped and burdened with huge debt and hyperinflation. Although China's loans to African governments declined significantly, falling from 28.4 billion USD in 2016 to 1.4 billion USD in 2020, partly due to changing priorities in domestic Chinese politics and partly due to apparent difficulty in repaying the loans; the Chinese government has continue to grant loans to African countries (Obe, 2023). This kind of policy could best be described as debt trap, which is a deliberate strategy to loan unmanageable sums to African countries, draw them into China's sphere of influence, and force unfair commitment upon them.

On the side of African leaders, there is little or no accountability for the foreign loans collected due to massive corruption and sharp practices by civil servants in collaboration with the plititical leaders. It is crystal clear that China seeks to promote its own interests in dealing with African countries; hence the responsibility to make the China-Africa relationship beneficial for Africa depends on African governments and civil societies working in concert also to protect their own interests.

The table also shows that RMB 80 billion representing 22.2% will be channeled to assistance and grants for African countries. The table also shows that the sum of RMB 70 billion representing 19.5 %, will be deployed by Chinese companies operating in Africa for more investment in Africa.

From the statistics above, the Chinese placed their loan deals with Africa above the mutually beneficial cooperation as insinusted. The budgetary provision for assistance and investment in Africa combined, is far lower than that of the loan facilities.

Apart from the loan deals, the Chinese government promise to train 100 healthcare personnel in Africa while exporting 2,000 Chinese medical personnel to Africa is another imperialistic policy of giving Africa from the right hand and collecting it from the left hand. Africa has the population about 1.5 billion people (UN, 2024) with the majority of living in abject poverty and diseases that requires better healthcare. Training only 100 healthcare personnel from Africa while sending 2,000 Chinese to Africa for the same porpose, is another way of creating jobs for the Chinese in Africa while Africans continue to depend of them. China has great opporntinitnes to explore in Africa only if it can improve on human capital development and investments in the the areas of African needs, this will make the relationship between the two work better.

Conclusion

The china-Africa relationship has grown from petty businesses to multibillion-dollar investments and partnership with mutual benefits since the establishment of the Multilateral body; the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, and the subsequent inauguration of the ministerial conference in 2000. This multilateral body has become an effective platform for China and African countries to collaborate in carrying out pragmatic and developmental projects aided at transforming the lives of Africans as well as profiting the Chinese government/people.

The Chinese presence in Africa is a welcome development owing to the fact that the West has been paying lip service to issues of development in Africa over the years. There have been

some genuine levels of commitment in the Chinese commitment to African relationship, especially in the areas of commerce and investment; economic development through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and socio-cultural and political cooperation. The Chinese companies operating in Africa have created employment in several communities in Africa therefore reducing poverty and insecurity in some parts of the continent.

However, the Chinese advent in Africa is not without challenges. There have been several allegations against Chinese nationals and companies operating in Africa, especially, their violation of human right, disregard to environmental rules and abuse of labour laws. Apart from the above mentioned, the Chinese companies operating in Africa are supplying FDI that supports extraction of primary commodities, but African countries are yet to fully benefit from those technologies. Although China remains the largest trading partner to Africa, there is the need to revisit some of the agreements that impinges on the sovereignty of African countries and the right of her people by foreigners.

Recommendations

As China has announced another package for Africa, it is high time African countries initiate strong legislation against corruption and sharp practices that have over the years impeded development and implementation of laudable programs that would have changed the fortunes of the people.

China should monitor the disbursement of funds and the execution of the projects to avoid diversion of funds by private individuals who are charged with the responsibility of carrying out the jobs.

China should increase the number of scholarship given to Africans and the training of personnel, officers and professionals to man the numerous proposed projects across Africa. The Chinese government should address the issue of violation of human right, environmental rules and labour laws in Africa.

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