



[African urbanisation: what can \(and can't\) be learned from China about growing cities](#)

The economic growth paths of Asian and African countries have often been compared. China, with gross domestic product per capita of US\$251 in 1987, was poorer than most African countries at the time. Uganda's GDP per capita was US\$392, Zambia's US\$319 and Ghana's US\$354. Yet today China has GDP per capita of US\$6,091 and it is the world's second largest economy. In Uganda, it is still only US\$964. Asia and Africa have urbanised at similar speeds. Africa is undergoing the fastest urban transition the world has experienced to date with projections that nearly 1 billion more people will live in Africa's cities by 2050. Earlier, China was in the top spot: between 1978 and 2010, over 700 million people moved to China's cities. The urbanisation rates in south-east Asia have been impressive as well and many of these nations have not even completed their urban transition yet. The Conversation.

[China's losses in Kenya are America's opportunities in Africa](#)

On Sunday, hundreds of Kenyans flooded into the center of Nairobi, demanding President William Ruto step down. Ruto, whose presidency may not survive nationwide demonstrations, is one of America's closest partners in Africa. Whatever happens to the embattled leader, longtime activist and politician, Boniface Mwangi, was certainly correct when he told Sky News last month that "Kenya has changed forever." Demonstrations started June 18 after Ruto proposed nearly \$2.7 billion in tax increases, largely to help pay off the country's indebtedness. Kenya is carrying \$82 billion of debt, about 75 percent of GDP per my estimate, which puts the country in the danger zone. Currently, interest payments alone eat up 37 percent of government revenues. When repayment of principal is taken into account, more than half of revenues go to servicing debt. The Hill.

[Beijing wants Rabat to use its leverage to ensure success to upcoming China-Africa Forum](#)

The Moroccan government has pledged to work with China and African countries to ensure success to the China-Africa Cooperation forum scheduled in Beijing in September. The pledge was made by Morocco's top diplomat Nasser Bourita during talks held Wednesday in Rabat with Chinese Special Envoy for the Middle East Zhai Jun. The Chinese official said his country counts on Morocco's active participation in the Forum and its leadership in Africa for the success of the event destined to showcase the continent's huge assets and capacity to overcome various challenging obstacles. For his part, Bourita underlined Morocco's commitment, under the leadership of King Mohammed VI to peace, stability and development in the continent. China is a major investor in Africa. It is investing heavily in the African services sector, scientific research, technology, transport, infrastructures, industry, mining, energy, defense. The North Africa Post.

[Africa-China 2.0 with Philip Akrofi ATITIANTI\(Ph.D\): China's role in African infrastructure development through FOCAC](#)

In the realm of global geopolitics and economic development, the relationship between China and Africa has emerged as one of the most dynamic and consequential of the 21st century. Central to this relationship is the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), a platform established in 2000 that has become the cornerstone of Sino-African relations. At its core, FOCAC aims to foster cooperation across a wide range of fields, with infrastructure development standing out as a pivotal area where China's involvement has been particularly profound and impactful. FOCAC represents a unique model of South-South cooperation, emphasizing equality, mutual benefit, and non-interference in internal affairs—a departure from traditional Western aid models. Since its inception, FOCAC has held regular ministerial meetings and summits, alternating between China and African countries, to set the agenda for collaboration. The 2024 FOCAC summit will be the ninth edition since its inception, and it aims to reaffirm commitments to deepen Africa-China cooperation in infrastructure development, among other areas. *The Business and Financial Times*.

[2025- 2034 to be decade to combat sand storms from Africa to China: UN](#)

The UN General Assembly on Wednesday declared 2025 to 2034 the United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms extreme weather events that are increasing and threatening health and economies from central Africa to northern China. Uganda's UN Ambassador Godfrey Kwoba, who introduced the resolution on behalf of the Group of 77, a powerful UN group of 134 developing countries and China, told the 193-member assembly the initiative aims to halt and mitigate the negative effects of sand and dust storms through international and regional cooperation. The assembly adopted the resolution by consensus and a bang of the gavel by assembly president Dennis Francis. In a 2022 report, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification said sand and dust storms have increased dramatically in frequency in recent years. It said storms can exacerbate respiratory illnesses, kill crops and livestock, and increase desertification, though documentation of their impact is limited. *Business Standards*.

[Chinese-built road modernization project for DR Congo breaks ground](#)

A ground-breaking ceremony for a rehabilitation and modernization project on the N1 National Road in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was held Wednesday in the village of Nguba, southeastern province of Lualaba, as part of the China-DRC "resource for projects" cooperation package. During the ceremony, Alexis Gisaro Muvuni, minister of State for Infrastructure and Public Works, driving a wheel loader, personally launched the rehabilitation and modernization project of the Mbuji Mayi-Nguba road, part of the N1 National Road, an artery linking Kinshasa, the capital of the DRC, and Lubumbashi, the country's economic hub. "Where the road goes, development follows," said Muvuni, commending the solid techniques and professionalism demonstrated by the Chinese side. Numerous recently launched infrastructure projects under the cooperation package, including the ring roads project in Kinshasa, are set to make great contributions to the local communities. *Xinhua*.

[China calls for immediate end to armed violence in DR Congo](#)

A Chinese envoy on Monday called for efforts to push for the cessation of fighting to end the violence among armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, delivered a statement at the Security Council briefing on the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC, commonly known as MONUSCO, emphasizing the urgency to address the conflict in the country. "Last month, the new government of the DRC was inaugurated smoothly, unveiling a new

chapter in the country's governance," he said. "China welcomes this. We look forward to all parties in the country uniting as one and accelerating nation-building with the government's National Action Plan as the blueprint to achieve peace and stability." IPP Media.

Morocco triples blueberry exports to Southeast Asia in past 5 years, on track for a new record!

In 2023, Morocco emerged as the fifth largest supplier of fresh blueberries to Southeast Asian countries, increasing its export volumes by 3.3 times since 2019, according to EastFruit. The current pace of Moroccan exports indicates further expansion in this market. In 2023, Morocco supplied 1,500 tons of fresh blueberries to Southeast Asia, compared to just over 450 tons in 2019. In the first four months of this year alone, Moroccan exporters shipped nearly 1,300 tons of blueberries to the region. "Hong Kong is the primary market for fresh blueberries in Southeast Asia, consistently ranking among the top ten global importers of this berry. Other countries in the region import significantly less than Hong Kong but are rapidly increasing their purchase volumes. For instance, from 2019 to 2023, Singapore and Malaysia increased their blueberry imports by 50%, while Thailand more than doubled its imports," commented Yevhen Kuzin, Fruit & Vegetable Market Analyst at EastFruit. East Fruit.

Zimbabwe seeks to elevate cooperation with China in arts sector

Zimbabwe is seeking to elevate cooperation with China in the creative arts to boost the sector and promote cultural ties between the two sides, said Napoleon Nyanhi, the director of the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe (NACZ). "A lot of these exchanges have happened in the areas of live performance, including music, dance, and instrumentation. We would like to see more of the collaboration go into other spheres of the arts, which are areas of fashion design, areas of filmmaking, and television productions," said Nyanhi in an interview with Xinhua on the sidelines of the first Harare Forum for Africa and Academic Week, which concluded in the Zimbabwean capital Monday. He noted that the Chinese-funded Dreamstar competition, Zimbabwe's largest talent search competition for young people, has been pivotal in uplifting Zimbabwean artists in various genres. Xinhua.

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