REGIONAL FORUM FOR CHINA – AFRICA COOPERATION (FOCAC) AWARENESS WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

Theme: China and Africa Building a Sustainable Future

March 16 - 17, 2015,
Sarova PanAfric Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>AfDB</td>
<td>African Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUC</td>
<td>African Union Commission</td>
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<td>CS</td>
<td>Civil society</td>
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<td>CSR</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
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<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
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<td>FOCAC</td>
<td>Forum on China-Africa Cooperation</td>
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<td>MEP</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment and Protection</td>
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<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-governmental organizations</td>
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<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

As one of Africa’s main trading partners, China has an important role to play in ensuring that its investments are sustainable and promote equity. In particular, it is crucial that the trade and natural resources which represent a major portion of China-Africa exchanges benefit national economies and local populations.

Established in 2000, the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) has made strides in the development of political and economic relations between China and African countries. A key example is the 5th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC in 2012 where for the first time; environment degradation and energy security was recognized as major global threats. In addition, it included commitments on social responsibility by Chinese companies operating in Africa, renewable energy and sustainable forest management.

The 6th FOCAC conference will be held in South Africa in 2015. It will demonstrate how cooperation is evolving to encompass new areas of mutual concern, deepening the structural engagement between China and Africa.

1.2 The Workshop

WWF, the Global Conservation organization, hosted a regional FOCAC awareness workshop in Nairobi, Kenya on March 16th – 17th, 2015. The workshop was used to create a platform of dialogue, exchange and sharing of good practices and lessons learned amongst government officials involved in the FOCAC, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders in the China-Africa cooperation.

1.3 Theme, Objectives and Key Note Address

The Workshop’s theme was “China-Africa-Building a Sustainable Future.” The workshop’s objectives included:

- To create an opportunity for dialogue, exchange, and sharing of good practices, lessons learned, amongst government officials involved in the FOCAC, and between them and CSOs and in support of a strategic approach to FOCAC;
- To deepen Government Officials, Civil Society Organisations and opinion writers’ knowledge and understanding of FOCAC, the process, the key players, platforms of dialogue, the potential for supporting environmental sustainability within the FOCAC process, and how Africa can engage with China constructively; and
- To share WWFs recommendations for FOCAC 2015 with key stakeholders.

The keynote address was “The role of Chinese investment in enhancing sustainable development in Africa-providing both a historical perspective and mapping the way forward.”

1.4 Key Speakers

The key speakers were Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources; Ambassador Purity Muhindi representing Amb. Amina, Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Acting Political and
Diplomatic Secretary and Director of Africa and Africa Union; Mr Xu Qinghua, Secretary General of Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, China; Mr Liu Bing, Deputy Representative of Chinese Mission to the UNEP; and WWF Regional Director for Africa, Mr Fredrick Kumah.

1.5 Participants

The two-day workshop hosted about 80 participants, among them key government officials involved in the FOCAC process, CSO partners and WWF representatives from the countries engaged with China. The countries represented were Gabon, Cameroon, DRC, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar, Uganda and Zambia), China and partner organizations including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Chinese Ministry of Environment and Protection (MEP), private sector and scholars.

1.6 Workshop Format

After the welcome address and keynote speeches by key speakers drawn from Kenya and China, there were 7 sessions preceded by 5 minute remarks by selected speakers in each session followed by discussion session engaging all participants. The sessions were:

- Session 2: Agenda and objectives
- Session 3: Overview of development of FOCAC, key players and achievements to date
- Session 4: How to advance environment and social sustainability in the implementation of FOCAC plan of action
- Session 5: Sharing good practices and lessons learned from environmental sustainability and developmental commitments in the FOCAC action plans to date
- Session 6: The way forward; preparing for FOCAC 2015
- Session 7: Summation and outcomes
- Session 8: Closing remarks
2. SESSION ONE: OPENING REMARKS: THE ROLE OF CHINESE INVESTMENT TO ALLOW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

2.1 Participants’ Expectations

The participants stated that at the end of the two day workshop, they hoped to:

- Come up with strategies to make FOCAC elevate environmental responsibility in its agenda
- Create linkages between local communities that get impacted by mining practices
- Develop strategies of how NGOs can be more helpful in the process
- Enhance cooperation between China and Africa
- Learn from success and failures of African countries
- Mobilize stakeholders in preparation for FOCAC 2015
- Get innovative ideas to strengthen the cooperation with native communities
- Share concerns, experience and what has been achieved from DR Congo
- Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders
- Understand the role of civil society and how companies working in areas with natural resources can improve their practices
- Learn more about FOCAC
- Learn about the extractive sector
- Develop concrete actions plans
- Hear from government, CSOs and business about their expectations of FOCAC
- Learn about the relationship between civil society institutions and Chinese investors in the extractive industry
- Learn how policy engagement can help shape the outcome of FOCAC
- Learn from NGOs and others so as to better strategise for the upcoming FOCAC
- See how FOCAC can be used to promote CSR in extractive companies and ensure development projects contribute to livelihoods of local communities
- Develop bankable and concrete recommendations to be taken up by governments as commitments
- Generate ideas on how to work with Chinese investors in Forestry and other related sectors to ensure Chinese invest sustainably
- Learn how Tanzania CSOs can engage in the FOCAC process and how to cooperate with Chinese NGOs
- Learn how civil society and governments can play a role in driving the FOCAC process towards greater environment sustainability
- Advance cooperation with Chinese investors in Tanzania

1.2 Opening Remarks

Mr. Fredrick Kumah, WWF Regional Director for Africa

Welcoming the participants to the workshop, Kumah said that as Africa and China get ready for the 6th FOCAC Ministerial Conference in South Africa, he hoped that the workshop would promote FOCAC as the platform to build the future that Africa and China wants. He noted that WWF was committed to use its network to support cooperation between Africa and China. To enact this, he noted that WWF China’s Green Shift Initiative promises to engage relevant
partners in Africa and China to tackle the fundamental issues of mainstreaming environmental and social sustainability in trade and investment between Africa and other regions.

Kumah reiterated WWF’s resolve to strengthen the vibrant partnership it has with stakeholders. He emphasised that WWF was fully committed to sustainable economic development and urged the participants to safeguard nature as a basis for development and a heritage for the generations to come.

Amb. Purity Muhindi, Ag. Political and Diplomatic Secretary and Director of Africa and Africa Union

Ms. Muhindi thanked WWF for organising the event on environment sustainability. She urged participants to learn and share information on FOCAC. She noted that there were clear indications of positive advancement for Africa as a result of the ties with China covering all areas of mutual interest. Amb. Muhindi thanked the China and African governments for their commitment. She noted that Kenya was committed to FOCAC and that during the 6th Ministerial Conference, Kenya’s report would be positive as Kenya had made many achievements so far. She noted that the workshop was timely to inform the upcoming the 6th Ministerial process. She concluded by saying that environmental sustainability is viable only when it is inclusive.

Mr Liu Bing, Deputy Representative of Chinese Mission to the UNEP

Mr Liu Bing noted that China recognises the importance of sustainable development and has had a permanent mission to UNEP since 1964. He observed that China had committed to contribute US$6 million in Rio+20 for three years in the field of South-South cooperation and that the country’s construction projects provide job opportunities to Africans.

Mr. Xu Qinghua, Deputy Secretary General of China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

Mr Qinghua observed that China and Africa have similarities in terms of ecological problems and imbalances in development growth. He emphasized that the cooperation between China and Africa should be respectful, ensure equal treatment, be win-win and encourage green development. Qinghua indicated that China and African countries have launched projects on environmental resources and have focused on capacity building to ensure ecological safety in Africa such as prevention of water pollution, ecological conservation and climate change.

He noted that there have been several visits to China by Africans to learn about environment sustainability and this has deepened the China-Africa relationship. In 2012, Qinghua said that China donated US$6 million to UNEP trust fund to support projects to increase capacity on environmental protection in developing countries. The fund has since promoted ecological conservation among China and African countries, and promoted dialogue.

In conclusion, Qinghua suggested that China-Africa cooperation should be high level and incorporate strategic dialogue on green development, poverty reduction and renewable energy.
Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources-Kenya

Prof. Judi Wakhungu observed that the workshop provided an opportunity for jointly reviewing the challenges facing economic globalisation and promotion of common development for Africa and China in regard to environmental matters. The China-Africa cooperation which dates back to October 2000 in Beijing, has developed into an important platform on collective dialogue and effective mechanism for enhancing cooperation between African countries and China. This, she noted, was an excellent example of South-South cooperation.

Prof. Wakhungu noted that during the China-Africa Cooperation on Environmental Protection meeting in February 21, 2005, it emerged that there was need to undertake follow up actions to advance environmental cooperation between China and African countries. She noted that the workshop was an opportunity to present initiatives on technical cooperation on environmental protection, personnel training and expansion in scope of exchange programmes between China and Africa. She noted that FOCAC and Action 2012 have strengthened the need for environmental considerations including a goal to boost Africa’s sustainable development and a shift from assistance in environmental protection to economic cooperation on sustainable management. She added that the forum has identified new areas on corporate social responsibility, clean energy, renewable energy resources and the fight against transnational organised crime which could be linked to illegal wildlife.

Prof. Wakhungu noted that increased credit lines for environmentally sensitive sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing and agriculture stand to achieve tangible benefits if strong environmental conditions are applied. She reiterated that Kenyans have a right to access a clean and healthy environment within the national aspiration of Vision 2030’s social pillar as enshrined by the bill of rights article 42 of Kenya’s constitution. She noted that the government has thus developed the national climate change response strategy and action plan which address adaptation and mitigation challenges among other programmes and policies.

Prof. Wakhungu observed that Kenya continues to face illegal trade challenges. She acknowledged the support that the China government had provided towards the protection of wildlife. She indicated that the government had concluded discussions on the provision of wildlife protection equipment by the China government; and that the Kenyan government looked forward to further cooperation to address the challenges through FOCAC.
3. SESSION TWO: AGENDA AND OBJECTIVES

The session moderator, James Shikwati, took the participants through the workshop’s agenda and objectives which were to:

- Create an opportunity for dialogue, exchange, and sharing of good practices, lessons learned, amongst government officials involved in the FOCAC, and between them and CSOs and in support a strategic approach to FOCAC;
- Deepen Government Officials, Civil Society Organizations and opinion writers’ knowledge and understanding of FOCAC, the process, the key players, platforms of dialogue, and the potential for supporting environmental sustainability within the FOCAC process, and how Africa can engage with China constructively; and
- Share WWFs recommendations for FOCAC 2015 with key stakeholders.
4.1 About FOCAC

FOCAC was established in 2000 during the 1st Ministerial Conference in Beijing. It was out to build strategic partnership, with areas of collaboration being economic, trade, financial, agricultural, medical care and public health among others. Since 2000, China is the largest Africa’s trading partner, 4th largest foreign investor in Africa and a key development partner. It currently contributes 20 per cent of Africa’s economic growth, and by 2011, Chinese investment in Africa had reached US$ 126.9 billion.

During the 3rd Ministerial Conference, several pledges were made, for example US$5 billion of concessionary loans was rolled. China-Africa development fund was created to further Chinese investment of US$ 1 billion, which is expected to rise.

In the 4th Ministerial Conference, several other pledges were expressed. However, balance of trade still favours China. A package of how Africa’s goods can assess China was developed. Other projects were initiated such as 100 joint demonstration projects on scientific and technological research, offering of doctoral fellowships, China training doctors, and increased government scholarships to African students among others.

The 5th Ministerial Conference led to the Beijing action plan 2013-2015 being developed. It identifies five key pillars of cooperation namely: political affairs and regional peace and security; cooperation in international affairs; economic cooperation; cooperation in the field of development; and cultural and people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. The pillar of cooperation in the field of development has an element of climate change and environmental sustainability.

Africa has achieved a lot through FOCAC. This process has been government to government, however stakeholders are large. Kenya views China as a crucial strategic partner despite the major challenges on key areas such as human development including environmental sustainability due to lack of capacity, technology, capital and high poverty levels.

4.2 Key Points from Panelists

Africa’s relationship with China dates back to the pre-colonial period and was scaled up with the fall of Russia and rise of unipolar world. In 1996, after post-cold war, Jiang Zeming visited Africa. Kenya was one of the countries he visited. During his visit, it was agreed that China and Africa did not have a formal mechanism to streamline cooperation. In 1998, African diplomats based in Beijing held a workshop and agreed on the need for a mechanism to bring Africa and China together.

FOCAC structure and coordination: FOCAC is more Chinese than African. It is more established and developed in China with 27 agencies unlike in Kenya where it falls within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Africa has a challenge of having one country on one side (China) and 55 states on the other (Africa). The 55 countries are in competition. More so, within Africa, there is
always the question of which Ministry within the African governments should be the focal ministry. Besides, the FOCAC relationship has been government to government. In Africa, this has left out key players such as financial institutions. Africa needs to create a well-structured FOCAC coordinating mechanism similar to one in China.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)/Non-governmental organizations (NGOs): The role of CSOs/NGOs is not clearly spelt out. In Africa, they are left out in the FOCAC process, unlike in China where they exist in the general framework of the government. In most African countries, CSOs/NGOs are perceived to be out to criticize their governments instead of providing an oversight role. Africa needs to improve on how the CSOs are involved in the FOCAC process. There is need to appreciate the way African NGOs operate. In China, in the 1980s, NGOs were considered anti-government organizations. However, with time, this has changed and the Chinese government has opened up especially to environmental NGOs. China has realized that NGOs have a lot of creative solutions.

Partnerships: Partnership building between China and African countries should be encouraged. There is need to build some mechanism for Africa to learn from China.

FOCAC process: At the moment, how FOCAC works is based on the proposals from African ministries who present them to Chinese ambassadors, who then take these ideas to Chinese ministries. China evaluates the ability to fulfill the requests and looks into its strategic intent into Africa. They compare these two sets of goals and provide a list of offering. Africa should be strategic and negotiate own interests strongly within the negotiations.

Ecological civilization: FOCAC should be a channel through which China can learn and export its thinking around environment conservation to other developing countries. China should strengthen its clean and environmental technologies that can be used to facilitate sustainable development in China and Africa.

4.3 Questions by the Moderator to the Panelists

Q. How can Africa develop without environment destruction?

R. The concept of development and sustainable development needs to be understood. Mao Zedong said that you can actually conquer nature, which became a mantra in China. The Three Gorges Dam is an illustrative example, involving huge amounts of resources and intervention into nature, despite having many adverse effects.

Africans should not just talk development, but sustainable development. For example, where projects are passing through national parks, there should be mechanisms on how to handle the animals.

Africa should ensure that any time it undertakes a project, environmentalists’ advice is sought.

China does not have clear skies in major cities. China should thus not export this model of development to the developing world. Africa should be clear that even as it partners with China, environment sustainability should be observed.
Q. What type of civil society would be recommended in Africa?

R. CSOs in Africa should find a way of building into the social aspect of what is happening in the country and use platforms including workshops and forums to engage with government and other stakeholders. CSOs should think about the solutions to the challenges Africa is facing when they criticize.

Q: Environmental problems have no boundary. How does this factor into the competition between African countries?

R. Competition is normal. However, if the projects are implemented with the framework of Regional Economic Communities (example East African Community), then such challenges will be avoided because Kenya, for example, cannot talk about its economy in isolation of Uganda and Tanzania economies. Through the Seaports (example Mombasa port), there are many inter-linkages. If one economy is interfered with, the rest are affected.

Africa and China need to push for minimum standards for environment sustainability. Country specific environmental policies should be aligned with the regional and global standards. There is need for a pan African agenda. Africa needs to go beyond lip service. Africa-China cooperation should go beyond politics to cover environment aspects.

Q. What is the role of business in FOCAC?

There is no balance of trade between Africa and China. Africa has bureaucrats engaging China, while China has business people in Africa. Therefore, Africa needs to engage the Chinese more. Trade imbalance is not good for either of the two parties. China should open its markets to Africa. For example, Africa has a lot of fish and meat; however, there are many restrictions for African goods into the China market.

From the FOCAC mechanism, recommendations have been made in the past and implemented. Therefore, Africa should not shy away from making suggestions and negotiating for more space and trade with China. There are sub-structures within FOCAC to engage business. African companies should engage more. Also, there is need to look at the legal framework within which such companies operate within their countries.

Some of the African projects need to be reexamined. For example, coal has been discovered in Kenya, but there are challenges of local content. China should involve all the stakeholders and not just the government.

4.4 Emerging Issues and Discussions

Compensation: Africans should demand that communities are compensated for the real market value of land, including the value of the minerals/natural resources.

Environment Impact Assessment: These are usually conducted by consultants who at times are not in a position to pose the real situation on the ground since they want future projects. The local communities should be involved.
African Identity: Africans have their own idea of environment impact assessment. This should be looked at as a customary way of looking at sustainable development. African identity should not be ignored.

Africa needs a fund from which communities can draw from when they need independent experts who can protect them.

China-Africa relationship: It is perceived as the new scramble for Africa’s resources. The negative perception is due to lack of information. The political leadership and investors do not engage locals. There is need for information sharing between the local government and stakeholders.

Monitoring and evaluation: African countries should develop mechanisms to follow up implementation of FOCAC. Chinese scholars document the progress of FOCAC, however from the African side, it is not clear what has been done including what the money is for, who is in control and what has been done. There is need for a FOCAC secretariat to help coordinate and document this information.

Civil Society (CS): Different people define CS differently. There is need to understand how to define it. CSOs are not anti-government, but they push for accountability. CSOs are out to complement government efforts. They have a huge say since they are closest to the ground. Thus, they should provide an oversight and advocacy role.

A more united message from the CSOs makes it more powerful. Some African countries are ruled by leaders who regard CSOs and business as enemies of the state. However, with clear principles of governance, CSOs should articulate their concerns.

Africa FOCAC secretariat: Africa should not only have FOCAC points, but also a secretariat to collaboratively develop projects among different ministries. There should be forums where each stakeholder has a say. The process should be inclusive to bring on board different parties, including different ministries and different sectors. FOCAC should bring strength in diversity.

One role the Africa FOCAC secretariat can play is to undertake a study on how FOCAC is done, the challenges faced and how a coordinating structure can be established by an African country.

Stakeholders: For any project to succeed, the locals must be involved. The media is also a critical stakeholder that should not be ignored, since it can be used to pass across information.

Many Chinese small scale businesses, since they are not state owned, come to Africa with the culture of non-state owned corporations. However, not all of them bring environment unsustainability. They do what they do at home, which can be below standard. The SMEs might be tiny, but the impact on China is huge. Some SMEs are funded by Chinese government policy banks, such as Export-Import credit. So banks are crucial to investment and should have an environmental component.
Africa’s identity: Africa should have its own strong set of identities and principles. It should not be pushed around by Chinese and Americans and criticized of either being undemocratic or selling out.

Africa needs a grievance mechanism for communities.

There is need to understand the role of community engagement.

China’s development path is positive in most parts, and Africa has benefitted. There is need to manage the positive and negative effects of FOCAC.

There is need to go beyond individual country interests and think as a region.

There is need to mainstream environment in all development projects.

African countries should set up guiding frameworks to regulate Chinese investors who should uphold strong CSR. There should be a thorough process of screening the business community.

Environment sustainability is not about suspicion, but rather it is science based. There is need to dig deeper.

The key speakers were Prof. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Water and Natural Resources; Ambassador Purity Muhindi representing Amb. Amina, Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Acting Political and
5. SESSION FOUR: ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY IN FOCAC IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Key Points from Panelists

Implementation of legislations: A lot of burden has been placed on China, yet it should be on Africa. China remains the biggest partner spending US$ 200 billion trading in Africa. China’s huge investment is outweighed by negative perceptions acknowledged by both parties. A number of African countries have environment legislations, yet they are not being implemented. Are there steps that the government and civil society can put in place to ensure that they are implemented?

Africa has no indicators showing what has been achieved. There is need for performance indicators that can be measured.

Regional versus national voice: There is need to establish order within FOCAC. Africa needs to have one voice instead of country-driven proposals to China.

There is need for leadership, someone to speak on behalf of Africa. Leadership should be on rotational basis as this helps in capacity building.

If some civil societies have no capacity, then a component on human resource development should be developed within it.

Africa should set its own path and have a vision, then invite China as a partner.

Africa should integrate environment and social sustainability in all development aspects in decision making. Integration of environment and social aspects in the development process should not be an add on, but part of it. Africa needs to internalise the cost of these impacts, and should act as an incentive for doing business. Focus should not be on the end product, but on the process of getting the end product. By observing this, communities will benefit.

There is need for active participation of both Africa and China in the implementation of FOCAC. There is need to promote the guidelines for enforcement and awareness creation. These guidelines can also be used by financial institutions. How can Africa influence what it wants?

5.2 Questions by the Moderator to the Panelists

Q. How is African Development Bank (AfDB) ensuring there is capacity to implement FOCAC?

R. AfDB has forward looking and internationally accepted safeguard systems. Big enterprises are good in CSR, however who defines CSR? Even as we develop, the population should be taken care of.

AfDB has standards of what needs to be done. Companies are given a clearance certificate to start work.
Q. What are the environmental challenges facing the implementation of FOCAC action plans?

R. WWF has been working with China on coming up with development guidelines. WWF has been supporting work on investment guidelines and how to align them with Kenya’s priorities, with a view of a more comprehensive CSR. WWF believes that CSR is not about building a school, but about the entire approach to investment. It is active in creating awareness of the guidelines and identifying pilot companies to help implement the guidelines.

Q. Who are the key actors in FOCAC who address areas of environment sustainability?

R. CSOs/NGOs are a viable partnership and they should come up with a credible way to be incorporated in FOCAC with a clear purpose and plan. FOCAC needs a credible mechanism to have CSOs/NGOs who can participate.

5.3 Emerging Issues and Discussions

Due diligence: There are challenges when finance is made available to businesses before due diligence is done, since communities are left powerless. A lot of Western companies are financed by Chinese companies, yet they do not observe environmental sustainability. Before banks finance a company, they should ensure legislative compliance is in place and that environment impact assessments have been done. However, since it is not possible to deal with all social and environment issues, there can be agreements that some of them are achieved.

Corruption is a global issue, but the levels of corruption differ among countries. African countries should ensure that they prevent corruption and also ensure businesses have legal investments.

Africa needs to be concise in the message it is delivering. In Africa, there are few countries with capacity to negotiate with FOCAC. NGOs and CSOs should be concise about what they ask. Probably a push to have FOCAC provide, 20 per cent of project budgetary support to cater for environment sustainability.

There is need to understand the Africa and China culture and language so as to relate better.

Government does not trust CSOs and NGOs because they drive the agenda of their financiers. Civil society needs to build trust, since they have a culture of antagonism.

The Chinese fail to follow a country’s rules and regulations because African countries allow them to. Individual countries should come together, work as a block and articulate their position to FOCAC. Africa should raise its bar.
6. SESSION FIVE: LESSONS AND GOOD PRACTICES ON ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENT IN FOCAC

6.1 Key Points from Panelists

Funding should be oriented towards communities and villages. They can be trained on conserving nature, for example as forest guards.

Africa needs to develop its infrastructure since transport goes hand in hand with development.

Engaging civil society is mandated in the Rio 1992, as one of the nine major groups. There is a procedure and steps to involve CSOs in the environmental governance processes. There is need to change the perception of seeing NGOs as anti-government.

Africa must avoid past mistakes. Mistakes were made when the Arabs, the Asians, the World Bank, and the Western world among others came to Africa. Thus, Africa should know what it wants from the investors.

Africa must ensure that the 3 pillars of sustainable development are integrated into the Chinese investment. There are stories of Chinese investors coming to Africa with their labour, yet Africa has high levels of unemployment.

Most development projects like Lamu Port and Lamu-Southern Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) will lead to displacement of people. Most of the EIAs are done by interested parties and this compromises objectivity.

At times, stakeholders learn about some development projects during implementation. They should be involved from the start by creating awareness to local people, and among Africans and Chinese. Information is shared both ways.

Partnerships between NGOs in Africa and China should be enhanced. The positive outcomes from these partnerships should be documented.

Africa and China can borrow practices from past experience.

There is need to look beyond Africa-China and place this relationship under a global discussion.

One cannot report on what they cannot measure. Therefore, there should be performance indicators in FOCAC.

Technology dumping vs technology transfer: African states have so far attracted high-polluting Chinese companies that were driven out of China because of elevated environment laws.

The ability to communicate and understand each other’s culture is critical. A Confucius institute will go a long way to help achieve.

China provides an opportunity, but this does not guarantee success of FOCAC.
6.2 Questions by the Moderator to the Panelists

Q. How can we better manage and utilize resources?

R. On one hand there is need to enhance information sharing since mistakes have been done, but on the other, there has been good progress and a good relationship with China. A survey conducted in Tanzania showed that a majority of Tanzanians recognized the Africa-China relationship was better that the colonialist one. Africa has weak coordinating institutions, which should be empowered.

Q. What implementation aspects should Africa consider?

R. Africa should put its house in order. Africa’s downfall is the strong belief in individual interest. Besides putting up national level mechanisms, it should set up structures at regional levels so as to enable it negotiate at various forums.

Africa-China should push for a win win scenario.

Africa-China should enhance dialogue/learning. They should engage government and local communities.

Technology transfer: There is an African geothermal centre of excellence and financing from China which will help mitigate risk in developing new technologies which would be beneficial.

Compensation is about loss and damage, which is a major negotiation within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Environment sustainability standards must be in the action plan. All investors must observe social, economic and environment aspects.

6.3 Emerging Issues and Discussions

In DR Congo, there is involvement of several ministries in FOCAC, including Mining.

CSOs, besides playing a role in monitoring and advocacy, should propose solutions to that which they criticize.

There is need to classify Chinese companies with regard to their size and nature because they play different roles in environment sustainability. Africa may need to begin working with major companies that have better capacity and others can follow.

African countries champion national interests. Africa has 55 countries plus AU. How can Africa make a platform where it can share common interest? How can African countries create a convergence point to act collectively in FOCAC?

On compensation, the tendency is to look at actual damages without considering the loss, which is the cost of restoring the situation from the damage.
There is need to establish a grievance mechanism around the action plan.

Legislation vs international best practices: Africa should adopt international best practices in a way suitable to local conditions.

Stakeholders should be involved throughout the FOCAC process.

When it comes to improving technology, Africa should look at the economic, political, social and other aspects, and not just a piecemeal.
7. SESSION SIX: THE WAY FORWARD AND PREPARING FOR FOCAC 2015

7.1 Key Points from Panelists

Corruption works both ways in terms what China gives and what Africa receives.

There is need for negotiation between the elites and public on how to distribute resources.

Monitoring and evaluation of funds received vs what these funds are supposed to do should be done.

There is need to come up with an action plan that is measureable. The current one is broad; hence a more specific one will be viable.

Each stakeholder has a role to play and therefore there is need to give them a better orientation of what is supposed to be done.

African governments should work together. They should have a mechanism where there is an entity for coordination, and the technical experts can discuss the issues.

NGOs/CSOs are not trusted since they represent the interests of foreign countries that finance them and they bring in foreign ideas. The role of civil society needs to involve the constituents. It should be credible and incorporated in FOCAC.

Financial partners should have mainstream environment projects and their role clearly stated.

Since AU has an observer status in FOCAC, it can be organised better.

The Beijing plan needs to be reviewed and Africa should come up with indicators to help states know their FOCAC progress. Heads of states should work collectively and modalities on how countries will benefit from FOCAC developed.

African countries have negotiation powers; however they are not utilising them. They should participate as fully fledged members of FOCAC and should thus define and defend their ideas.

China is a substitution of the old western partners who attached conditionality such as on rule of law and democracy on aid. FOCAC focuses on the principle of solidarity, respect for sovereignty of states has no conditions, and it is not about helping African states but forming partnerships. Therefore, all countries should participate and maintain their sovereignty. AU should be a member.

South Africa will be the co-chair of the FOCAC Ministerial in 2015. Focus will be on infrastructure development, renewable energy and AU Agenda 2063. For more effective FOCAC in Africa its suggested that:

- People outside government should influence the government by using strategic intelligence to negotiate for what they want. This can be done by having concise documents with what can be discussed and fed into meetings with officials. These documents should be as specific as possible.
- Capacity of government in the peace process and intelligence: When governments strike
bilateral trade deals, there are conditions; however emphasis should be on supporting environment. Focus should also be on partnerships without conditions. Africa should ensure these projects translate to good clean jobs and technology transfer among others. It is up to Africa to state the need for partners to invest in a way that drives Africa’s development.

- A regional approach will bring better dividends. There is need for all African countries to join hands and work together.

### 7.2 Emerging Issues and Discussions

African states have chosen to go to China directly because they do not want to go through a rigorous vetting process. China should consider funding projects through World Bank and AfDB so that those who want to use these funds can go through a rigorous vetting and due diligence process.

Regional vs national approach: The specificity of FOCAC is important. Besides being a China-Africa relationship, we cannot ignore the relationship between China and the specific African countries. The regional economic blocks and the continent are also part and parcel of the FOCAC process. Africa should be better prepared when dealing with the FOCAC process at the national and regional levels.

Decentralization vs centralization: The law that governs nature can be contradictory, therefore Africa needs to choose the direction it will take and come up with solutions to address the root causes of their problems.

**Civil society:** Caution should be taken when talking about the civil society, since Africa has many of them. While some are international, others are national. The intervention of civil society in FOCAC should be carefully studied as the capacity and understanding depends on which category one is dealing with.

There is need to have a civil society development mission that insists on conditions that relate to micro level projects that communities can monitor. It should push for investment in environment projects, cultural projects and community to community engagements between Africa and China. This should not be at government level, but at community levels.

Some of the civil society and businesses do not know about FOCAC. More marketing of FOCAC is needed, especially at grassroot levels and nationally, and it should have a clear action plan that is easy to follow.

There are different levels of civil societies, yet their target audiences are citizens. Capacity building of civil society can be done through interactive meetings with stakeholders and they should make recommendations with clear monitoring and evaluation framework. If Africa has weak governments, the SC should be strong enough to keep the government in check.

There is need to change the mindset of government, elites and CSOs. They should look at the symbiotic relationship on development. For example, we cannot separate the government and the beneficiaries of policies. There is need to consider public private partnerships, respect for each other and taking responsibility.
At national level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kenya for example should also include investors from China and Kenya in the process. This should be seen as a partnership.

African countries should enforce their own rules and regulations.

Africa needs to be careful when looking for solutions for the challenges affecting them, and how to address them.

Africa should collate global, regional and local policies.

Africa should have the ability to track and monitor implementation of the action plan even at the country level.

Africa needs to build a mechanism for accountability and ownership.

Chinese listen, reflect then make decisions. They have no conditions or interference; it is up to Africans to state what they want. Africa needs to be practical and learn from the past. China does not give money but has projects, hence minimizing corruption. African countries should thus tell China the issues they would like the Chinese to look out for.

Governance: Africa needs to strengthen governance on the FOCAC roadmap. African countries need to address their governance issues; an external body cannot do that for them.

FOCAC should have a priority framework. It should ensure that each country implements its action plan. African countries should be preoccupied on resolving their own interest on what they will do in each programme.
8. SESSION SEVEN: SUMMATION OF OUTCOMES

Participants agreed on the following as the way forward:

- African countries can organize around environmental and social sustainability issues because they transcend national boundaries.
  - African countries can form an intra-African technical committee for the environment that will report to relevant ministerial agencies in each country
  - African countries should go to FOCAC with concrete proposals and targeted policy positions
  - African states should enhance the role of regional economic blocs to coordinate regional sustainability issues
  - African governments should support and provide resources for stakeholders’ (CSO, think tanks) participation in development process, environmental and social sustainability issues

- China should collaborate with African countries to achieve green development (don’t grow today and clean up tomorrow)
  - China-Africa cooperation on environment and development should be substantially elevated in the high-level dialogues
  - Establish clear monitoring system of FOCAC action plan at continental and national level
  - Streamline and enhance environmental and social safeguards standards
  - African states should make clear proposals for capacity building, human and technological, to scale up deployment of clean technology and sustainable development

- African countries and China should build inclusive platforms to incorporate dialogue and participation by a broader set of stakeholders including CSOs, businesses, media and other development partners
  - African governments should work with stakeholders to develop mechanisms to enhance information sharing and provide accreditation for non-governmental actors
  - Stakeholders should contribute to shaping the declaration and action plans, providing concrete suggestions for project proposals related to sustainability, through national-level consultations platforms
  - Stakeholders should participate in the review of implementation of FOCAC action plans and their social environmental impact
9. SESSION EIGHT: CLOSING REMARKS

Africa-China relationship has come a long way. Even as issues on environment are being addressed, there are challenges. Therefore, Africa and China needs to move forward.

Even though Africa has been considered a dark continent, it is now in leadership. It has a green economy, and it needs to fast track development and incorporate information technology.

Africa needs to develop development proposals for immediate, medium and long term that should incorporate the element of social and environment sustainability; ensure monitoring and evaluation is incorporated in dialogue; emphasize on collaboration among development partners; and move step by step.

In conclusion, Africa needs to come up with a common approach and one voice as it goes to South Africa this year.
### Appendix 1:

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