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Beijing, 4 - 6 September 2024



**Participation of the President of the Republic of
Cameroon, H.E. Paul BIYA**

PRESS KIT

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GENERAL PRESENTATION OF CHINA

The People's Republic of China is an East Asian state stretching across the Pacific. It covers an area of 9.6 million km². China borders fourteen (14) countries: North Korea, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma), Laos and Vietnam.

The main cities include Beijing (the capital), Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.

The national currency is the Renminbi Yuan (RMB).

The national anthem is the "March of the Volunteers".

China is a people's democracy, proclaimed on 1 October 1949 by Mao Tse Tung (Mao Zedong), as the culmination of the "Long March" of 1934 to 1935, which saw the victory of the Communists over the Kouo-Min-Tang and the flight of its leader Chiang Kai-Shek to the island of Formosa, now Taiwan.

China is made up of 23 provinces, including Taiwan; 5 autonomous regions (Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Tibet), 4 autonomous municipalities (Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Chongqing) and 2 special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macao).

The Chinese Constitution dates back to 1982. It underwent its fifth revision in 2018, which removed the provision limiting the number of presidential terms. The President of the People's Republic of China is elected by the National People's Congress for a renewable term of five (5) years. H.E. Xi Jinping is the President of the People's Republic of China. H.E. Han Zheng is the Vice-President of the Republic.

The National People's Congress is the supreme organ of State power. It exercises legislative power. It has 2952 members. It decides on important issues concerning the life of the State, and elects and appoints State leaders, including the Prime Minister and members of the Government. The National People's Congress is run by a Standing Committee of 170 deputies, headed by a President. Mr Zhao Leji is the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Mr Li Qiang is Prime Minister. He is assisted by four (4) Vice-Premiers: Messrs Ding Xuexiang, He Lifeng, Zhang Guoqing and Liu Guozhong.



CHINA'S WORLD VISION AND COOPERATION WITH AFRICA

China joined the United Nations on 25 October 1971 through General Assembly Resolution 2758 entitled "Restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations". China is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and has the right of veto. It is affiliated to most of the UN's specialised agencies and is also present in various intercontinental organisations, such as the BRICS, or regional organisations on the Asian continent. China has a permanent representation at the African Union in Addis Ababa, and the Pan-African Organisation is also represented in Beijing.

A champion of multilateralism, China advocates the construction of a new world order based on peace, security and development for all in a community of destiny for humanity.

Its social project is based on the idea of building a great, peaceful nation through development and the creation of a modern, prosperous society based on the social market economy model. Lastly, China is aiming to achieve its "three great reunifications" project with Macao, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

China's action in Africa is part of the general framework of South-South cooperation, in the name of a shared past as victims of colonialism. Official Sino-African cooperation dates back to the 1950s. With the establishment of the Forum on Africa-China Cooperation in 2000, China's interventions on the continent have multiplied and diversified to the satisfaction of the African and Chinese peoples.



FOCAC: ORIGINS AND FUNCTIONS

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) came into being following the Ministerial Conference held in Beijing from 10 to 12 October 2000. The aim was to engage in consultations on an equal footing, deepen mutual understanding, broaden consensus, strengthen friendship and promote cooperation between China and Africa.

The "Cooperation Programme for China-Africa Socio-Economic Development", adopted at the Ministerial Conference in 2000, stipulates that the two sides agree to set up a follow-up mechanism to regularly assess the implementation of the measures adopted.

In 2001, the Forum's Ministerial Consultation held in Lusaka, Zambia, examined and adopted the "Procedure for the FOCAC Follow-up Mechanism", which came into force in 2002. This follow-up mechanism is based on three levels: the FOCAC Ministerial Conference meets every three years; the Follow-up Meeting of Senior Officials is held one year before the Ministerial Conference; and the Preparatory Meeting of Senior Officials takes place a few days before the Ministerial Conference.

The Ministerial Conference, reserved for foreign affairs ministers and ministers responsible for international economic cooperation, and the Senior Officials Meeting are held alternately in China and Africa.

With the growing development of their relations, China and African countries decided to elevate to Summit level the 3rd Ministerial Conference held in Beijing in November 2006, as well as the 6th Ministerial Conference held in December 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In 2018, the 7th FOCAC Ministerial Conference was elevated for the 3rd time to the level of Summit of Heads of State and Government. This Summit was held in Beijing from 3 to 4 September 2018. The President of the Republic, H.E. Paul BIYA, personally took part in this meeting.

The 8th FOCAC Ministerial Conference was held in Dakar, Senegal in 2022.



During this meeting, four major documents were adopted: the Final Declaration, the Beijing Action Plan 2022-2024, the Sino-African Declaration on Cooperation to Combat Climate Change and the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035.

In order to carry out a mid-term assessment of the implementation of the resolutions adopted, the 16th FOCAC Follow-up Meeting of Senior African and Chinese Officials was held in Beijing in October 2023. It emerged that the Chinese side had fulfilled the majority of its commitments to Africa for the period 2022-2023, and that progress was continuing up to the FOCAC Summit in 2024. At the same meeting, the parties agreed to reduce the term of the African co-chairmanship of FOCAC to three years, to enable the majority of countries, in accordance with the principle of geographical rotation, to co-chair FOCAC with China at a given time.

For 2024, FOCAC has been elevated to the level of the 4th Summit of Heads of State and Government. As a result, the Beijing meetings will be organised as follows: the 17th Meeting of Senior Officials (2 September), the 9th Ministerial Conference (3 September) and the Summit of African and Chinese Leaders from 4 to 6 September 2024, under the co-chairmanship of Senegal and China.

At the end of the Summit, it will be up to Central Africa to assume this role. Congo and Equatorial Guinea have presented their candidatures. The designated country will host the 10th FOCAC Ministerial Conference in 2027. In order to resolve the problem of these two candidatures, Central Africa has obtained a six-year mandate for the African co-presidency of FOCAC. Congo will co-chair with China from 2024 to 2027 and Equatorial Guinea from 2027 to 2030.



4TH SUMMIT OF FOCAC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

The fourth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Forum on Africa-China Cooperation (FOCAC) will take place in Beijing from 4 to 6 September 2024, under the theme: "Joining Hands to Advance Modernisation and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future".

The Summit will bring together the Heads of State and Government of 53 African countries, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the heads of delegation of the People's Republic of China. Some thirty representatives of international institutions and organisations are attending the summit as observers. These include the GME I, the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Afreximbank, as well as bodies attached to the United Nations system, and African and Asian sub-regional organisations.

As is often the case, two important documents will be adopted at the end of the Summit. These are the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Three-Year Action Plan 2025-2027. The Beijing Declaration has six (6) sub-headings and 30 paragraphs. The draft Declaration was enriched by inputs proposed by African embassies during joint meetings with the Chinese side. The draft Beijing Three-Year Action Plan was also submitted to the same diplomatic process.

Cameroonian diplomacy, through the consultations and coordination led by Cameroon's Ambassador to China, Martin Mpana, dean of the Group of African Ambassadors and dean of the diplomatic corps, played a key role in drawing up the Summit's working documents. The Beijing Declaration notes that China "welcomes Cameroon's presidency of the 79th General Assembly of the United Nations'. Furthermore, in view of the difficulties African students in China have in undertaking academic internships in Chinese companies, the Dean of the Group of African Ambassadors strongly suggested that this concern be included in the text of the Declaration. The Chinese side took on board this recommendation.

Finally, with regard to the next African co-presidency of FOCAC, the Dean of the Group of African Ambassadors asked for and obtained justice for the Central African sub-region, so that it could exercise a mandate of six years. This proposal made it possible to resolve the problem of the Republic of Congo and



Equatorial Guinea being candidates for both positions. The Beijing Declaration stipulates that Congo will co-chair FOCAC from 2024 to 2027 and Equatorial Guinea from 2027 to 2030.

In conclusion, the presence of the President of the Republic, H.E. Paul BIYA, at the 4th Summit of FOCAC Heads of State and Government is a consecration of the work done by Cameroonian diplomacy.



PRESIDENT PAUL BIYA AT THE 2018 FOCAC SUMMIT IN BEIJING

The Head of State took an active part in the third Summit of the Forum on Africa-China Cooperation held in Beijing from 3 to 4 September 2018. The day after the official opening of the proceedings on 3 September, co-chaired by Presidents Xi Jinping and Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, President Paul BIYA took part in a high-level round table chaired by the Chinese President on 4 September.

In his speech, the Head of State began by recalling the importance of FOCAC. He then noted that this third Summit was an opportunity for China and the African States to assess the progress made in their partnership and to take stock of it in order to "seize new opportunities for development and lay the foundations for other joint actions". Referring to the results of this partnership, President Paul BIYA described it as "gratifying in view of the tangible results achieved in the political, social, economic and infrastructural fields". The Head of State noted that the people of Africa unanimously appreciated China's achievements, as was the rapprochement between the Chinese and African peoples. These achievements are set to be strengthened by China's "Belt and Road" initiative, also known as the "New Silk Roads", a Chinese approach to global governance for the global development of all peoples.

On a political level, the President of the Republic stressed the importance of Sino-African cooperation for global balance. He welcomed the continuing convergence of views between China and Africa on regional and international problems, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and respect for their territorial integrity.

Finally, President Paul BIYA gave his support to the two documents adopted at this third FOCAC Summit, namely: the Beijing Declaration entitled "Building together an even stronger China-Africa destiny", and the Beijing Three-Year Action Plan 2019-2021.

On the sidelines of this Summit, President Paul BIYA and President Xi Jinping held bilateral talks on 31 August 2018. The Chinese Head of State reiterated to his Cameroonian counterpart his country's friendship and support for Cameroon's development efforts. Two cooperation agreements were signed: the Memorandum



of Understanding on the “Belt and Road” initiative and a technical assistance agreement for the Yaounde gynaeco-obstetrics and paediatrics hospital and the Buea and Mbalmayo hospitals. As part of the “Belt and Road” initiative and FOCAC, China had committed to strengthening its cooperation with Cameroon in the fields of infrastructure, peacekeeping and stability.

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OVERVIEW OF CAMEROON-CHINA COOPERATION

Cameroon and China have maintained diplomatic relations since 26 March 1971. On 26 March 2021, the two countries celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. On this occasion, Presidents Paul BIYA and Xi Jinping exchanged congratulatory messages.

H.E. Martin Mpana has been the Ambassador of Cameroon to China since 1 August 2008. He is the dean of the diplomatic corps. H.E. Wang Yingwu is the Chinese Ambassador to Cameroon. He presented his credentials to the Head of State on 6 July 2018.

The exchange of visits between the two countries is dense at various levels. President Paul BIYA has made seven visits to China, respectively in March 1987, October 1993, September 2003, November 2006, July 2011, March 2018 and September 2018, i.e. three working visits and four State visits.

The last state visit of the Head of State to China, from 22 to 24 March 2018, had shown the solidity and sincerity of the friendship between the two countries. It should be recalled that the Cameroonian Head of State was the first foreign leader to stay in China in 2018. It was also the first time that Presidents Paul BIYA and Xi Jinping met. On this occasion, the Chinese leader was full of praise for his host, whom he rightly described as a "seasoned statesman" and "major partner" of China. President Xi Jinping had awarded President Paul BIYA the title of "Great Friend of China".

On the occasion of this State visit, the talks between the Cameroonian and Chinese parties made it possible to agree on several points of cooperation and revolved around the following axes, among others:

- The consolidation of dialogue and mutual trust with regard to the traditional ties of friendship consecrated in particular by exchanges of visits at a very high level;
- The sustained appreciation of the status of one China and Cameroon as a unitary, one and indivisible state;
- The fight against terrorism and China's support against the Islamist sect Boko Haram;
- Strengthening parliamentary cooperation;



- The importance of FOCAC as an instrument of cooperation for a strategic partnership between African countries and China;
- Convergence of views on the Belt and Road Initiative.

At the economic and technical level, the State visit of the Head of State resulted in the signing of five new cooperation agreements:

- the agreement on the aid fund for the period 2018-2021, an unrequited donation from the Chinese side of more than 400 billion CFA francs, i.e. 334 billion Francs CFA for the year 2018 and 84 billion francs for the following years;
- the loan agreement of 50 billion Francs CFA for the financing of the second phase of the drinking water supply project in nine cities in Cameroon;
- the Memorandum of Understanding on the strengthening of cooperation in the field of infrastructure;
- the agreement on the improvement of industrial production capacities;
- the memorandum of understanding on human resources development.

In addition to signing these agreements, the Chinese side had pledged to examine Cameroon's debt with benevolence.

On the Chinese side, senior personalities also make regular visits to Cameroon. We remember in particular the State visit of President Hu Jintao to Yaounde, from 30 January to 1 February 2007. Chinese Vice Premier Liu Guozhong paid a working visit to Cameroon on 17 to 18 January 2024. He was received in audience at Unity Palace by the President of the Republic, Paul BIYA.

China, a strategic partner of Cameroon

In general, the cooperation between Cameroon and China is rich and diversified. China has become a strategic partner of Cameroon. Its achievements are numerous and very visible, especially in the field of infrastructure.

We can mention, among others:

- the new National Assembly building in Yaounde (over 90% completed) - a gift from Chinese cooperation;
- the Yaounde Conference Centre, inaugurated on 12 May 1982;
- the Gynecological-Obstetric and Paediatric Hospitals of Yaounde and Douala



inaugurated in 2003 and 2015 respectively;

- the Yaounde Multipurpose Sports Complex, inaugurated in 2019;
- the stadiums of Limbe and Bafoussam;
- the deep-sea port of Kribi;
- social housing;
- road and highway;
- hydroelectric and hydraulic infrastructure, such as the project to supply drinking water to the city of Yaounde and its surroundings from the Sanaga River;
- telecommunications etc.