

Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation

【Basic Information】

Moderator:

Address and Panel Discussion 2:

Zhong Shi CGTN News Anchor

Panel Discussion 1:

Wang Dawei Economist, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Address:

Li Fei Vice Minister of Commerce of China

Pedro Manuel Moreno Deputy Secretary-General, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Panel Discussion:

Topic 1: The Evolution of Economic Development Models for the Global South to Reach Sustainable Development

Sebahizi Prudence Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda

Anastasia Nesvetailova
Director of the Macroeconomic and Development Policy Branch,
UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Sokheng KONG
Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Cambodia to the WTO and other IOs (Economy and Trade) in Geneva; Coordinator of G77 & China (Geneva)

Arkebe Oqubay

Former Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia; British Academy Global Professor, SOAS University of London

Wang Yong Deputy Dean, Institute of New Structural Economics, Peking University

Topic 2: Experiences and Emerging Trends in China-Africa Cooperation for Promoting Sustainable Development in Africa

Chipoka Mulenga	Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia
Dima Al-Khatib	Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
Peter Kagwanja	President of the Africa Policy Institute of Kenya
Wang Lincong	Vice President of the China-Africa Institute
Zhang Wei	Vice President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation

【Brief Introduction】

On November 5, 2024, the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation of the 7th Hongqiao International Economic Forum (HQF), hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of China and UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), organized by Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, was held at National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai). The session aims to convene policymakers and academia to discuss the challenges and constraints for the Global South in advancing sustainable development and reflect on the opportunities and policy strategies to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including through promoting South-South Cooperation.



【Address】



Li Fei, Vice Minister of Commerce of China,
addressed the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation

Li Fei, Vice Minister of Commerce of China, pointed out that the rise of the Global South is driving the global governance system towards a more inclusive, equitable, and just direction. President Xi Jinping announced the “ten partnership actions” at the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, aiming to build an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era and jointly promote modernization. As the largest developing country member of the UNCTAD, China is willing to deepen practical cooperation with the countries of the Global South through UNCTAD, strengthen South-South trade and investment cooperation, accelerate regional economic integration, enhance cooperation in emerging fields, and explore new opportunities in digital and green development, and strengthen China-Africa cooperation to implement the “ten partnership actions.”



Pedro Manuel Moreno, Deputy Secretary-General, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), addressed the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation

Pedro Manuel Moreno, Deputy Secretary-General of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), emphasized that globalization, sustainable development, and multilateralism are key issues that the Global South should focus on. The integration of the Global South into the global economy is an important mission of UNCTAD, and the Global South should have more influence on the international stage. In the face of the global economic slowdown, rising debt, energy transition, and climate change pressures, the Global South should work together to address these challenges, seek new development strategies, and achieve a more inclusive global economy. China plays an important role in supporting the Global South in achieving sustainable development.

【Report Release】



Anastasia Nesvetailova, Director of the Macroeconomic and Development Policy Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and released UNCTAD's *Trade and Development Report 2024*

Anastasia Nesvetailova, Director of the Macroeconomic and Development Policy Branch, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), released the *Trade and Development Report 2024* during the conference. The report emphasizes that global integration is undergoing significant changes, with a widening gap between the Global North and South. The structural challenges facing the global economy in the future will come not only from the manufacturing sector but also from emerging service industries. Global trade is slowing down and shifting towards services, with developing countries accounting for less than 30% of global services exports. In the future, economies around the world will need to adopt diversified macroeconomic policies, carefully integrating structural diversification strategies with financial regulatory frameworks, particularly in the context of green transformation and service-based economies.

【Panel Discussion】

Topic 1: The Evolution of Economic Development Models for the Global South to Reach Sustainable Development



Wang Dawei, Economist, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD),
attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation
and moderated Panel Discussion 1



Sebahizi Prudence, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda,
attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation
and participated in Panel Discussion

Sebahizi Prudence, Minister of Trade and Industry of Rwanda, emphasized that China has played a pivotal role in South-South cooperation. Over the past 20 years, trade between China and Africa has increased 20-fold, and Chinese investment in Africa has created millions of jobs and prompted innovation. China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative have accelerated Africa's development in infrastructure, technology, and trade. The three main challenges facing the Global South are high financing costs, high energy costs, and food security issues. Africa encourages investment in energy to develop clean energy and reduce electricity prices, while more investment is needed in agriculture to ensure sustainable development and food systems. Rwanda values its relationship with China and looks forward to further cooperation.



Sokheng KONG, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Cambodia to the WTO and other IOs (Economy and Trade) in Geneva, and Coordinator of G77 & China (Geneva), attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and participated in Panel Discussion

Sokheng KONG, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Cambodia to the WTO and other IOs (Economy and Trade) in Geneva, and Coordinator of G77 & China (Geneva), stated that the G77 & China shares a 76-year history with UNCTAD and looks forward to strengthening cooperation with UNCTAD. The Global South represents 85% of the world's population and makes significant contributions to global trade cooperation. African countries are diverse and rich in natural resources, but they also face vulnerabilities that require international cooperation. China and other countries of the Global South have made valuable contributions to the advancement of global economic governance and have provided positive and constructive ideas. Only through joint efforts can resources be allocated to the right places to achieve the greatest impact.



Arkebe Oqubay, Former Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and British Academy Global Professor, SOAS University of London, attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and participated in Panel Discussion

Arkebe Oqubay, Former Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and British Academy Global Professor, SOAS University of London, stated that in the rapidly evolving global economic and political landscape, Africa, as a populous continent, is increasingly strengthening its voice within the Global South. Technological progress has brought opportunities to Africa, but it has also widened the digital divide. China-Africa cooperation, particularly through the FOCAC framework, has become a model for South-South cooperation. China's investment and technology transfer have contributed significantly to Africa's sustainable development. Countries in the Global South can observe how China has built its industrial capacity and followed the path of industrialization, which has been a crucial factor in China's rise as a key player in global economic development.



Wang Yong, Deputy Dean, Institute of New Structural Economics, Peking University, attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and participated in Panel Discussion

Wang Yong, Deputy Dean, Institute of New Structural Economics, Peking University, stated that although China's economic growth faces downward pressure, its potential remains immense. To overcome the middle-income trap and navigate a complex geopolitical climate, China should achieve growth by improving total factor productivity, which includes accelerating technological development and reducing resource misallocation. To drive new quality productive forces, it is imperative to achieve technological breakthroughs and improve industrial efficiency through reasonable industrial policies. China's technology transfer and foreign direct investment contribute to the growth of African countries while also providing growth opportunities for Chinese enterprises. China's economic development is closely linked to the global economy, and together they drive sustainable growth.

Topic 2: Experiences and Emerging Trends in China-Africa Cooperation for Promoting Sustainable Development in Africa

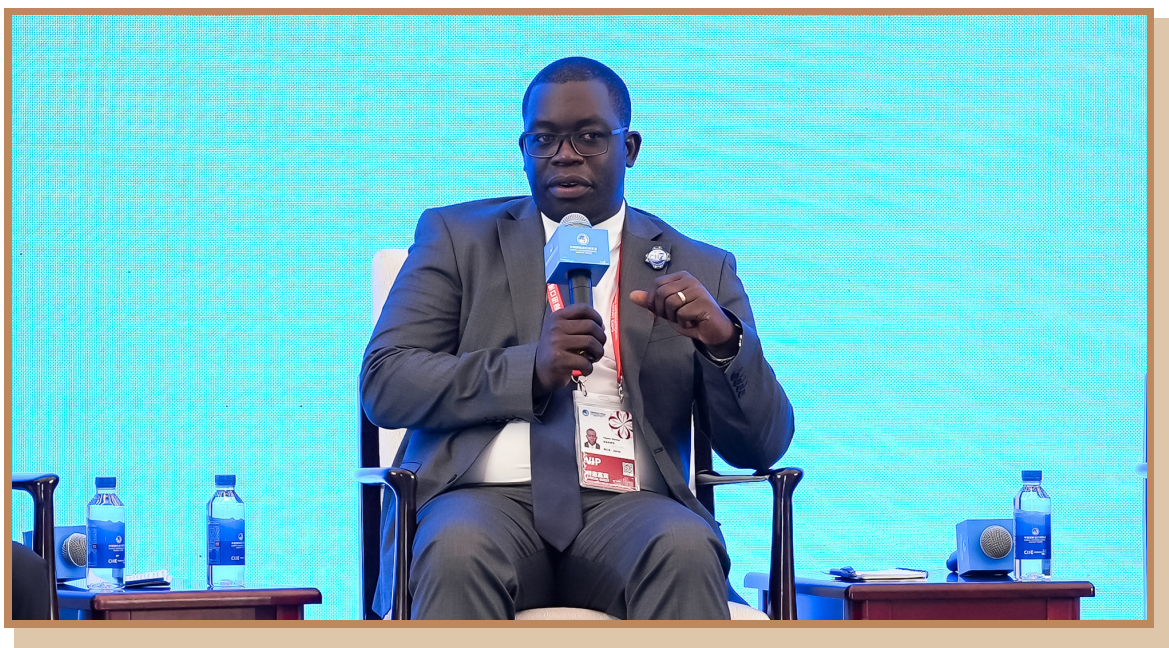


Zhong Shi, CGTN News Anchor,
moderated Address and Panel Discussion 2 of the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South
and China-Africa Cooperation



Zhang Wei, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and delivered a thematic speech

Zhang Wei, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, delivered a speech on “Deepening China-Africa Cooperation and Advancing Sustainable Development in the Global South.” She stated that China-Africa relations have set an example for building a community with a shared future for mankind. China has increased institutional openness, continuously expanded investment in Africa, supported infrastructure development, and provided feasible assistance, playing a positive and effective role in Africa’s sustainable development. In the future, China and Africa will work together to improve global governance, and create a fairer and more equitable international environment for the sustainable development of the Global South.



Chipoka Mulenga, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia,
attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and
participated in Panel Discussion

Chipoka Mulenga, Minister of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia, highlighted three major challenges faced by the African continent: Keeping pace with technological changes, achieving industrial transformation, and addressing climate change. China and Africa share similar population sizes and huge markets, and China's rise as a strong economy has brought valuable experience to Africa, particularly in market development and shared growth. Infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative have brought both technology and solutions to Africa. Mulenga emphasized the importance of continued support from countries with a shared vision, such as China, to advance Africa's technological progress and improve infrastructure and information and communication technologies.



Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and participated in Panel Discussion

Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, stated that many African countries share common resources such as minerals, water, and energy. To fully harness the potential of the African continent and move to the next stage of development, it is essential to adopt a comprehensive approach, strengthen capacity building, and adopt long-term development strategies that focus on sustainability. Key issues include technological innovation, financing gaps, improvements in financial markets, and sustainable development. The UN's Pact for the Future emphasizes the importance of cooperation on climate change, with countries of the Global South playing a critical role. Equal opportunities, including equal voice and development opportunities, are crucial to Africa's development.



Peter Kagwanja, President of the Africa Policy Institute of Kenya, attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and participated in Panel Discussion

Peter Kagwanja, President of the Africa Policy Institute of Kenya, stated that after 2000, Africa began to experience rapid growth, with some countries achieving 7% economic growth, and China's investment played a crucial role. Africa is becoming a center for global industrial growth, with Chinese investors and traders playing an important role. For example, cooperation agreements between China and Kenya, including the construction of railways, have facilitated connectivity across the African continent and enhanced trade relations both regionally and internationally. He hoped that China would not be swayed by Western criticism of China-Africa cooperation, but would continue to support Africa, deepen investment and trade collaboration, and strengthen ties between Chinese and African enterprises.



Wang Lincong, Vice President of the China-Africa Institute,
attended the Parallel Session on Sustainable Development of Global South and China-Africa Cooperation and
participated in Panel Discussion

Wang Lincong, Vice President of the China-Africa Institute, stated that Africa's development faces both external challenges and internal problems, requiring a dual approach that addresses both the symptoms and the root causes. First, urgent issues such as poverty alleviation, food security, climate change, and regional instability should be addressed. Second, there is a need to fundamentally improve Africa's capacity building, including the development in areas such as funding, talent, and technology, as well as the improvement of infrastructure and the establishment of industrial chains. China-Africa cooperation plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges. China has contributed to poverty alleviation, medical aid, and peace building in Africa. The 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, held in Beijing this year, marked a new stage in China-Africa cooperation, with increasing emphasis on new quality productive forces. Together, China and Africa will embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution and inject new momentum into the common quest for modernization.