

IPSS-Embassy of China High Level Forum

"Prospects of China-Africa Cooperation: Youth Leaders Forum"

27 October 2022 |Hybrid Forum| Addis Ababa, Skylight Hotel/Zoom ([link](#))

Concept Note

I. Introduction

The Institute for Peace and Security Studies of Addis Ababa University in collaboration with Embassy of the People's Republic of China to FDRE will organize high level forum on the theme "Prospects of China-Africa Cooperation: Youth Leaders Forum" which will be held on 27 October at Skylight Hotel in a hybrid format. This concept note is developed to guide this forum.

II. Background

China and Ethiopia, the two countries among the oldest civilizations of the world, started their diplomatic relations in the 1970s. This relation was modest in its early years, but it began to grow starting in the mid-1990s. Not only it grew, but for some it was regarded as an epitome of the 'south-south cooperation', as it was based on equality, mutual respect and win-win approach.

These countries have developed multi-dimensional relations, with people-to-people, business-to-business and government-to-government as the cornerstones of the relationship. The increased relations can be manifested by the vast yearly volume of bilateral trade. For instance China has become the biggest foreign investor and the largest trading partner of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is also one of the main markets in Africa for Chinese products, equipment, technology and investment. China has also been supporting the construction of the various national projects financially including Ethiopia's first Express Toll Way and the first operative Wind Power Plant, the Addis Ababa Light Track Railway and other modern railway developments as well as the Tirunesh-Beijing Hospital and the Confucius Institute.

Similarly, there have increasingly been closer political, security and economic ties between China and African nations. Trade between China and Africa increased by 700% during the 1990s, and China is currently Africa's largest trading partner. In 2000, the [Forum on China-Africa Cooperation](#) (FOCAC) was established as a forum between African countries and China. In the past year China has supported various major infrastructure projects including the Foundiougne Bridge in Senegal, the Nairobi Expressway, the Kribi-Lolabe Highway in Cameroon, and the 10th of Ramadan LRT in Egypt. In terms of regional peace and security, China has been advocating for independence of regional countries in addressing the challenges of security, development and governance and recognize lasting peace, stability and prosperity. China has also appointed its Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Affairs, and supported countries in the region in holding the Horn of Africa Peace Conference. China has also been a great ally of the region in fighting against COVID and food crisis. Cooperation for resilient and sustainable development has also expanded solar, wind and other clean energy sources.

III. General and Specific Objectives

Generally, the main objective of this collaboration is to deepen the understanding on the importance of the relationship between China and Ethiopia and Africa. Also, further strengthen this relation in the future realising common interests, ambitions and national interests of the respective countries.

In light of this, the following are specific objectives:

- Further strengthen the people to people relations of china with the region and between the China and Ethiopia, especially among the younger generations.
- Further deepen cooperation of Embassy of China with an influential think tank in Ethiopia and jointly promote their mutual partnership.

IV. Expected Outcomes

After the completion of its planned activities, the project expects to have the following outcomes:

- High level forum on the theme "Prospects of China-Africa Cooperation: Youth Leaders Forum" among various stakeholders
- An outcomes document from the forum that will be published on the IPSS website;
- Video recordings to be shared on IPSS social media;
- Coverage of the forum proceedings on IPSS social media platforms;
- The relation between the Chinese Embassy and IPSS will be strengthened for future engagements.

V. Date and Format

The high level forum will comprise of high level experts, political and technical consultations resulting in practical recommendations and networking opportunities for stakeholders. The consultation will take place in a hybrid format where not more than 50 participants will be physically present while the rest of the audience joins online.

VI. Participants

The high level forum will be attended by the government, party, think tank delegates and AU representatives.

VII. Date and Venue

The forum will be held **on 27 October 2022 in Addis Ababa at Skylight Hotel** in a hybrid format via Zoom.