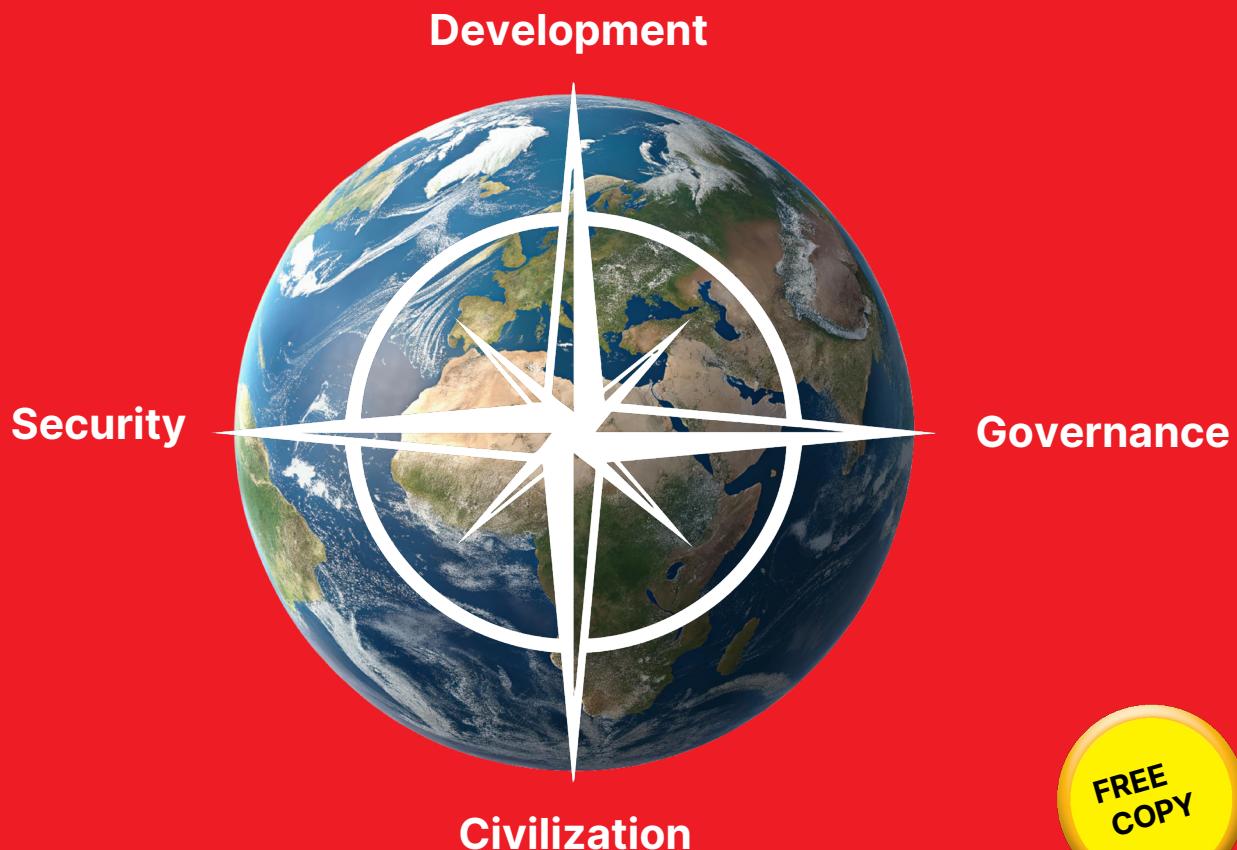


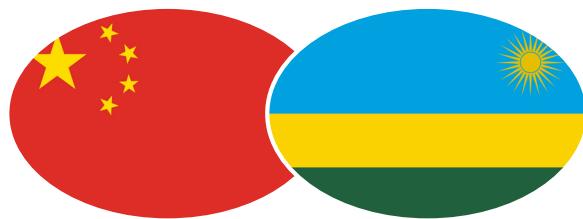
# Africa-China Review

Volume 005

## China's Four Global Initiatives And The Benefits For Africa



DECEMBER  
2025 - 2026



## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

On the occasion of celebrating 55 years of Diplomatic Relations between China and Rwanda, China-Africa Review wishes the leadership and the people of the two countries solid friendship, pragmatic and results oriented Cooperation.

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# Editor's Note

Dear Esteemed Readers,

I take the pleasure to welcome you to the fifth edition of the Africa-China Review Magazine which focuses on China's Four Global Initiatives and the benefits the African continent can realize in embracing the initiatives.

Since 2012, China has proposed four global initiatives: the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), and more recently, the Global Governance Initiative (GGI).

These proposals represent China's wisdom to addressing transnational challenges through multilateral cooperation and a shared future for humanity. Since their inception, the initiatives have gained recognition and support from more than 100 countries and international organizations. What began as Chinese proposals has steadily evolved into shared global commitments.

The rise of the "Global South" and the irreversible momentum towards peace, development, and cooperation underscore humanity's universal desire for stability and progress.

The international community has spoken highly of the four

global initiatives, viewing them as a reflection of China's global vision and a comprehensive approach to addressing various challenges facing mankind. Additionally, in June 2024, the United Nations officially designated June 10 as the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations.

China has also launched and participated in forums such as the Ancient Civilizations Forum and the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, contributing new approaches towards global cultural engagement.

Africa-China Review in partnership with the Chinese embassy in Rwanda organized a one day

webinar with the theme: The benefits of China's Four Global Initiatives to Africa. The event took place on October 17, 2025, at 16.00hrs Beijing Time, 10.00am (CAT), 11.00am (EAT).

The webinar brought together academia, experts, government officials, researchers, media professionals from China and Africa, to deliberate on the tangible benefits of embracing the four Global Initiatives to Africa in particular, and the rest of the world at large. ■

**Managing Editor,  
Africa -China Review.**



Africa-China Review

SEMINAR

## The benefits of China's Four Global Initiatives to Africa



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October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

16:00hrs (Beijing Time)  
11:00am (EAT), 10:00am (CAT)



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# FROM VISION TO REALITY: THE FOUR GLOBAL INITIATIVES IN ACTION



The Chinese ambassador to Rwanda H.E Gao Wenqi, gave a key note speech on October 17th, during a one day virtual seminar with the theme: The benefits of China's Four Global Initiatives to Africa. The seminar convened by China-Africa Review in partnership with the Chinese embassy in Rwanda brought together scholars, government officials, experts, and media professionals from China and Africa.

Below is the full speech by Ambassador Gao during the event.

Distinguished Guests, Experts, and Friends,

Welcome.

It's my great pleasure to attend this seminar co-hosted by the "China-Africa Review." I would like to first extend my gratitude to you all for taking your precious time to

join us, and to Mr. Mbanda for bringing us together. The world is going through profound changes, marked by lingering geopolitical tensions, sluggish global economic recovery, deepening misunderstandings between civilizations, and growing development imbalances. Against this backdrop, China has put forward the GDI, GSI, GCI and GGI. These four initiatives are not isolated diplomatic statements, but a

systematic solution to address our shared challenges and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

Today, we gather to discuss "How Africa Benefits from the Four Global Initiatives" precisely because these initiatives have moved beyond concept to practice. They have gained broad recognition within the international community, particularly among developing countries, and are already delivering tangible early outcomes in Africa. Let me briefly share some progress in key areas.

In development, China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 16 consecutive years. In 2024, China-Africa trade hit a record high of \$295.6 billion. This June, China extended zero-tariff treatment to 100 percent of tariff lines for 53 African countries, further opening China's market to African goods.

In security, China firmly supports "African solutions to African problems", promoted the peaceful resolution of hotspot issues. As the second-largest financial contributor, China supports

UN peacekeeping efforts in Africa. During last FOCAC Summit, we also pledged RMB 1 billion military support to Africa, and to train 6,000 military staff and 1,000 police enforcement officers.

In civilization exchanges, we have established institutional

designated June 10 as the "International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations".

In global governance, China, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, actively speaks up for the legitimate concerns of African countries in multilateral



*This governance philosophy - emphasizing pragmatism, integrity, and efficiency - is fully aligned with the spirit of the Global Governance Initiative, and offers valuable insights for countries seeking to improve governance and address common challenges...*

exchanging platforms such as the China-Africa Dialogue on Civilization, the China-Africa Youth Festival, and the China-Africa Think Tank Forum. China supports the operation of Confucius Institutes and Luban Workshops in Africa, Chinese martial arts and films are widely enjoyed across the continent. With support from African countries and proposed by China, the UN General Assembly

areas. We have proposed establishing the World AI Cooperation Organization and an International Organization for Mediation, enhancing the representation and voice of developing countries in AI governance and the peaceful settlement of international disputes. Together, we are advancing a more just and equitable global governance system. It is also worth mentioning

that China's contributions to global governance are grounded in our successful domestic governance practices. In recent years, the "Eight-Point Regulation" implemented in China has achieved remarkable results in improving governance. This regulation focuses on improving work conduct, streamlining meetings, standardizing official visits and receptions, and practicing strict frugality, among other areas. These measures effectively enhanced government efficiency and public trust.

This governance philosophy - emphasizing pragmatism, integrity, and efficiency - is fully aligned with the spirit

of the Global Governance Initiative, and offers valuable insights for countries seeking to improve governance and address common challenges such as corruption, inefficiency, and waste. Welcome to learn more about this regulation after the seminar.

Friends, the four global initiatives have distinct focuses but reinforce each other: the GDI narrows the development gap, the GSI promotes common security, the GCI encourages civilization exchanges, and the GGI strives for a more just and reasonable international order. These four dimensions complement each other and together provide a practical pathway toward

building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Since my arrival to Rwanda this June, I have witnessed these initiatives bearing fruit here. For instance, the first phase of the Smart Education Project has been completed, China-Rwanda defense cooperation continues to deepen, and over 2,000 Rwandan students are now studying in China. These concrete achievements are the best proof of the four global initiatives' vitality. To conclude my remarks, I wish this seminar a complete success, and look forward to your insights and perspectives.

Thank you for your attention. ■



Mr. Virgile Rwanyagatare

# CHINA REMAINS RWANDA'S TRUSTED PARTNER TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF VISION 2050

The Director General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, in charge of Asia and Pacific, Mr. Virgile Rwanyagatare, represented the Minister of Foreign Affairs as the Guest of Honor.

In his opening remarks, DG Rwanyagatare praised excellent and friendly relations between Rwanda and China since the establishment of diplomatic ties in November 1971, characterized by mutual trust, shared aspirations, and tangible results across various key sectors.

Below is the full statement of his opening remarks:

Allow me first to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Rwanda and to the Africa-China Review for organizing this

important webinar. This event provides a valuable platform for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners from both China and Africa to exchange views on how our partnership can strengthen our collaboration in the areas of sustainable development, peace and stability, cultural understanding, and fair global governance.

Rwanda and China have enjoyed excellent and friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic ties in November 1971, characterized by mutual trust, shared aspirations, and tangible results across key sectors such as infrastructure, health, education, agriculture, investment, trade, and technology.

Building on the 54 years of excellent and friendly relations between our two countries, I would like to take

this opportunity to commend the Chinese leadership's decision to elevate our bilateral ties from a foundation of friendly cooperation to a "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership"; a milestone that is poised to bring even greater benefits to our two peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen,

China remains Rwanda's leading source of FDI and a trusted partner in our journey toward achieving the goals of Vision 2050, which aims to transform Rwanda into a high-income. Rwanda appreciates China's steadfast support in multilateral fora and aligns itself with the four strategic initiatives; the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Governance Initiative, which collectively aim to promote a peaceful, just, and prosperous world.

At the continental level, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) remains a cornerstone of our partnership, translating the spirit of South South cooperation into tangible results, from infrastructure development, industrial parks and special economic zones to digital innovation, education, cross-border connectivity and health facilities.

Introduced in 2021, the Global Development Initiative (GDI) aims to boost progress toward the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by placing renewed emphasis on development as the heart of global cooperation.

For Africa and for Rwanda in particular, the GDI provides a framework to bridge gaps in financing, technology, and capacity building. It promotes practical cooperation in eight key areas: poverty reduction, food security, industrialization, digital economy, green development, connectivity, health, and education.

Rwanda welcomes China's support under the GDI framework, which complement Africa's efforts to achieve inclusive growth and resilience.

Introduced in 2022, the Global Security Initiative (GSI) promotes a shared, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable vision of security, advocating for the resolution of conflicts through dialogue and partnership instead of confrontation.

For Africa, a continent that continues to face insecurities in some regions, cross-border conflict, and emerging cyber threats, the principles of the GSI resonate deeply. They align with the African Union's Agenda 2063 goal of "Silencing the Guns."

Rwanda values China's contribution to UN peacekeeping operations in Africa and its cooperation with African countries in areas such as counterterrorism, disaster response, and cybersecurity. These efforts demonstrate shared responsibility for global peace and stability.

Announced in 2023, the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) advocates mutual learning among civilizations, respect for cultural diversity, and collective progress through exchange. It emphasizes that no civilization is superior to another, and that dialogue and mutual understanding are vital to achieving harmony.

For Africa, a continent of rich cultural diversity and ancient heritage, this initiative provides a powerful platform to promote people-to-people exchanges, cultural diplomacy, and educational cooperation.

Rwanda believes that through the GCI, we



*This governance philosophy - emphasizing pragmatism, integrity, and efficiency - is fully aligned with the spirit of the Global Governance Initiative, and offers valuable insights for countries seeking to improve governance and address common challenges ...*

can deepen collaboration with China in tourism, arts, education, and media, strengthening the foundations of friendship and mutual understanding between African and Chinese peoples.

The most recent of the four initiatives, the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) reiterates China's commitment to advancing reforms in the global governance system, aiming to make it fairer, more inclusive, and more representative of the interests of developing countries.

The GGI calls for stronger multilateralism, a greater role for the United Nations, and the amplification of voices from the Global South, including Africa, in shaping international rules and institutions.

This initiative complements Africa's call for equity and inclusion in decision-making on issues such as climate change, debt reform, digital transformation, and global

health. For Rwanda, which consistently advocates for fairness and transparency in international affairs, the GGI offers a framework for a more balanced and just global order.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through our collaboration with China under FOCAC, we have witnessed tangible results, from transformative infrastructure projects such as Masaka Hospital, set to become a self-sustaining, technology-enabled regional referral center, and the Nyabarongo II Hydropower Plant, which will add more electricity to our national grid, smart education projects to connect 1500 schools to access high-speed internet. These achievements reflect our shared commitment to translating political goodwill into practical cooperation that benefits the lives of our people.

Together, the Four Global Initiatives embody the spirit of President Xi Jinping's vision of

"a community with a shared future for humanity." They complement Africa's Agenda 2063, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and Rwanda's Vision 2050.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I conclude, allow me to reaffirm Rwanda's unwavering commitment to strengthening its excellent relations with the People's Republic of China, with active engagements in the implementation of the Four Global Initiatives for the benefit of our peoples.

Let us continue to build on our achievements through innovation, dialogue, and solidarity, ensuring that our partnership continues to bring tangible benefits to our citizens and contributes to a more peaceful, prosperous, and equitable world.

I thank you for your kind attention. ■



Professor Liao Fan

# CHINA - RWANDA COOPERATION UNDER THE VISION OF THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE: CONCEPTUAL RESONANCE AND PRACTICAL PATHWAYS

Although China and Rwanda are far apart and in different time zones, we have found a common time to connect in the cloud and discuss cooperation and development. This, in itself, embodies the very spirit of a "community with a shared future for humanity."

First of all, on behalf of the Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), I would like to extend my warm greetings to all participants, and express my sincere appreciation to the Chinese Embassy in Rwanda and Africa-China Review for their thoughtful organization of this event.

At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit this September, President Xi Jinping

officially proposed the Global Governance Initiative (GGI).

Today, I would like to share several reflections on the conceptual resonance and practical pathways of this initiative—along with the other three Global Initiatives—in the African context, drawing particularly from the experience of China–Rwanda cooperation.

## I. The Global Governance Initiative and Its Contributions to Africa

The world today is experiencing profound transformation and turbulence unseen in a century. Global changes are accelerating, the international situation is complex and fluid, economic fragmentation is deepening, and multilateral institutions such as

the United Nations are facing unprecedented challenges. The global deficits in peace, development, security, and governance continue to expand.

Against this backdrop, China proposed the Global Governance Initiative, which focuses on the essential question of our era "What kind of global governance system should we build, and how should we reform and improve it?"

The Initiative aims to promote a fairer, more equitable, and more inclusive international order, and to offer tangible public goods and cooperation opportunities to the Global South, especially African countries.

Historically, the concept of global governance arose

in the West, rooted in traditional Western theories of international relations and deeply intertwined with Eurocentrism and notions of civilizational superiority. These historical limitations have long constrained the inclusiveness and representativeness of the global governance system. China's Initiative does not seek to start a new or replace existing institutions, but rather to work with all responsible nations to reform and improve global governance in line with the demands of a new era.

The GGI is guided by five core principles that chart the right course for the reform of the international system: Sovereign equality — the foremost premise of global governance; the rule of law in international affairs — the fundamental safeguard; Multilateralism — the essential pathway; A people-centered approach — the core value orientation; Pragmatic effectiveness — the key principle ensuring concrete outcomes.

By emphasizing shared destiny, shared participation, and shared benefits, the Initiative transcends the logic of bloc confrontation, zero-sum

rivalry, and winner-takes-all competition. It aims to build a fair and rational framework that removes institutional barriers to cooperation in development, security, and civilization.

As the continent that most representative of the Global South, Africa is central to strengthening solidarity among developing nations and advancing South-South cooperation. The GGI aligns closely with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It injects new vitality into Africa's sustainable development, enhances its capacity for self-driven growth, and enables Africa to play a more proactive and influential role in global affairs.

## **II. The Global Governance Initiative and the Other Three Global Initiatives**

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the principle of "consultation, contribution, and shared benefits" in global governance. In response to mounting global challenges and widening governance deficits, President Xi's Global Governance Initiative represents another major public

good that China contributes to the world—following the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), and Global Civilization Initiative (GCI).

Each of these four initiatives has a distinct focus yet complements the others. The Global Development Initiative addresses the development deficit, promoting inclusive growth and contributing to the building of an open world economy. The Global Security Initiative seeks to address the world's growing security deficit by promoting a concept of security that is common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable. It emphasizes resolving conflicts through dialogue and replacing confrontation with collaboration, thereby injecting stability into an increasingly turbulent international landscape.

The Global Civilization Initiative aims to overcome the peace deficit by advocating equality, mutual learning, inclusiveness, and shared progress among civilizations. By fostering understanding and respect across diverse cultures, it lays a lasting social and



cultural foundation for enduring world peace. The Global Governance Initiative provides the overarching direction, principles, and mechanisms for reforming global governance, addressing the governance deficit and offering new ideas to guide global transformation.

Together, these initiatives inject stability and positive energy into a world marked by volatility. They constitute the four pillars supporting the grand edifice of the Community with a Shared Future for humanity. Among them, the GGI plays a central and integrative role, offering the institutional foundation that ensures the effective implementation and long-term success of the other three initiatives.

### **III. China–Rwanda Cooperation under the Four Initiatives**

Although geographically distant, China and Rwanda share a remarkably similar worldview. Since ancient times, China has upheld the ideals of “Great Unity under Heaven” and “Harmony among all beings”, while Rwanda has a proverb that conveys the same spirit: “Intobyo y’amaraso irayitera” — “Two fingers are destined to live together.” Both expressions embody the essence of a shared destiny, reflecting deep cultural resonance. This common understanding has made China–Rwanda cooperation a vivid example of the Community with a Shared Future for humanity in practice.

Within the framework of the Four Global Initiatives, China–Rwanda cooperation has yielded remarkable achievements. The two countries have advanced steadily in infrastructure, agriculture, healthcare, education, information and communications, energy,

and peacekeeping and security. Rwanda’s Vision 2020 and Vision 2050 development plans have drawn valuable inspiration from China’s experience, while the principles of mutual benefit, win–win cooperation, and non-imposition of models have become the defining hallmarks of the bilateral relationship.

In the fields of security and governance, the two countries cooperate closely in UN peacekeeping,



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counterterrorism, combating transnational crime, and military and police training, demonstrating shared commitment and responsibility in maintaining global peace. In cultural and people-to-people exchanges, programs such as Confucius Institutes, youth exchanges and communications, cultural festivals, academic seminars, and training workshops

have strengthened mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples. Furthermore, China and Rwanda work hand-in-hand on global issues such as climate change, poverty reduction, sustainable development, and fair trade, jointly upholding the representation and voice of developing countries in the global governance system.

These achievements demonstrate that long-term political mutual trust is the cornerstone of deeper cooperation, while win-win partnership serves as the driving force of shared progress. Guided by the four Global Initiatives—Development, Security, Civilization, and Governance—Rwanda is not only a beneficiary but also an active participant and co-builder. Looking ahead, if both sides continue to adhere to the

principles of mutual trust, win-win cooperation, respect for sovereignty, and localized development, this partnership will undoubtedly gain new vitality and stand as a living testament to the building of a China–Africa community with a shared future.

Moving forward, advancing China–Rwanda cooperation to greater depth and substance will also require the sustained intellectual and policy support of think tanks and academia. As one of the most influential think tanks under CASS in the fields of economic policy, international economics, and foreign policy, the Institute of World Economics and Politics is currently working with African partners to establish a China–Africa Research Center under the framework of the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation. We hope to take this center as a foundation

to strengthen collaboration with African think-tank colleagues, jointly explore more equitable and rational development frameworks, and sincerely welcome all experts and scholars present today to participate in and support our ongoing work.

In closing, I wish this seminar great success and look forward to continuing our joint efforts to build a more just, inclusive, and prosperous world for all.

Thank you. ■

*Professor Liao Fan is the Director General and Senior Fellow, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social-Sciences.*



Felicien Usengumukiza, Ph.D

# THE GLOBAL SOUTH IS SIDELINED IN THE WORLD'S DECISION-MAKING ARENAS

The People's Republic of China's initiative to propose a Global Governance Initiative aimed at reforming how the international order handles international relations across various domains, comes at the right moment when the international landscape is facing a widespread disorder. This disorder largely stems from injustices and double standards that marginalize the Global South in decision-making bodies.

Building synergies among citizens and working with regional or international partners is essential for tackling challenges and driving progress. In an increasingly interconnected world, no single country can succeed in isolation. When crises transcend borders, solutions are more easily achieved by working

together with mutual respect and a focus on the facts.

Developing countries, particularly African nations, should challenge the double standards used by global institutions that unreasonably target them. Legal systems, both domestically and globally, should be free from politicization and double standards.

The active participation and representation of African countries in international decision-making organs should not be regarded as a favour. It is a fundamental right for a continent with a 1.5 billion population.

It is in this context that the profound reforms of the international organisations, of which United Nations are paramount to make

them inclusive, efficient and equitable and to grant developing countries greater representation and a stronger voice in the governance bodies of these institutions. This can be achieved if a collective reflection would be undertaken to generate relevant ideas and proposals, which could help improve the performance and role of those originations.

It is fair to state that Rwanda's Governance approaches are grounded in cultural sovereignty, where modernization respects and preserves national identity. We do not completely reject the role of international systems. Instead, we advocate for a defiant resilience towards global imbalances. We insist on leveraging external pressures to reinforce national resolve rather than succumbing to them.

## Rwanda in the World as an active participant

Rwanda actively participates in the global community, capable of contributing to finding solutions for global crises and challenges such as climate change, conflicts, poverty, and pandemics. The international community often tends to evaluate developing countries, particularly African nations, based on their own standards, over which these developing countries have no say.

The Rwanda Governance Scorecard is a home-grown, quantifiable instrument that monitors the status and trends of governance in the country. It generates credible and reliable data on governance, serves as a practical tool that drives

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*The Rwanda Governance Scorecard is a home-grown quantifiable instrument that monitors the status and trends of governance in the country.*

policy reform by identifying areas for improvement and actionable recommendations, and contributes to current knowledge about governance in Rwanda. This document is more than governance assessment

tool; it also serves also as a tool for institutional accountability. .

We take this opportunity to call upon the Chinese Government to support this approach for sustainability of self-evaluation of African countries. This will help African countries to raise their voice in global landscape, based on credible data and ground realities. We also commend this initiative of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for organizing this debate. It is a good starting point for advocacy on behalf of marginalized countries in global stage. ■

*Dr. Felicien Usengumukiza,  
is the Deputy Chief  
Executive Officer, Rwanda  
Governance Board (RGB).*



Professor Wang Yongzhong

# CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION REFLECTS COMPLEMENTARY ECONOMIES

Over the past 45 years, China's export-oriented economy has achieved great success in promoting export and economic growth. So starting from a very closed and rural agriculture-based economy in 1978, now China's GDP is second to the United States in the world, and also China's contribution to the global economic growth is around 40% of the total of the United States and Japan.

China is the engine of the world economy, and now China also is the largest trading nation and exporter in the world. We are the largest producer of manufacturing goods and also the largest investor in FDI, and we are the largest consumers of energy and minerals on that page.

China has a population of around 1.4 billion, which is around 18.5% of the world. In the past, China's GDP per capita was lower than the world average. In 2020, as the chart shows, China's GDP per capita reached the average level in the world, and also we can see that China realized very rapid economic growth since 1978. So we have two very important ways.

First one is the reform transition from a planned economy to a market economy, and then the opening up. We encourage export and attract FDI because FDI can bring in technology and skills and also provide job opportunities. Since 2012, when President Xi Jinping took office, China accelerated the transformation from export and investment-driven and

resource-consumption-driven economy to consumption- and innovation-driven and environment-friendly economy.

China manufacturing output share is around 30% in the world. The First advantage is that we have a labor force, we have hardworking and a high-quality labor force. Second, we have a very high household savings rate, which has given the original accumulation of the capital. The third one is a gradual and incremental reform has enhanced incentives of residents and local government officials. The fourth, is open policy has also given foreign investors super national treatment, for example, the tax exemption and low cost, and the fifth one is that we have promoted infrastructure investment such as railway,

airport, electricity, which has given a very strong boost to economic growth. The sixth point is the stability and the consistency of Chinese government economic policy, such as the five-year plans. This year we have formulated the 15th five-year plans, and of course the last one is that we have the overall stability.

Regarding China-Africa cooperation, we have highly complementary economies. Many countries in Africa have mineral resources and are developing manufacturing industry as well as infrastructure and skills. African countries face poverty and food insufficiency issues. Africa is an important exporter of natural resources and oil. There is a lot of increased trade between China and

Africa over that past decades. China FDI flow to Africa has increased steadily, and this has provided millions of job opportunities in African countries. The Chinese global aid increases steadily, and

the African countries' share is around 40 - 45 percent, which is a significant contribution towards solving poverty issues.

Chinese companies, have very active presence in the African countries, in particular in building railways and expressways, and other important infrastructure projects. Looking forward, the cooperation between China and Africa gets stronger over time and playing a very important role in shaping a bright future. ■

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*China manufacturing output share is around 30% in the world. The First advantage is that we have a labor force, we have hardworking and a high-quality labor force.*

*Professor Wang Yongzhong, serves as the Director, World Energy Development, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences - China.*



Adhere Cavince, Ph.D

# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO KICK POVERTY OUT OF AFRICA

**C**hina has become the most important single partner for African countries, serving as the largest trade partner in almost all nations across the continent. The development of China-Africa partnership has developed tremendously since 2000, with China re-emerging as a key proponent of useful and creative initiatives aimed at supporting global development. Among these initiatives is the Global Development Initiative which was proposed by President Xi in 2021.

This initiative holds particular significance for African countries. It aligns very closely with the UN 2030 Agenda and African Union priorities, which emphasize eight priority areas including poverty reduction, food security, digital economy, and interconnectivity. The GDI was unveiled to help developing countries achieve the aspirations of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), before the 2030 deadline.

Africa in particular, was strongly receptive to this initiative because of the current prevailing challenges that threaten the realization of the SDGs by 2030. These challenges include extreme poverty that still affects approximately 43 percent of the population; 120 million Africans are still facing food insecurity, while over 600 million lack access to power connectivity. Furthermore, significant work remains in economic infrastructure expansion.

I believe this is why the Global Development Initiative has the potential to drive poverty alleviation and SDGs attainment in Africa. Since its promulgation, many milestones have been realized. China has demonstrated its commitment when it comes to the aspirations of GDI. This includes the rollout of the network for poverty reduction and cooperation, as well as the rollout of the Global Development Promotion Center, and an investment

of approximately \$4 billion in South-South cooperation fund. These initiatives have certainly injected impetus in the realization of the Global Development Initiative. This discussion will highlight key areas which hold significance in terms of China's partnership with Africa to realize GDI. A primary area is China-Africa joint modernization that can promote quality agriculture. Africa has 60 percent of the world's arable land, yet food security remains a challenge.

Chinese agricultural technologies can be leveraged to improve productivity in Africa and move the continent out of subsistence farming onto a new pedestal of industrial scale. A second critical issue is rooting out poverty through trade. Of course, China is today Africa's largest trade partner for 16 consecutive years. China's decision earlier this year to grant zero-tariff treatment to all African countries with diplomatic ties with China

is very significant, as it will significantly promote the export of African produce into the Chinese market and therefore, raise incomes for farmers and small businesses. Moreover, this trade with China also reduces the reliance on raw materials from the continent, helping to create sustainable livelihoods.

More than 600 million people in Africa lack access to energy connectivity, especially electricity. The Chinese investments in renewable energy, like here in my country Kenya, with wind and solar projects, are very significant. A decade ago, if you went through the African countryside, you'd find people using kerosene lamps primarily for lighting, especially for children studying at night.

But today, nearly every single roof in African rural areas is dotted with small solar panels which are used to harness energy and provide light and other sources of energy for the household. This has improved education levels because children are now able to study even at night independent of daylight.

This is the kind of transformative story that we see in Africa. We believe if synergies are built, given that China is now the largest source of green technologies

and Africa has the largest potential for green renewables, the complementarity between the two sides holds immense promise.

Another important issue is technology transfer. African resources have remained unprocessed because of lack of appropriate technology, and historically, Western countries have not been willing to share their technology with Africa. But we have seen China actively sharing this technology with Africa. It is only through this kind of technology that African countries can drive industrialization that creates jobs.

Today, we have a wave of young people pushing governments across the continent to deliver on jobs and sources of livelihood. If partnership with China is well harnessed, then African countries can attract industries that can provide jobs and ensure that the continent's resources are refined at source. This is beneficial for Africa and also for China, as it avoids the need for extensive transportation to move these resources back to China for refining.

Furthermore, the trend indicates that African countries deeply appreciate the suite of global initiatives that have been

unveiled by China because they tend to move global cooperation into the impact arena, being project-led, people-focused, and timeline-tied in such a manner that African countries do benefit swiftly from significant Chinese investment.

The GDI is a pivotal initiative for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and enhancing the quality of life for Africans and Chinese citizens. By focusing the partnership on aligning priority areas with existing resources, the two sides can significantly scale up development and deliver truly win-win outcomes as envisaged under the Forum on China Africa Cooperation.

The Africa-China development partnership has emerged as a veritable reference point for South-South cooperation, and the unity of the people of Chinese and African people will significantly boost the collective quest for humanity for a more united, harmonious, and prosperous world. ■

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Professor Wu Minsu

# DIFFERENT CIVILIZATIONS POSSESS THEIR OWN SPLENDOR AND WISDOM

Today, my mind travels back 36 years ago to when I first set foot on the African continent. So you can guess how old I am now. While I worked at the Chinese embassy in Kenya for two years, my husband and I traveled from the Masai Mara Wildlife Reserve where we witnessed the great migration to Lake Nakuru where flamingos change the sky in pink. We were deeply moved by the profound harmony between the people and the natural world.

We also traveled to Masai Mara twice, a trip to Mombasa, a trip that back then took a full day's drive. Now within four hours' drive by train, people can get from one destination to the other. So through these experiences I came to understand that Africa is a land of vitality, promise, and unique civilizational charm. This connection deepened my understanding of civilization. Different civilizations

each possesses their own splendor and wisdom.

It is precisely based on respect for this diversity that China proposed the Global Civilization Initiative, rooted in China's fine traditional culture. It calls for respecting the diversity of world civilizations, upholding the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness. Its core spirit was beautifully articulated by Confucius 2,500 years ago: "The gentleman seeks harmony but not uniformity."

This initiative is not an empty slogan. It has been translated into tangible cooperation. This September, the Communication University of China, the university where I'm working now, launched a master's program in digital communication. We welcomed 28 students from developing countries, 22 of whom are young people from non-African countries with generous scholarships. They immersed

themselves in Chinese culture, learning to use chopsticks, wielding ink brushes, experiencing the Mid-Autumn Festival, and tasting the Chinese moon cakes. This deep cultural exchange is a vivid embodiment of the initiative. Our aim is not to export a so-called standard civilization but to build a platform for African youth to experience and understand for themselves.

Importantly, this learning process is a two-way street. In fact, my African students are also my teachers. A student from Rwanda reviewed how his country has transformed from tragedy into a technological hub fueled by equality and prosperity.

The Singapore of Africa, he shared traditions like heroic poems and the Gacaca community justice system. Well, I spent a lot of time trying to remember these names which use dialogue to heal and unite. Rwanda's

journey demonstrates that its modern revival is profoundly rooted in traditional wisdom.

The benefits of the Global Civilization Initiative to Africa are manifested in three ways.

**First**, we see it in the deepening of people-to-people exchanges and the cultivation of local talent. Platforms like our master's program are helping African youth to master critical skills for the digital era, building a talent pool for their country's future. This cooperation based on equality and mutual respect aims to empower, not to restrict.

**Second**, we see it through the mutual learning of development philosophies. China's development experience combined with the indigenous African wisdom, as seen in Rwanda's case, can spark development paths more suited to African conditions. Projects like the Mombasa-Nairobi railway bring not just convenience but accelerated development.

**Third**, we see it in the building of civilizational confidence through in-depth dialogue.



*It is precisely based on respect for this diversity that China proposed the Global Civilization Initiative, rooted in China's fine traditional culture. It calls for respecting the diversity of world civilizations, upholding the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness.*

Africa's rich cultural heritage, remarkable governance wisdom, and vibrant modern dynamism can be more fully recognized by the world. This helps break down stereotypes and promote a

fairer international discourse.

My own connection to Africa is deeply personal. My father-in-law helped tend to the health of railway builders in Zanzibar 55 years ago. Today, I have the privilege of engaging in a different kind of work, tending to the exchange of ideas and fostering mutual understanding. This progression from healing bodies to connecting minds is the Global Civilization Initiative in action. It tells a powerful story that civilizations grow not in isolation but through shared contribution and through a continuous reciprocal exchange of knowledge and goodwill. So this is the future we can build together. ■

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Frederick Golooba Mutebi, Ph.D

# CHINA TAKES THE LEAD TO REFORM THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER THROUGH GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

My reflections on the Global Governance Initiative as somebody speaking from the developing world and looking at China as a leader of the developing world now, one thing that strikes me about the GGI as I have been reading about it is the skepticism with which it has been received in western circles at least as far as it's portrayed by western media.

I would argue that, skepticism is rather predictable, given the way in which the western world now looks at China with some degree of fear given its emergence as a bona fide competitor for influence across the world.

But as an African or as somebody from the developing world, I would rather say we don't allow ourselves to be distracted by this skepticism coming from the western world because as far as I can see

the GGI is a very important initiative in as far as for us in the developing world. It seeks to address the imbalances, inequities and injustices of the current international governance system.

The GGI is important in very many ways, but for me, it is most important in as far as it signals that China is willing, able and driven to assume leadership on this front. There is no question that developing countries have long been victims of the way in which the global governance system is currently structured and how it operates. There is therefore, no doubt that there is widespread desire to see it reformed so that it can work for everybody equally.

In my estimation, China's willingness to lead demands for change to bring in the much needed leadership that has been lacking and

the commitment required for persistent and focused pressure for reform. Until this time the desire for change has been evident and it has been expressed over many years by people coming from the developing world. But what we have lacked is consistent leadership. I am glad to see that China with all the resources at its disposal, diplomatic, financial, and others, has chosen to lead the path towards reformed global governance.

Therefore, it is my hope that difficult as it seems to achieve given the resistance from Western actors there is a chance that China's resources and its willingness to be persistent and focused to achieve change is going to work for everybody and free us from the inequities of the current system. But there is also a challenge for China itself. I don't think that it's

news for anyone attending this forum that within the developing world itself there are pockets of suspicion of China's motives and I think that it's incumbent upon China to first and foremost convince those in whose interest it's working that this is not just about itself and its search for global influence but that it's in the interest of both China and the rest of the developing world that the current way in which the international system is structured changes. So I think that is something that China needs to think about.



*What China proves and what we have seen from Rwanda's evolution over the last 30 years is that it's not really the way politics is organized that matters but the values that the people or political organizations in power espouse and are driven by.*

In terms of the 8 point rule on party and government conduct and building closer ties with people, It makes me think of one key thing and that is where accountability, effectiveness, efficiency and discipline in government comes from.

Of course we in Africa have been the recipients of all kinds of pressures of ideologies and we may all recall that from around the late

1980s up to the current moment, we Africans are under constant pressure to structure our governments or politics in particular ways. And I think that the dominant pressure is for us to invent ourselves in the image of our colonial masters become liberal democracies and liberal democracy of course implies a number of things.

The key thing is multi-party politics or competitive multi-party politics. So I prefer calling it competitive adversarial. And the reason why I always attach adversarial is that I think liberal democracy is highly divisive because it pits different sets of political elites against each other in struggles for power.

But what we see is that these struggles culminate in governments that pride themselves on having been elected through competition. But these governments have very one key thing in common is that they are never accountable. They tend to be rather incompetent.

They are also not very effective nor are they responsive to the needs of citizens. Now we see that these things in China are taken for granted. But China is not a liberal democracy and China is not what it is because it has succumbed to pressure from anyone.

What we see in China is a homegrown system that is structured according to the local context and according to what China needs to happen in that country in order for them to have a government that is effective, efficient, non-corrupt, but also that responds to the needs of its citizens.

What China proves and what we have seen from Rwanda's evolution over the last 30 years is that it's not really the way politics is organized that matters but the values that the people or political organizations in power espouse and are driven by.

There is in my mention a lesson for developing countries especially in Africa from this um and that lesson is that rather than pre-occupying ourselves with how governments come to power and when they should be changed, we should focus on identifying those things that we need to do to ensure that our governments serve the people rather than working in the interest of

those who are in charge. In conclusion, I think that political systems that ensure regular changes of government are important of course as we see in the western world. However, I think that political systems that oblige governments to pursue the general good regardless of how frequently they change are better for the common citizen as indeed China has demonstrated over the last 70 or so years and as Rwanda has done so over the last three decades.

So I see here a connection between China and Rwanda. The people who are in charge in Rwanda today rejected from the beginning the

pressure to succumb to all this pressure and ideas coming from outside with context that bear little resemblance to Rwanda. Instead, they chose to pursue a path that they see as much more viable or much more capable of taking their country where they want to take it. And in this I see that to some degree they have emulated China and I hope and expect that other developing countries could look at this seriously and see what lessons they can pick from it. ■

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Professor Wang Wen

# GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE IS EXTENSIVE CONSULTATION, CONTRIBUTION AND SHARED BENEFITS

**A**s we all know there are four Global Initiatives proposed by China. They include the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative and the Global Governance Initiative. These initiatives were proposed by the president Xi Jinping at Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in September 2025.

Someone may say that China's so many initiatives are useless. I think this is completely wrong. Initiatives represent ideas and ideas determine the behavior. When President Trump advocates American first, the United States is bound to take more unilateral actions. When China proposes global initiative, it signals its desire for multilateralism cooperation with all countries on development, security, civilization, and governance.

As we all know, the world is currently in a crisis. If we

compare a crisis to a storm where only a few people have umbrellas, the problem will not be solved. China's approach is to unite everyone to build a shelter that can protect everyone. China proposed the Global Governance Initiative and invites all the countries including those in Africa to leverage in designing and building these pavilions that respond to global crisis.

The core strength of the Global Governance Initiative is joint consultation, joint contribution and shared benefit which align with African Union Agenda 2063. It is not about imposing a particular model to Africans and seizing development opportunity. Let me share three stories with you. Story one, imagine Kenya farmers growing high quality coffee beans but unable to sell their products due to high international shipping costs and complex trade barriers. What can be done?

The open world economy advocated by the Global Governance Initiative aims to address these challenges. Over the past decade, China has built the Mombasa- Nairobi railway in Kenya, reducing freight travel time from Nairobi to the port of Mombasa from 3 days to about 6 hours. This has significantly reduced trade cost, facilitated the movement of goods and directly served Africa's dream of industrialization. According to a World Bank report, the Mombasa-Nairobi has boosted Kenya's GDP by about 1.5%.

Through the Global Governance Initiative, similar examples of improving infrastructure and promoting connectivity will continue to increase. To date, China has added and created over 10,000 kilometers of railways, nearly 100,000 kilometers of roads and nearly 100 ports. China has trained over

100,000 technical professionals to meet electricity needs of millions of people and established the transportation and energy network foundation supporting integration. So we all know that the growing network of modern ports, railways, roads will significantly promote the formation of the unified African market and even a free trade area we call Africa.

If fully implemented, the Africa FTA is expected to lift 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty by 2035. The cooperation advocated by the global governance initiative is precisely to help Africa do when the next pandemic strikes. We all know no borders when western powers were hoarding vaccines, China was the first to lend a helping hand to Africa. It was a spirit of global cooperation not vaccine nationalism that helped us through these most difficult times.

China has provided over 200 million doses of COVID 19 vaccines to Africa and is collaborating with Egypt, and other countries to produce one billion doses. The Africa CDC headquarter building with Chinese government assistance was completed in Ethiopia in early 2023. I just visited it in August of this year. It is a state of the art building. This is a concrete manifestation of the modern Global Governance Initiative commitment to promoting global public health governance. It has helped Africa establish its own anti-pandemic command center and enhanced the continent's public health response capacity.

At international conferences we often see the voices of some countries being ignored. Global governance is not a private club for a few countries but everyone's voice must be heard in UN Security Council. China explicitly

advocates prioritizing increasing representation and voice of every country in addressing climate change. China has consistently adhered to the principle of the common but different responsibilities demanding that developed countries for historical and current emissions should provide financial and technological support to Africa. At the same time, China is also developing green energy in Africa.



*If fully implemented, the Africa FTA is expected to lift 30 million Africans out of extreme poverty by 2035. The cooperation advocated by the global governance initiative is precisely to help Africa do when the next pandemic strikes.*

This is precisely the democratization of international relations emphasized by the global governance initiative which aim to change the old western dominant order. Though in the past two decades I have visited over 10 countries although I haven't been to Rwanda yet. Now I understand that as China's influence to Africa grows some critical voices have emerged. We welcome a constructive criticism but we do not accept those who follow

western propaganda meant to demonize China's image.

Let me ask those who demonize China. Do you still need to be colonized by the West again? Do you still want to be cared like a black slave? Do you still want to continue to be discriminated against by the west? So as a rising global power, China will never engage in colonization, slavery or racial discrimination. Of course, no country is perfect. What China needs to do is to strive to make real contribution to the world through the launch of the four major global initiatives and

to work with every country to create a better future.

The global governance initiative is not a deep program but invitation to co-creation from the Tanzania Zambia railway in the 1950s to Mombasa- Nairobi railway which opened in 2017. Global governance initiative shapes a large picture, a future that is more resilient and truly benefits all humanity. So this is the significance of the global governance initiative.

Finally, let me make our university announcement. This year the school of

global leadership at Renmin University of China where I work has admitted over 30 outstanding students from six African countries for Bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees. We look forward to welcoming more Rwanda elites to our program. I also look forward to studying in Rwanda. ■

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## What China has built in Africa





Ismael A. Buchanan, Ph.D

# THE IMPACT OF GSI AND THE ROLE OF CHINA IN ENHANCING SECURITY FOR AFRICA

The nexus between conflict and stalled development is indeed the central challenge for our era with different conflicts which stagnated development in Africa, outside of the continent as well, for example, the undergoing war between Israel and Palestine that is part of middle east, then comes the war in Russia and Ukraine that is Asia part including Europe and when it comes to the Africa continent, let mention the case of terrorist attacks in the Sahel claimed over 8,000 lives, while eastern DRC saw Goma fall to AFC/M23 rebels, displacing millions of people.

These crises underscore Africa's persistent security challenges—terrorism, political instability, and regional fragmentation that defy easy solutions. In addition to that, we also see China involved in peace keeping and leading peace initiatives in

some countries and its recent diplomatic engagements, like the successful mediation between Saudi Arabia and Iran that had a decades long rivalry and its proactive stance in the Horn of Africa where China appointed a special envoy in that region of Africa, trying to offer a compelling model of patient, dialogue-based conflict resolution, promoting regional dialogue and address issues ranging from civil unrest to food security.

Based on an observation of China's foreign policy principles and its evolving role in Africa including other part of the continent, I would like to offer the following assessment of what China can do to assist Rwanda specifically and Africa as a whole in the domain of security and also to touch on what GSI means for Rwanda, Africa and the wider world. Amid this turbulence, China's

Global Security Initiative (GSI), unveiled in 2022, offers a new framework for cooperation, emphasizing sovereignty, non-interference, and collective stability.

**Understanding the Interconnection of the four major Initiatives**  
Before, going into the subject matter of my today's topic, let have a clear understanding and the interconnection of what these four major initiatives initiated by China means, such the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), and the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) together form a systematic proposal put forward by China to address global challenges and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Each initiative has its specific

focus: the GDI centers on development, aiming to place it at the heart of the global agenda and foster strong, green, and healthy global development; the GSI (which I will be focusing on) is anchored in security advocating for a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security to provide a guarantee for peace and stability; the GCI uses civilization as a bond, emphasizing respect for civilizational diversity and promoting equal dialogue and inclusive mutual learning among different civilizations; last but not least, the GGI, with governance as its framework, champions a global governance philosophy of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, pushing for a more just and reasonable international order.

These four initiatives do not exist in isolation but form an interconnected organic whole. This systematic concept has an extremely significant positive impact on the African continent, which is seeking peace and development. If you take an example of what GSI can do to assist Africa and Rwanda in particular, we can say that the GSI may

help to maintain regional stability through support for peacekeeping and counter-terrorism cooperation; their synergy creates a virtuous cycle of promoting security through development and safeguarding development with security for Africa including Rwanda in particular. Therefore, by blending GSI with local strategies, Africa and Rwanda in particular could forge a path to resilience in an era of uncertainty.

Take an example within the current contemporary security challenges in Africa and just not far from here in our neighborhood, a country like the DRC, where, the AFC/M23 rebellion captured cities like Bukavu and Goma in late 2024, the conflict that has displaced over 7 million people. Mineral-rich eastern DRC remains a flashpoint, with regional spillover threatening stability in the Great Lakes. These crises share roots in governance failures, external meddling, and inadequate coordination.

This shows how Africa urgently needs innovative, cohesive security responses to stem the tide of chaos. China's Global Security Initiative: Opportunities

and Challenges.

The above initiative was launched in 2022 by President Xi Jinping, the GSI champions a world order based on sovereignty, mutual respect, and cooperative security—principles resonating with Africa's aversion to external dictates.

Unlike Western models often tied to democratic reforms, GSI offers practical aid: military training, equipment, and infrastructure investment. China's footprint in Africa is already significant for example, armored vehicles equip Sahel forces and the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation pledged billions for development. As France retreats from the Sahel and U.S. engagement wanes, China's non-aligned stance appeals to coup-led regimes and states wary of neo-colonialism.

Secondly, GSI's flexibility could complement African Union (AU) peacekeeping or regional blocs like the Lake Chad Basin Commission, providing resources without the baggage of historical domination. For cash-strapped nations battling insurgents or militias, China's support promises a lifeline.



By aligning GSI with Africa's needs, counterterrorism in the Sahel, stabilization in DRC—it could enhance existing efforts, offering a fresh paradigm for a continent seeking alternatives to faltering Western frameworks.

Thirdly, at the broader African level, China is committed to supporting African solutions to African problems by enhancing the autonomous peacekeeping capabilities of the African Union and the African Standby Force through equipment, training, and funding.

It integrates security considerations into infrastructure development to safeguard trade corridors and promote comprehensive security across the region, while also innovatively addressing non-traditional security challenges such as food security, public health, and climate change.

Fourth, in assisting Rwanda, which is an important country in East Africa and plays an important role in Africa's peace and security affairs, Rwanda and China have been firmly supporting one another especially, in the domain of security and

development interests, maintaining cooperation in resolving regional hotspot issues, thus, China may focus on capacity building and specialized support, providing high-level training in areas such as counterterrorism and cybersecurity, sharing best practices in public security management for major events and urban safety, and deepening the development-driven model through investment and cooperation to consolidate developmental achievements and address emerging threats. China's approach positions it as a country that respects African leadership and prioritizes development-driven cooperation.

The core of this strategy lies in transferring technology and building capacity to strengthen Africa's ability to autonomously maintain stability, resolve disputes through dialogue and consultation, and ultimately support the continent in achieving lasting peace and sustainable development under its own leadership. This principle-based, empowerment-focused pathway offers practical and effective support for Africa's security cooperation.

I believe China's most significant contribution lies in this empowerment-focused model—one that complements rather than replaces African agency. It is an approach that aligns with the principles of the GSI by seeking sustainable, cooperative, and African-led solutions to security challenges and GSI is a promising tool for such endeavors.

To summarize, China and Rwanda including the vast number of African countries and other developing nations by jointly working together and by taking the opportunity from different mechanisms such as FOCAC and various regional coordination platforms will continue to play essential roles in these efforts and deepen their bilateral cooperation in the domain of peace and security. ■

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Mr. Mweusi Karake

# CHINA'S GLOBAL CIVILIZATION INITIATIVE: WHAT IS IN IT FOR AFRICA?

Let me give myself the liberty to divert a bit from my title. I am not a regular church goer but when I go I pay attention to a preacher's non-traditional sermon. It is on this ground that I have never forgotten a sermon by The Bishop of Kagbayi his eminence bishop Semargide at a family's kwibuka, remembering the victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

The bishop narrated a conversation between him and a Hutu peasant named Ruhaya, who took so much risk to save Tutsi victims when he himself could have been killed for such humanitarian cause. What surprised the man of God was that such noble person had never bothered to be baptized.

He curiously asked for explanation, and Ruhaya's explanation and I quote, "I got married to a woman I loved and still love. Unfortunately, she was not able to get children. With her consent I married a second wife who has given me several children. When I wanted

to get baptized the church gave conditions that I must divorce one of the women so that I and the other woman are baptized and receive the marital sacrament in the church. Now my bishop, just tell me what kind of religion is this that advises me to commit such a treachery? What kind of religion is that recommends that I hurt some who has never hurt me" that is why I have never been baptized.

It is not mine to judge whose moral values are higher between Mr. Ruhaya and the church. It is left to the readers to pass judgment. I wish to point out however, that Kinyarwanda culture allowed polygamy, and that Rwandans value having children. Here was a clear crush of Christian/western civilization versus Rwandan values and civilization.

## Respect for the diversity of values and civilizations

Just over two years ago,

March 2023, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forward the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) following the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative. the initiative, as Xi pointed out in his speech then, advocates respect for the diversity of civilizations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, as well as robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. Note "respect for the diversity of civilizations."

In contrast, 120 years ago, the west imposed on us their civilization including religion that assumes that their way is superior to ours. It is this assumed superiority of certain civilizations that has led to clash of civilizations.

On the other hand what president Xi is promoting is upholding the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations. It emphasizes the importance



of cultural understanding exchanges, mutual learning that go belong clashes, promote coexistence transcending feelings of superiority.

Imperialism came with imperial orders or decrees, and punishment for non adherence. For example, in my country Rwanda, during colonialism a Rwandan colonial employee, could lose a job not out of performance but because he, (it was always a he), by simply deserting from the Catholic Church! Empires rule by decrees and dictate what is civilized and not civilized.

The GCI on the other hand, is neither a doctrine nor an imperial decree. It is not an imposition of ideology. It is an approach that seeks to devise a course toward mutual respect and coexistence. An approach that acknowledges the need and necessity of the interdependent world we live in today. The world cannot continue to exist on "We decide and others follow". It champions the view that no civilization is superior or inferior; they're just different, with their unique values, circumstances and traditions. Thus Ruhaya does not have to divorce the wife who out of misfortune failed to get children nor divorce the

one with children just because a foreign religion and cultures forbids him to have two wives.

GCI recognizes that all civilizations are equal despite the differences and diversity. In the end civilization aspires to taking good care of its people. That is why civilization goes hand in hand with people's welfare. Civilization and governance ought to aim at improving people's well-being. Thus by advocating for respect for the diversity of civilization; China is, as has been in the past, ready to deal with Africa as an adult. Neither children to be lectured to, nor blinds that need to be sleep walked across development boulevards.

Years of wars, so called World Wars, dominating the world by the global north, were replaced by cold wars. Africans were simple pawn on the west- east chess board. African leaders were always asked, "are you pro west or pro east"? no one asked any African leader whether he was pro Africa.

### **The GCI supports a more balanced, multipolar global order**

A balanced Multi polar world is well articulated by China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who

said that, "An equal multipolar world means equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal rules for every nation. Certain or a few powers should not monopolize international affairs. Countries should not be categorized according to their "strength." Those with the bigger fist should not have the final say. And it is definitely unacceptable that certain countries must be at the table while some others can only be on the menu. It must be ensured that all countries, regardless of their size and strength, are able to take part in decision-making, enjoy their rights, and play their role as equals in the process toward a multipolar world."

We would have expected that this western attitude would have ended with the cold war. However, since the end of the Cold War, wars and conflicts have erupted in Africa, with the cunning support of the former colonial masters. A case in point is Libya, one of the citizens' interest-oriented countries, yet with the support of US and EU, the Libyan pro-people leader Muammar Gadhafi was brutally murdered and the country was reduced to a failed state.

To set the records straight, no single Chinese bomb has

landed on Africa soil, what has landed in Africa are bridges, railways and roads.

The GCI provides a platform for Africa to advocate development models rooted in its own values and priorities. Landlocked Rwanda at heart of Africa has her own needs different from Senegal at the Atlantic oceanic. Each with her disadvantages and advantages. Rwanda for example, lacks access to the ocean, but has a huge advantage of the fact that the entire country has one language that facilitates easy communication for development.

### **GCI and South-South Cooperation**

Through respect to other people's culture and cultural exchanges, the GCI will enhance cooperation with China and other developing countries to address shared development and security challenges.

Contrary to falsely held belief China has some 56 ethnic groups. It is thanks to the great leadership of the communist party of China that the majoring ethnic groups have not marginalized minority groups but have built a united China. Africa

and the global South could learn from China, on how diverse people have been able to coexist and develop together.

Africa is a rich culture which has unfortunately been eroded by centuries of western domination, western media, western Hollywood culture and I dare say pornography. The GCI will offer greater opportunities to showcase African cultures globally, increasing soft power and global influence.

China's commitment to cultural exchanges and dialogue through initiatives like the Third Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations reinforces its dedication to cooperation and mutual understanding. Its approach is both complimentary and, to a little extent, in competition with existing post-WWII order institutions. Countries that vary from one another in social system, stages of development, historical and cultural background and values, have the right to choose their own approaches and models in promoting and protecting human rights in their own countries. Human rights should not be politicized as is often done by the West, and above all it should not be selective. Imposition of

human rights conditionality on economic assistance should be vigorously opposed in any case depriving a people economic development is the worse human rights abuse. China's ability to ensure a safe and stable internal and external environment reflects a nation's governance effectiveness.

China has showed Africa and the entire global south that, it is important for a civilization to safeguard its people's right to life and development. China's people-centric development path has proved that wars and exploitation are not the world's determinant factors. You can bomb a nation to submission, but centuries later they will rebel, reorganize and rebuild. In conclusion, the GCI advocates the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations. Countries need to fully harness the relevance of their histories and cultures to the present times and no people should think or believe that their culture is superior to others. GCI therefore, advocates for global civilization unity in diversity ■

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Mr. Nicholas Dweh Nimley

# CHINA`S FOUR GLOBAL INITIATIVES IMPACT CHINA-LIBERIA STRATEGIC COOPERATION

In the evolving global landscape, China has emerged as a key architect of alternative development models, international governance, and global security frameworks.

China's Four Global Initiatives, originally framed as the Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI), Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), and, more recently, the Global Governance Initiative (GGI), constitute President Xi Jinping's packaged vision for reshaping international cooperation around development financing, security norms, cultural exchange, and institutional reform.

These initiatives offer policy instruments and diplomatic narratives designed to present China as a provider of public goods and an alternative to Western-led models of governance and development.

For Africa, the initiatives carry immediate and pragmatic significance. The GDI reinforces China's role as a major infrastructure financier and trade partner, supporting projects and concessional finance that many African states view as essential for closing infrastructure gaps; however, lingering concerns about debt sustainability and the shift toward net debt repayment in recent years complicate the picture.

These initiatives present a comprehensive vision for international cooperation rooted in mutual respect, shared benefits, and inclusive progress. For Africa, and particularly for Liberia. These frameworks carry profound significance. As China and Liberia strengthen their strategic partnership, the application of these initiatives offers opportunities to address development challenges,

enhance security cooperation, and promote cultural exchange.

## Health & Diagnostics

The National Clinical Diagnostic and Treatment Laboratory, Margibi County, near the 14th Military Hospital, groundbreaking ceremony on December 20, 2024. The facility, supported by China Aid, will include a laboratory, ICU, operating center, and CT scan unit, thereby strengthening Liberia's disease detection and clinical care system.

## Media Infrastructure

This has also led to the development of a modern Radio & Television Complex for the Government of Liberia, financed by the People's Republic of China. The groundbreaking ceremony for this project at the State Radio and Television, known as the Liberia Broadcasting System (LBS), was held on August 17,

2024. And this US\$5.5 million China-funded facility will modernize the national radio and television infrastructure and expand rural outreach.

### **Advancing Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development**

The Global Development Initiative, launched in 2021, seeks to realign global development priorities with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. Its key focus areas include poverty reduction, food security, health, climate change, digital economy, and capacity building. Africa, as a continent with vast developmental needs, stands at the forefront of the GDI's beneficiaries.

For Liberia, the GDI resonates strongly with the government's ARREST Agenda, which focuses on Agriculture, Roads, rule of law, Education, Sanitation, and Tourism. China's emphasis on agriculture and infrastructure development complements Liberia's goals of economic diversification and sustainable development.

Through the GDI, China can support Liberia in developing resilient agricultural systems,

improving food security, and enhancing rural development. The China-Liberia Agricultural Demonstration Center in CARI, Bong County, and the recent training of over 22 Liberian agricultural experts in China to learn more about food preservation are some of the several ways China is helping the People of Liberia.

Infrastructure is another pillar where GDI's impact is visible. Chinese investments have already contributed to the construction of roads, hospitals (JFD Hospital in Tappita, Nimba County), and public buildings in Liberia (University of Liberia Fendell Campus, Capitol Building Annex that housed the National Legislature of Liberia, SKD Stadium renovation, Monrovia Vocational Training Center extension and renovation), among others. Under the GDI framework, Liberia can expect increased support in upgrading transportation networks, expanding digital infrastructure, and building renewable energy systems in critical areas for inclusive growth.

Moreover, the GDI promotes knowledge transfer and human capital development, areas in which Liberia has

historically faced challenges. China's scholarship programs, vocational training partnerships, and technology-sharing initiatives fall directly under the GDI's goals and offer Liberian youth access to global educational and technical expertise.

### **Promoting Stability and Peaceful Development**

The Global Security Initiative, introduced in 2022, emphasizes cooperative security, respect for national sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. It is a counter-narrative to unilateralism, militarization, and coercive diplomacy. For many African countries grappling with security concerns, instability, and external interference, the GSI presents an appealing framework.

Liberia, which has a history of civil conflict and remains sensitive to issues of peace and national reconciliation, stands to benefit from the principles of the GSI. By advocating for non-intervention, conflict prevention, and capacity building in peacekeeping and governance, the GSI aligns

with Liberia's desire to maintain stability and strengthen its national institutions.

In practical terms, China has already contributed to UN peacekeeping missions in Liberia and can now build on this legacy by supporting regional security frameworks, offering police and military training, and assisting in counter-terrorism and anti-piracy operations along the West African coast.

Moreover, cybersecurity and data governance, new frontiers of global security, are increasingly relevant for Liberia as it expands its digital footprint. Under the GCI, China can collaborate with Liberia to enhance digital security frameworks, protect critical infrastructure, and prevent cyber threats in areas of growing concern in the modern global order.

### **Bridging Cultures and Promoting Mutual Respect**

Unveiled in 2023, the Global Civilization Initiative aims to foster intercultural dialogue, protect cultural diversity, and promote shared values through respect and mutual learning.

The GCI challenges the notion of a singular dominant civilization and emphasizes the coexistence of multiple cultures and development models.

This initiative carries immense potential for cultural diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges between China and Liberia.

Liberia, with its rich history and unique cultural heritage, can engage more deeply with China through cultural programs, academic collaboration, and media partnerships.

The GCI's focus on mutual respect and non-imposition of values is particularly meaningful to Liberia, which seeks to assert its sovereignty and identity on the international stage.

Through cultural centers, Confucius Institutes, arts exchanges, and media cooperation, both countries can build a deeper understanding and public goodwill that complements their economic and political ties.

Additionally, the GCI encourages media development and independent

storytelling, which can help African nations, including Liberia, counter negative stereotypes and project authentic narratives globally. China's support in media training, broadcasting infrastructure, and content sharing could empower Liberian media outlets to play a stronger role in national development and international advocacy.

### **Deepened institutional links through mutual high-level legislative visits and parliamentary diplomacy**

Implications for Liberia are concrete. Over the last two years, Liberia and China have deepened institutional links through mutual high-level legislative visits and parliamentary diplomacy: Liberian Senate President Nyonblee Kargna-Lawrence and House Speaker Richard Nagbe Koon participated in Chinese legislative forums and received Chinese parliamentary delegations, signaling intensified bilateral coordination and capacity-building ties. These visits accelerate policy learning, open channels for project negotiation, and increase Liberia's visibility within

China-Africa platforms. Strategically, Liberia's engagement advances Beijing's aim to broaden its governance coalitions and secure support for Chinese reform proposals in global institutions while offering Liberia leverage to access finance, technical assistance, and diplomatic backing.

The partnership, however, requires Liberia to balance short-term gains against governance, transparency, and long-term fiscal risks, and to use parliamentary diplomacy to translate high-level goodwill into accountable projects and diversified partnerships.

### **A Shared Future of Mutual Progress**

China's four Global Initiatives present a timely and strategic

response to the limitations of the existing global order. For Africa, they represent a shift toward partnerships based on equality, non-interference, and mutual benefit.

For Liberia, these initiatives are more than policy declarations; they are pathways to real, transformative progress.

As the China-Liberia strategic partnership matures, these initiatives will shape the contours of cooperation, from development and security to culture and innovation.

Liberia's proactive engagement with China under these frameworks will not only strengthen its bilateral ties but also position the country as a dynamic player in the emerging multipolar world.

Furthermore, the successful implementation of these initiatives can contribute to a more balanced, peaceful, and inclusive global future where nations like Liberia are not mere recipients but equal partners in shaping their destiny. ■

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Staff Writer

# AFRICA STANDS TO BENEFIT SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE GCI FRAMEWORK



The Global Civilizations Dialogue ministerial meeting, held in Beijing on July 10–11, 2025, came at a critical juncture. With the world beset by geopolitical tension, ideological polarization, and a retrenchment from globalization, the event—backed by over 600 delegates from around 140 countries—served as a concerted effort to reaffirm the vital role of intercultural exchange in preserving peace and fostering

global progress. In the midst of escalating conflicts and growing protectionist tendencies, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned that “dialogue is essential in a world fractured by conflict, intolerance and misinformation”.

China’s President Xi Jinping framed the meeting as a tangible extension of the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), which he unveiled

in March 2023. The GCI is rooted in principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness among civilizations, countering hegemonic imposition of values in favor of respect for diverse modernization pathways. The Beijing Declaration, adopted at the meeting, calls for cooperation across governments, academia, media, and civil society to deepen cultural exchange, bolster

institutional frameworks, and create a global cooperation network for civilizations. As part of the GCI's rollout, China launched an action plan featuring more than 100 programs. These include the establishment of a global civilizations research institute, a cultural-exchange fund, visa waivers for students, scholarships, and youth exchange initiatives. At the ministerial, international figures—including former prime ministers, think tank leaders, and UNESCO representatives—emphasized that drawing on diverse civilizational wisdom enriches global solidarity, innovation, and shared prosperity.

For Africa, the GCI builds on a foundation of sustained China-Africa engagement—economic, diplomatic, and cultural. Through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China has become Africa's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching \$282 billion in 2023. Over the latest triennial FOCAC summit, Xi pledged about \$50–\$51 billion in loans, grants, and investments to support infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, and security, while also pushing

measures to ease trade balance concerns and open Chinese markets to goods from low-income countries. Complementing economics, China's soft-power investments in Africa are vast. From scholarships and vocational training to Confucius Institutes and agricultural-technology centers, Beijing is strengthening people-to-people ties. In 2018 alone, China hosted more than 80,000 African students—surpassing Western scholarship offerings. Specialized cooperation programs—like "Luban Workshops" and medical missions—reinforce local skills and public welfare. These efforts align seamlessly with the GCI's mission: fostering mutual cultural learning and knowledge exchange.

Africa stands to benefit significantly from the GCI framework, which emphasizes equal respect for national development models and civilizational dignity. By institutionalizing dialogue, China offers a platform where African voices shape cultural, educational, and developmental pathways in their own context.

Trade concessions, market access, and development funding are paired with intercultural respect. This approach responds directly to African leaders' long-standing calls during Beijing visits to reshape the relationship from extractive patterns toward equitable partnerships. It also dovetails with Africa's aspirations for technological capacity building in sectors like processing of minerals and agricultural productivity.

Globally, the GCI reflects a broader realignment in China's diplomacy: transitioning from a narrow economic agenda to a multidimensional narrative fostering a multipolar, culturally pluralist world order. After spending over US \$1 trillion on the Belt and Road Initiative, China is now pursuing complementary frameworks—the GCI, Global Development Initiative, and Global Security Initiative—to address critiques of environmental harm and uneven outcomes. By promoting civilizational diversity and resisting universalist imposition, the GCI counters Western-centric value systems and enhances soft power outreach.

For the Global South—which includes much of Africa, Latin America, and emerging Asia—the GCI offers a fresh prism through which to seek partnerships defined not only by resources or infrastructure, but by shared dialogue, cultural dignity, and developmental self-determination. This approach fosters regional solidarity and provides alternatives to Western philanthropic models focused on democracy and human rights benchmarks.

Critics argue the GCI may mask China's strategic ambitions or sidestep sensitive issues like debt sustainability, governance norms, or human rights. But proponents see it as a creative lever for reframing global governance around mutual respect and cooperation, rather than ideological contestation.

The Beijing ministerial crystallizes this shift. It brought the GCI from concept to action, with commitments spanning cultural institutes, academic networks, scholarships, visa policies,

and at least 50 development cooperation projects over five years. Ultimately, China envisions a global tapestry where civilizations engage in continuous conversation, co-creating a stable and inclusive world order. Whether the GCI leads to lasting transformation depends on follow-through. Will China, African states, the UN, UNESCO, regional bodies, universities, NGOs, media houses, and youth movements turn these declarations into real, equitable partnerships? The stakes are high. But if GCI's architecture can deliver on its promise, it may reframe diplomatic discourse: civilizational interplay—not just economics, geopolitics, or ideology—could become the core of 21st-century diplomacy.

In that light, the Beijing ministerial was more than a moment—it laid the scaffolding of a global civilizational alliance inclusive of Africa and others, aiming to ensure not just that civilizations coexist, but that they flourish through mutual learning, respect, and shared innovation. ■



Mr. Gerald Mbanda

# AFRICA AND CHINA: A 21ST CENTURY PARTNERSHIP OF HOPE AND PROGRESS

In a recent seminar organized by Africa China Review in collaboration with the Embassy of China in Rwanda, African and Chinese scholars, researchers, government officials and experts came together to discuss on four global initiatives in which China and Africa can collaborate to unlock the continent's full potential: the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI), the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) and youth empowerment through skills development. Through these pillars of partnership, African researchers asserted, the continent can become a major player in global affairs.

Africa's development agenda is increasingly aligned with China's Global Development Initiative, which prioritizes poverty reduction, food security, clean energy, digital innovation, and infrastructure. With over 60% of Africa's

population under the age of 25, the need for job creation and sustainable economic growth is urgent.

China has already demonstrated its commitment through major infrastructure projects such as roads, railways, ports, and energy systems, many of which have been completed or are underway in East, West, and Southern Africa. In the context of GDI, these projects serve as the foundation for deeper economic integration and interconnectivity across the continent.

At the seminar, African experts praised China's role in supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063, particularly through financing industrial parks, special economic zones, and digital infrastructure. These are not just projects—they are lifelines to a more prosperous, self-reliant Africa.

Without peace, development

cannot thrive. Recognizing this, both African and Chinese participants at the seminar highlighted the importance of the Global Security Initiative. China's approach to security cooperation with Africa is built on principles of non-interference, local ownership, and capacity-building.

From peacekeeping missions to anti-terrorism training, China has been a quiet but committed partner in ensuring Africa's security landscape improves. In countries like Mali, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chinese personnel have served under UN peacekeeping mandates.

The GSI promotes collaborative approaches to tackling cross-border threats such as terrorism, cybercrime, and transnational trafficking. African researchers called for increased Chinese support in training African forces, strengthening border security, and using technology for



conflict prevention. They noted that Africa needs partners who support its sovereignty and empower its institutions—values at the core of China's security philosophy. While economics and security are crucial, the Global Civilization Initiative reminds us that development is also about people, identity, and shared values. At the heart of GCI is the belief that no civilization is superior to another, and that humanity thrives through mutual respect and learning. African scholars at the seminar emphasized that cultural diplomacy between Africa and China is growing. From Confucius Institutes teaching Chinese language and culture across African universities to African art exhibitions in Beijing, cultural exchange has become a powerful bridge.

More importantly, GCI supports the idea of a multipolar world, where African voices are not only heard but respected. By participating in global dialogue on equal footing, African nations are asserting their cultural and intellectual heritage on the world stage. Perhaps the most hopeful pillar of Africa-China cooperation is the focus on youth. With Africa projected to have the world's largest workforce by 2040, investing in skills, education, and entrepreneurship is critical.

Chinese-supported vocational training centers, scholarship programs, and joint university initiatives are equipping young Africans with skills in engineering, agriculture, technology, and renewable energy. In Rwanda, the Luban Workshop—launched in partnership with Chinese institutions—is training students in advanced manufacturing and smart technology.

Speakers at the seminar called for expanding such initiatives across all regions of Africa, noting that youth empowerment is not just a development issue, but a security and governance one as well. With the right tools, young Africans can become the architects of a new Africa—innovative, resilient and globally competitive.

The Global Governance Initiative (GGI) is part of China's broader vision for a more multipolar and equitable international order. The GGI promotes principles of sovereignty, equality, non-interference, mutual benefit, and multilateralism. Speakers noted that, the Global Governance Initiative calls for reforming existing international institutions to better reflect the voices and interests of developing countries, especially those in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. It aims to make global governance more representative, fair, and just.

The partnership between Africa and China is not without challenges. However, as highlighted during the seminar, the foundation is strong and the vision is clear. By embracing cooperation through the four global initiatives — development, security, civilization, and governance — Africa and China are forging a path that is inclusive, respectful, and forward-looking.

The 21st century may well be Africa's century—and with China as a committed ally, the seeds of hope are already taking root. ■

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