



## China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme Webinar Series

### *New Dimensions of Growth and Development in Africa and China: Trade, Infrastructure and the Fourth Industrial Revolution*

**13 & 15 October 2020**

The China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme, an initiative under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, in collaboration with the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) will host a series of dialogues on promoting Africa-China cooperation. This online dialogue series will bring together scholars and policymakers from across Africa and China to enhance dialogue on pertinent developments in economic cooperation, infrastructure development and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) between these partners.

The key objective of this dialogue series is to explore sustainable development, which is at the forefront of policymakers and researchers' agendas across African countries. It is also a critical dynamic within Africa – China relations. In the African context, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), offers enormous opportunities to promote intra-continental trade while partners such as China will provide critical intermediate inputs into African value chains. However, to achieve these benefits, governments need to look beyond traditional infrastructure financing models to enable the free flow of goods, services, capital, and people across the continent. Therefore, China's Belt and Road Initiative is an essential part of this equation. At the same time, these new opportunities and modalities need to be explored within the context of climate change and the 4IR and consider the coronavirus pandemic that has had a myriad of economic impacts. As such, this dialogue series will explore these dynamics across three dedicated dialogue sessions:

- **Session 1 (Enhancing Africa - China Economic Cooperation)** will explore enhancing Africa-China economic relations, with a specific focus on enhancing trade and investment and the AfCFTA.
- **Session 2 (Different Dimensions of Infrastructure Development & Financing)** will explore the infrastructure development deficit in African countries, related challenges such as climate change and growing debt stocks, and how China and Africa can cooperate under the Belt and Road Initiative to enhance cooperation.
- **Session 3 (Harnessing the 4IR for Economic Development)** will explore the latest research on how 4IR issues will affect the continent, and how China, as a leader in new and innovative technologies, can offer insights to African policymakers on how to harness the 4IR to achieve development outcomes.

## Session 1 – Enhancing China – Africa Economic Cooperation

13 October 2020, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm GMT+2

This session marks the opening of the dialogue series. It will include an opening address by H.E. Ambassador Chen Xiaodong, the Chinese Ambassador to South Africa.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) sets out an ambitious task to liberalise the flow of goods, services, people and capital across the continent. The AfCFTA is primarily aimed at promoting intra-African trade. Yet, sourcing intermediate inputs from other countries will be critical to achieving this objective. The AfCFTA also has the potential to be a strong driver of economic growth for African countries in the post-COVID19 era. Therefore, promoting trade and investment ties between African and Chinese firms remains critical. Chinese companies investing in African countries will have win-win benefits for both China and Africa. This session will explore these dynamics.

Time (GMT+2)	New Dimensions of Growth and Development in Africa and China: Trade, Infrastructure and the Fourth Industrial Revolution
10h00 – 10h30	<p>Welcoming and Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs</li> </ul> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HE Ambassador Chen Xiaodong, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of China in South Africa</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1 - Enhancing China – Africa Economic Cooperation</b>	
10h30 – 12h30	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs</li> </ul> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● ‘Green financing instruments to assist in post-Covid 19 inclusive economic recovery’ – Palesa Shipalana, Programme Head: Economic Diplomacy, SAIIA</li> <li>● ‘Turning crisis into opportunity? Agricultural exports to China during the trade war’ - Dr Bhaso Ndzendze, Research Director, University of Johannesburg Centre for Africa-China Studies (CACS)</li> <li>● ‘China's Manufacturing and Africa's Industrialisation: A Case Study of Chinese Manufacturing Investment in Ethiopia’ - Weiwei Chen, PhD Candidate in Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)</li> </ul> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr Lauren Johnston, Research Associate, SOAS China Institute</li> <li>● Kwame Owino, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Economic Affairs</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A Session</p>

## Session 2 - Different Dimensions of Infrastructure Development & Financing

15 October 2020, 9am – 11h15am GMT+2

Productive infrastructure is vital for development to take place in African countries. However, bridging the infrastructure financing deficit, amidst constrained national budgets and increasing debt servicing costs, remains a challenge. This has become even more critical in the post-COVID19 era as scarce resources are potentially directed away from addressing climate-related challenges towards economic recovery. At the same time, increasingly adverse impacts of climate change necessitate the need to utilise climate friendly financing instruments. How can China and Africa cooperate under the BRI? And How can projects under the BRI be climate sensitive? What 'green' financing instruments are available to China and African countries to increase sustainable infrastructure financing under the BRI? Experts will consider and address some of these questions.

Time	Session 2 - Different Dimensions of Infrastructure Development & Financing
09h00 – 09h20	<p>Welcoming and Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr Cobus van Staden, Senior Researcher: China-Africa, SAIIA</li> </ul> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Li Nan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister Counsellor of Chinese Embassy in South Africa</li> </ul>
09h20 – 10h30	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Faith Mabera, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue</li> </ul> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 'Debt sustainability in post-COVID world: frameworks that incorporate new official creditors and the private sector' - Peter Fabricius, Consultant, Institute for Security Studies</li> <li>● 'Misplaced anxieties? China, traditional donors, and institutional building and restructuring in Uganda's roads sector' - Hang Zhou, PhD Candidate in Politics and International Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)</li> <li>● 'Chinese Infrastructure investment and the BRI in Africa' - Mma Amara Ekeruche, Research Fellow, Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa</li> </ul>
10h30 – 11h15	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dr Folashade Soule, Senior Research Associate, Global Economic Governance Programme (University of Oxford)</li> <li>● Dineo Ramokgopa, Development Specialist, Mazra Solutions</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A Session</p>

## Session 3 - Harnessing the 4IR for Economic Development

15 October 2020, 11h30am – 13h30am GMT+2

For policymakers it is important to fully understand how the 4IR will drive both positive and negative social and economic change in coming years. Experts will share their latest research on how 4IR issues will affect the continent, and how challenges can be addressed. This is especially pertinent following the coronavirus pandemic which saw a rapid increase in adoption of digital services and infrastructure in global value chains. China, as a leader in new and innovative technologies, can offer valuable insights to African policymakers on how to harness the 4IR to achieve development outcomes. It is also valuable partner for the continent in terms of enhancing relationships through areas such as e-commerce and digital cooperation. This session will consider some of the latest developments in this area.

Time	Session 3 - Harnessing the 4 <sup>th</sup> IR for Economic Development
11h30 – 12h45	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seth Mulli, Executive Director, Youth Bridge Trust</li></ul> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ‘The 4IR Prospects and Challenges for Africa’ - Rendani Mamphiswana, Presidential Commission for 4IR, South Africa &amp; Methi Bekele, Senior Project Officer, Ethiopian Academy of Science</li><li>• ‘Digital Disruption in Africa – Mapping Innovations for the African Free Trade Area in Post COVID Times.’ – Alastair Tempest, Chief Executive Officer, E-commerce Forum South Africa &amp; Michelle Chivunga, Founder &amp; CEO, Global Policy House</li><li>• ‘Adapting to the 4IR: Africa’s development in the age of automation’ - Kartik Akileswaran, Policy Advisor on Inclusive Growth</li></ul>
12h45 – 13h20	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alain Ndayishimiye, Project Lead on Artificial Intelligence, Center for 4IR in Rwanda (TBC)</li></ul> <p>Q&amp;A Session</p>
13h20 – 13h30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr Cobus van Staden, Senior Researcher: China-Africa, SAIIA</li></ul>