

# The Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

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The Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) is being held in Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa, from 4 to 5 December 2015 under the theme: “Africa-China Progressing Together: Win-Win Cooperation for Common Development.”

The summit was preceded by a Meeting of Senior Officials on 2 December 2015, followed by the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of FOCAC and a FOCAC Business Forum on 3 December 2015. This is the second summit since the inception of FOCAC and the first on the African continent. This historic summit coincides with the Year of China in South Africa in 2015. The Year of South Africa in China was held in 2014.



China has worked with South Africa to make the FOCAC meeting a grand gathering for strengthening China-Africa solidarity and charting out the future of their cooperation. South Africa, in turn, appreciates China's long-term and tremendous support for the economic and social development of African countries and its understanding of African countries' positions on major international issues, as well as the great importance it attaches to the FOCAC.

President Jacob Zuma, President Jinping, Heads of State, AU Chairperson and Captains of industry deliberated on various partnership areas to ensure a “win-win” between China and African countries.



FOCAC will further deepen the cooperation between China and Africa to ensure Africa's economic development and inclusive economic growth. President Zuma noted the remarkable increase of China's investment in Africa. He further outlined the three areas of cooperation that have been agreed upon, namely: industrialisation, health, peace and security.

President Jinping in his remarks stated that “China is committed to continue to join hands with Africa to develop the future. In the future products should not say made in China but, made in South Africa with China”



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## About the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

The year 2015 marks the 15th anniversary of the founding of FOCAC.

FOCAC was established in October 2000. It is an important platform for collective dialogue and an effective mechanism for enhancing practical cooperation between China and African countries. It is a successful example of South-South cooperation. The Ministerial Conference, which is held once every three years, is a vital part of FOCAC.

Since the founding conference of FOCAC in 2000, the following action plans have been agreed on or implemented:

- Beijing Declaration of the FOCAC and Programme for China-Africa Cooperation in Economic and Social Development (2001 - 2003)
- Addis Ababa Action Plan (2004 - 2006)
- FOCAC Beijing Action Plan (2007 - 2009)
- Sharm el Sheikh Action Plan (2010 - 2012)
- Beijing Action Plan of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC (2013 - 2015).

## Did you know?

- The year 2015 marks 60 years since the Bandung Summit and the birth of Africa-Asia solidarity of which China-Africa relations have been among the most productive and comprehensive through the mutual focus on issues relating to global politics, economics, financial architecture and to also articulate interests of the Global South.
- FOCAC covers various aspects of politics, trade, economy, society and culture.
- FOCAC is normally held at Ministerial level. It will be the second time that FOCAC is held at Heads of State and Government level after the first summit held in Beijing.
- It was at the Beijing Summit where President Hu Jintao announced the Six New Measures for China-Africa Cooperation that boosted the partnership. It included the creation of the China-Africa Development Fund to assist in furthering China's manufacturing investment on the continent.
- South Africa assumed the role as co-chair of FOCAC at the conclusion of the Fifth Ministerial Conference in 2012. South Africa took over from Egypt, on behalf of Africa, until 2018.
- The FOCAC platform is based on the principles of South-South cooperation and mutual and equal benefit, with a view to addressing various areas of concern for Africa's socio-economic development and integration.
- These include deepening cooperation in the areas of infrastructure development, debt relief, industrialisation, investment promotion, market access expansion, agriculture, science and technology, health, education, and people-to-people cultural exchanges, among others.
- The FOCAC platform provides an opportunity to further stimulate growth and unlock new opportunities between China and Africa on trade and other matters.
- As co-chair of FOCAC, South Africa will endeavour to ensure that the African Agenda is realised through the FOCAC Partnership.
- South Africa will work closely with China to ensure that future FOCAC declarations and action plans are effectively implemented in line with the AU's Agenda for Regional and Continental Integration and Development, through its flagship programmes: New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Agenda 2063, including the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063.

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