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REGIONAL DIMENSION OF IMPLEMENTING HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WITH A SHARED FUTURE FOR MANKIND: CHINA'S COOPERATION WITH AFRICAN STATES

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Abstract. This article elucidates Africa's considerable role in shaping a community with a shared future for mankind. It analyses the core elements and practical implications of the recent initiative «Jointly building an all-weather China – Africa community with a shared future in the new era» announced by Xi Jinping at the 2024 Forum on China – Africa cooperation. This is a landmark initiative, representing a significant diplomatic achievement for African nations. The study contends that China's humanitarian assistance and its broad engagement with Africa in areas such as culture, education, healthcare, and infrastructure are anchored in the idea of a shared future, ensuring equitable partnership and reciprocal advantage. The analysis further demonstrates that the South Africa, amidst intensified China – Africa collaboration, serves as an effective intermediary between China and the wider continent. Through bilateral and multilateral engagement, notably within BRICS and international organisations, the South Africa actively advances the goal of a shared future for mankind.

Keywords: humanitarian engagement; China – Africa partnership; Africa in world politics; community with a shared future for mankind.

РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ ИЗМЕРЕНИЕ РЕАЛИЗАЦИИ ГУМАНИТАРНЫХ ИНИЦИАТИВ В РАМКАХ СООБЩЕСТВА ЕДИНОЙ СУДЬБЫ ЧЕЛОВЕЧЕСТВА: СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО КИТАЯ С АФРИКАНСКИМИ ГОСУДАРСТВАМИ

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Аннотация. Рассматривается вклад государств Африки в построение сообщества единой судьбы человечества. Анализируются ключевые компоненты и практическое применение новой инициативы «Совместное строительство всепогодного сообщества единой судьбы Китая и Африки в новую эпоху», выдвинутой Си Цзиньпином на Форуме китайско-африканского сотрудничества в 2024 г., которая считается важным результатом внешней политики государств Африки. Утверждается, что гуманитарная помощь и многопрофильное гуманитарное сотрудничество (в области культуры, образования, здравоохранения, инфраструктуры) Китая и Африки основаны на концепции сообщества единой судьбы человечества, предполагающей равноправное взаимодействие и получение взаимной выгоды. Выявляется, что Южно-Африканская Республика в контексте интенсификации китайско-африканского сотрудничества является своеобраз-

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ным «мостом» между Китаем и остальной частью континента, играет важную роль в продвижении идеи сообщества единой судьбы человечества через двусторонние и многосторонние контакты с Китаем (в том числе с участием БРИКС и других международных организаций).

Ключевые слова: гуманитарное сотрудничество; китайско-африканское сотрудничество; Африка в глобальной политике; сообщество единой судьбы человечества.

Introduction

China – Africa relations have progressively intensified in the context of building a community with a shared future for mankind. At the 2024 Beijing summit of the Forum on China – Africa cooperation (FOCAC), the parties adopted the Beijing declaration on jointly building a new era of all-weather China – Africa community with a shared future. This advancement elevated bilateral relations to strategic prominence, reflecting not merely closer coordination in international affairs, but also a shared determination to tackle global challenges collectively. The relationship has undergone a profound transformation, evolving from conventional donor – recipient dynamics towards genuine partnership based on mutual benefit. Consensus has been reached between China and African nations on exchanging governance experiences and exploring modernisation pathways. These arrangements reinforce the comprehensive character of the China – Africa relationship, encouraging knowledge transfer and aligned development strategies.

Western humanitarian interventions in Africa frequently carry political conditions and serve economic interests. Such interventions have, in some cases, deepened dependency and intensified internal conflicts within African states. In contrast, China adopts a development-oriented approach to humanitarian engagement. Its efforts prioritise supporting Africa's autonomous development through infrastructure investment, technical cooperation, and economic partnerships.

In China – Africa cooperation, the South Africa occupies a distinctive position. It is a key member of the FOCAC and an active participant in BRICS. As the economic and political hub of the continent, the South Africa facilitates comprehensive bilateral and multilateral engagement across political, economic and cultural domains. This collaboration offers an alternative model of global governance that potentially advances the international order towards greater equity and fairness.

Zhang Youguo, a leading Chinese political scientist, asserts that the shared future framework draws on the concept of Tianxia ('all under heaven'), which encourages the emergence of a new international order grounded in the collective interests of humanity [1]. Nokolo Phuai, an African scholar and member of the International Advisory Committee at the China Institute of African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, observes that the Chinese model, inspired by the Confucian principle of benevolence above all else, rejects hegemonic logic and resonates with the continent's anti-colonial legacy. This approach has established legitimacy distinct from Western interventions and has positively influenced African development¹. I. A. Chuvilov, Belarusian political scientist, also notes that concepts of humanism diverge significantly across Russia, the West, and China [2]. Additionally, Wu Yuxuan, research fellow in the foreign policy programme at the South African Institute of International Affairs, contends that South Africa's proactive engagement with China has invigorated cooperation between China and Africa across multiple domains, accelerated progress towards sustainable development, and further contributed to the formation of a China – Africa community with a shared future [3]. While existing literature catalogues Africa's involvement in the community with a shared future for mankind, it largely privileges macro-level narratives. Such approaches rarely interrogate intra-African heterogeneity such as differential reception between Francophone and Anglophone nations or the collaborative strategies employed by Sino-African non-governmental organisations. It is therefore advisable to examine the resonance and interpretation of the community with a shared future for mankind at multiple cultural strata, and to articulate policy responses tailored to these varied contexts.

Conceptualising all-weather China – Africa community with a shared future

The notion of a community with a shared future for mankind, grounded in the Tianxia from the Chinese philosophical tradition, offers an inclusive and egalitarian framework that advances international relations theory in novel directions. This concept transcends the Tianxia system by rising above state boundaries and

moving beyond relationship structures built merely on «rights» within confined spaces. Instead, it proposes a restructured international order with global expandability, departing from the individualism often characteristic of state politics [1, p. 108]. The notion of a community with a shared interest underscores the

¹African scholars: the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind is rooted in Chinese philosophical tradition [Electronic resource]. URL: <http://world.people.com.cn/n1/2021/0730/c1002-32175751.html> (date of access: 02.04.2025) (in Chin.).

importance of considering other nations' interests when pursuing national development, advocating for global prosperity. China has demonstrated its commitment to these ideals through active participation in UN initiatives across the domains of peace, development, and human rights, earning substantive recognition from the global community. Sino-African relations constitute a significant component of China's foreign policy, with Africa consistently playing a key role in the shared future framework. The expanding cooperation between China and Africa on UN matters has inaugurated a new phase in South – South collaboration, substantially influencing both regions' development and reshaping international dynamics. Moreover, the enduring Sino-African relationship demonstrates the resilience of this shared future concept, exemplifying the characteristics of a deeply interconnected community.

China's engagement in Africa encompassing the promotion of humanism through education, culture, science, health, and soft power, as well as steadfast support for infrastructure and agricultural technology underpins the evolving China – Africa community with a shared future. As the global landscape undergoes significant transformation, President Xi Jinping declared during the 2024 FOCAC that China intends to elevate relations with all African states with diplomatic ties to a strategic level. He aims to usher in a new era of an all-weather China – Africa community, underpinned by Ten partnership initiatives for jointly advancing modernisation. During the summit, Chinese and African leaders articulated a unified commitment to accelerating high-quality Belt and road cooperation, while pledging to implement the global development, security, and civilisation initiatives. These commitments were formalised through the adoption of the Beijing declaration on jointly building a new era of all-weather China – Africa community with a shared future and the Forum on China – Africa cooperation Beijing action plan (2025–2027)².

The terminology of the new era of all-weather China – Africa community with a shared future is particularly salient, with words «new era» and «all-weather» constituting its defining elements. The former marks an innovative theoretical advance in constructing this cooperative framework, representing a decisive shift in southern collaborative governance. This approach forges a multidimensional analytical matrix that integrates levels of governance, cognitive domains, and technological ecologies through a three-dimensional model: vertical institutional transmission, horizontal normative synergy, and technological empowerment pathways.

China – Africa cooperation has established a three-tier nested structure comprising bilateral strategic agreements, sub-regional cooperation platforms, and global governance initiatives. This multilayered arrangement has substantially augmented policy efficacy.

At the micro level, China has established specialised cooperation mechanisms with twelve comprehensive strategic partnership countries, enhancing implementation of high-technology and security agreements. Meanwhile, the meso-level alignment between the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Ten partnership initiatives for jointly advancing modernisation has fostered the development of sub-regional hubs. These hubs advance trade liberalisation and regional economic integration at the geopolitical level. The Economic Community of West African States exemplifies this transformation, evolving from a purely economic organisation to a prominent sub-regional entity, registering noteworthy achievements in the political, economic, military, and health sectors. The continual expansion of its remit has considerably facilitated policy coordination among African states [4, p. 104]. According to E. Sidiropoulos, executive director of the Southern African Institute of International Affairs, South – South cooperation enables African states to exchange developmental experiences and amplify the voice of developing nations within global economic governance representing a substantial enhancement in the South's capacity to influence national agendas [5, p. 68].

Horizontally, China and Africa have cultivated normative synergies anchored in their shared identity within the Global South. Agricultural cooperation illustrates this dynamic. The BRICS countries exhibit uneven distribution of agricultural resources, characterised by simultaneous abundance and scarcity. To establish more equitable agricultural trade practices, these nations have formed the Alliance for Agricultural Subsidy Reform, promoting sustainable agricultural development through enhanced subsidy mechanisms and structural policy reforms [6, p. 87].

This initiative accelerated the growth of agricultural support within the BRICS nations and fostered the establishment of agricultural subsidy frameworks, with Russia and South Africa registering especially notable increases. The integration of technical standards exhibits a pattern of mutual adaptation and iterative innovation. At the hardware level, China's railway industry demonstrated significant compatibility with the demands of overseas markets. The China railway standard, implemented in African railway construction projects, underwent adaptation to the continent's tropical climate, building upon the foundational African high-speed railway standard, with increasingly widespread application. In the realm of software, company «Huawei» and the South Africa formalised Net5.5G strategic cooperation memorandum to drive the implementation of advanced network capabilities, including 400GE, SRv6, network slicing, and digital network mapping. These efforts have enhanced company's «MTN» service quality, network reliability, and operational efficiency

²Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of the Beijing summit of the Forum on China – Africa cooperation and delivers a keynote address [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.focac.org/eng/ttxsxy/202501/t20250114_11532866.htm (date of access: 12.03.2025).

in both mobile and B2B domains, while generating a virtuous cycle of technology diffusion, local innovation, and the export of technical standards³. Institutionally, the inclusion of photovoltaic (PV) construction and operation standards into the AU recommendation system has significantly increased installed PV capacity across sub-Saharan Africa. This enabled almost 30 % of newly connected households, situated up to ten kilometres from the primary grid, to access community microgrids, igniting a «solar revolution» across the continent⁴.

The all-weather nature of China – Africa relations signifies that despite fluctuations in the international landscape, both parties maintain robust strategic trust and pragmatic collaboration, continuously advancing bilateral engagement to new heights. President Xi Jinping has articulated cooperation directions under the Six modernisations framework, emphasising that China and Africa should collaboratively pursue modernisation characterised by fairness, openness, human-centredness, pluralism, environmental sustainability, and security. This approach provides both a theoretical foundation and practical recommendations for Sino-African cooperation, aligning closely with the developmental strategies of both parties and reflecting the shared aspirations of Global South countries in their pursuit of modernisation. President Xi Jinping's Ten partnership initiatives for jointly advancing modernisation thus establish a comprehensive framework for China – Africa collaboration across numerous domains, including tariff

exemptions, infrastructure development, and agricultural technology cooperation. These initiatives aim to systematically advance African modernisation, whilst strengthening the continent's capacity for autonomous development, and enhancing the overall well-being of populations on both sides. Each element of these initiatives aligns with the developmental priorities of African states and the aspirations of their peoples, offering substantive support for Africa's progress and renewal⁵.

Furthering this agenda, the China – Africa entrepreneurship conference fostered bilateral cooperation in innovative sectors such as the digital economy, artificial intelligence, and renewable energy. This collaboration shows promise in reducing technological disparities across Africa and facilitating sustainable development. Collectively, these endeavours underscore China's commitment and strategic foresight as a leading global nation, while constituting a distinctive paradigm for South – South cooperation. Xi Jinping's address introduces fresh perspectives to both theoretical study and practical application in international relations, highlighting a relational model predicated on shared development and equitable partnership. This approach is of considerable scholarly and practical relevance to the enhancement of global governance, the advance of multipolarity, and the democratisation of international affairs. In articulating this vision, the speech marks the commencement of a new era in China – Africa relations.

Western intervention versus Chinese development-oriented humanitarianism in Africa

Through its concept of a community with a shared future for mankind, China has implemented numerous humanitarian projects across Africa. Its multifaceted support encompassing aid, investment, and trade has generated considerable positive outcomes throughout the region.

Western humanitarian intervention in Africa exhibits distinctive characteristics, primarily in its emphasis on emergency aid and the promotion of political values. When faced with sudden disasters or humanitarian crises, this model offers rapid response capabilities, delivering essential resources such as food, medicine, and shelter to affected areas. Such efforts have mitigated the immediate impacts of crises, most notably in the aftermath of emergencies such as the earthquake in Haiti and the Ebola outbreak⁶. Aid is typically channelled through international organisations and non-govern-

mental organisations, which helps to ensure prompt and effective delivery.

However, while providing substantial short-term benefits, these interventions often suffer from limited long-term efficacy. They frequently fail to address the underlying socio-economic challenges and systemic barriers to sustainable development in African states. Over-reliance on external assistance can erode local capacities for autonomous recovery and long-term development. Additionally, the uneven distribution of aid and accompanying political conditions can exacerbate socio-political tensions, affecting both internal stability and external relations in recipient countries. As R. V. Oreshkin, Russian international relations scholar argues, European and American nations frequently base African aid decisions on self-interest rather than recipient needs. Consequently, numerous approved projects offer

³MTN of the South Africa and Huawei sign Net5.5G strategic cooperation memorandum [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://tech.huanqiu.com/article/4lBrAUIT5Br> (date of access: 04.03.2025) (in Chin.).

⁴International solar photovoltaic network: IEA's latest report. Africa's market «wilderness» [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://solar.in-en.com/html/solar-2404935.shtml> (date of access: 26.02.2025) (in Chin.).

⁵Working hand in hand to open up broader prospects for China – Africa development [Electronic resource]. URL: https://news.gmw.cn/2025-01/11/content_37791821.htm (date of access: 27.02.2025).

⁶Global health volunteering, the Ebola outbreak, and instrumental humanitarianisms in Sierra Leone [Electronic resource]. URL: https://kclpure.kcl.ac.uk/portal/files/122428187/Global_health_volunteering_the_HERRICK_Publishedonline29November2019_GREEN_AAM.pdf (date of access: 11.03.2025).

minimal contribution to Africa's genuine development, with intervening countries prioritising their national interests as the actual objectives of humanitarian engagement⁷.

This practice contravenes the principle that the safeguarding of human rights should supersede considerations of state power. International donor agencies should therefore engage in rigorous assessment of the political and social context of recipient societies, to prevent harmful long-term consequences.

By contrast, China's development-oriented humanitarian assistance model integrates emergency response with capacity building for sustainable development. Rather than providing merely resource-based assistance, China promotes initiatives that strengthen capacity for autonomous development, enabling African partners to achieve multidimensional and enduring progress. In the healthcare domain, Xi Jinping outlined specific commitments in the Forum on China – Africa cooperation Beijing action plan (2025–2027) that includes establishing several China – Africa traditional medicine centres, enhancing collaboration in traditional and smart medicine, and implementing the Minimally invasive medicine initiative [7, p. 97].

China has dispatched medical teams to African countries to deliver healthcare services, disseminate disease prevention strategies, and conduct health education training, thereby supporting the development of robust public health systems. These interventions have markedly elevated healthcare standards and, by extension, contributed to the preservation of countless lives across the continent. In education, China has extended support through building schools, provision of educational resources, and initiation of the China – Africa university cooperation programme alongside the Belt and road teacher development programme. These measures have facilitated the advancement of educational provision in Africa and enhanced local education quality. Through comprehensive scholarship offerings and vocational training, China has equipped 10 000 talented individuals with Chinese language proficiency and technical skills. Moreover, China's Luban workshop project has transferred advanced technological and managerial expertise to Africa, establishing vocational training centres in countries such as Egypt, the South Africa, and Kenya to develop highly skilled workers, including CNC machinists⁸.

China's model of humanitarian development in Africa demonstrates a strategic vision and nuanced understanding of the continent's developmental requirements. It prioritises integrated infrastructure development, having led to the construction and upgrading of over 10 000 kilometres of railways, nearly 100 000 kilometres of highways, close to 1000 bridges, and approximately 100 ports. These physical assets create a foundation for sustainable economic growth across the continent. Within agriculture, China has adopted a strategy combining agricultural demonstration centres and enterprise investment, expediting the shift from traditional cultivation to modern agricultural practices.

By the end of 2024, China had established 24 agricultural technology demonstration centres across Africa and disseminated more than 300 innovative agricultural practices, including high-density maize cultivation, advanced vegetable farming, and rapid cassava propagation. These innovations have reached over a million African farmers, substantially contributing to agricultural advancement. This strategy has significantly accelerated agricultural modernisation and spurred economic development across Africa⁹. Industrial parks and similar cooperative ventures have not only driven the continent's industrialisation but also contributed to the diversification and optimisation of its trade structures, rendering these initiatives a distinctive feature of contemporary Sino-African collaboration.

In security, China, as the second-largest contributor to UN peacekeeping funds¹⁰, has taken an increasingly proactive role in addressing regional conflicts within Africa. Beijing consistently participates in peacekeeping operations and supports African nations in enhancing their self-sufficiency in peacekeeping. This cooperation extends to combating terrorism and transnational crime, thereby bolstering regional security and mitigating fragmentation. Looking ahead, China aims to enhance digital capabilities for humanitarian aid in Africa. By harnessing artificial intelligence to construct intelligent emergency response systems, Chinese initiatives seek to facilitate real-time disaster risk monitoring, optimise aid distribution networks through big data analytics, and deploy telemedicine to transcend geographical barriers in healthcare delivery. Furthermore, digital education programmes serve to narrow educational disparities and promote the equitable sharing of resources. As of November 2024, China had formalised the

⁷Oreshkin R. V. «Humanitarian intervention» in the common foreign and security policy of the European Union in the 1990s : diss. abstr. PhD (history) : 07.00.03. Volgograd : Volgograd State Univ., 2005. 26 p. (in Russ.).

⁸White paper on China – Africa cooperation in a new era [Electronic resource]. URL: www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/ndhf/2021n_2242/202207/t20220704_130719.html (date of access: 11.03.2025) (in Chin.).

⁹China has built 24 agricultural technology demonstration centres in Africa [Electronic resource]. URL: https://mbd.baidu.com/newspage/data/landingsuper?rs=1523241162&ruk=Sk5fQ_bzW9VlxfKxeEBkiQ&urlex=%7B%22cuid%22%3A%220iHxa_uZ2u0EO-H8y_aHbu0i4vi_HOHuB0u2Di08tva_xiSufgP2iagtXHOpetSa_YPDmA%22%7D&isBdboxFrom=1&pageType=1&sid_for_share=&context=%7B%22nid%22%3A%22news_9178181945638832138%22,%22sourceFrom%22%3A%22other%22%7D (date of access: 01.04.2025) (in Chin.).

¹⁰How we are funded [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/how-we-are-funded> (date of access: 20.03.2025).

China – Africa Digital cooperation and development action plan with 26 African states¹¹. China's innovative model encompassing digital capacity building and technology localisation has transformed technological governance in South – South cooperation. This approach not only provides a valuable reference point

for the digital transformation of global humanitarian assistance but also substantiates the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. By giving fresh impetus to Africa's sustainable development, these interventions yield enduring, positive impacts across the continent.

South Africa's contribution to Sino-African partnerships within the framework of a shared future for mankind

Africa is a prominent voice among developing nations with a unique role in advancing the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind. Within this context, the South Africa, with the continent's most developed economy and substantial political influence, provides an essential bridge between China and other African countries. Its mature democratic system, diverse cultural landscape, and status as a BRICS member further reinforce its role in advancing this vision of a shared future.

Articles 3(d) and 3(f) of the African Union Charter¹² explicitly articulate the union's purposes: to champion and defend common positions on continental concerns, and to advance peace, security, and stability across Africa. These provisions embody the principles of African solutions to African problems, and integrate the Global security initiative with the Regional governance architecture. In climate governance, effective China – Africa cooperation necessitates alignment with overarching frameworks such as the UN Framework convention on climate change, the Kyoto protocol, and the Paris agreement. It should also coordinate with the UN Sustainable development goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063. By defining assistance scope, implementation strategies, and funding parameters, this cooperation can exploit the «1+1>2» strategic synergy of South – South climate collaboration and the Green belt and road initiative, thus establishing strategic guidelines that enable China and African states to address climate challenges collaboratively [8, p. 66].

The Nairobi declaration, endorsed by the African Union during the inaugural African climate summit, reaffirms the Paris agreement's precept that economic development need not be sacrificed in pursuit of climate action. This notion of shared responsibility resonates with the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind and aids in shaping more equitable implementation protocols for the Paris agreement. Notably, South Africa, as the sole African participant in BRICS, has transformed this multilateral forum into an effective vehicle for advancing the collective interests of Africa. By leveraging platforms such as the G21, the South Africa has empowered other African nations to amplify their voices on the global stage.

Given Africa's considerable institutional gaps, the continent has drawn on China's «gradualist» approach to economic development. This model distributes competing interests and contradictions across time and space, creating a buffer for social advancement whilst mitigating the risks associated with institutional innovation [9, p. 38]. The 2023 BRICS expansion illustrates this strategy, maintaining a balance between representativeness and effectiveness and allowing nations such as Ethiopia and Egypt to join. These practices validate the collaborative governance principles of working together, building together, and sharing together within the framework of a community with a shared future for mankind. Additionally, they enable broader African engagement in the BRICS mechanism through the South Africa's distinctive role as a pivotal intermediary.

In terms of cross-cultural understanding and soft power development, the South Africa's Ubuntu philosophy emphasises community values and solidarity [10, p. 492]. This represents an innovative synthesis between indigenous traditions and the harmony and symbiosis ethos embedded in the concept of a shared future for mankind. Ubuntu effectively bridges communitarian ethics with broader worldviews through meaningful cultural dialogue. In knowledge production, Africa has seen the rise of regional and networked think tanks such as the African Council for the Development of Social Science Research. These organisations advance academic exchange, disseminate research findings, fund scholarly activity, and enhance the capacity of African research institutions. Serving as platforms and conduits for knowledge transfer [11, p. 122], they demonstrate the epistemic agency of the Global South in international governance. This shift in knowledge production challenges Western-centric discourses, offering a non-Western cognitive framework for the community with a shared future. Moreover, the South African film and television industry has adeptly reduced cultural discounting through enhanced content creation and strategic market positioning. These efforts have elevated South African productions to continental prominence, establishing a compelling sphere of cultural influence throughout Africa.

¹¹Cross-border integration to create a «model room» for digital education in African languages [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1816920636304625200&wfr=spider&for=pc> (date of access: 01.04.2025) (in Chin.).

¹²Secretary-General alarmed by deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur Region of Sudan [Electronic resource]. URL: https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/34873-file-constitutiveact_en.pdf (date of access: 01.04.2025).

Likewise, the dissemination of Chinese cultural soft power aims to diminish cultural discounting whilst facilitating global cultural exchange and value sharing. This is achieved by highlighting both the distinctiveness and adaptability of Chinese traditions. Initiatives such as the promotion of Chinese language learning, the integration of heritage with contemporary cultural forms, and the fostering of international cultural dialogue exemplify these efforts. Both China and the South Africa work towards a common objective: to minimise cultural barriers and foster people-to-people engage-

ment through the active projection of their soft power, contributing to a pluralistic and harmonious global cultural model. This reciprocal process of cultural expression and value consensus not only enriches the concept of soft power but also validates the notion of a community with a shared future for mankind within the cultural sphere. Through practices such as civilisational dialogue and mutual appraisal, these developments yield significant insights for establishing a global cultural governance framework characterised by pluralistic modernity.

Conclusions

The vision of an all-weather China – Africa community with a shared future for mankind signifies more than merely the advancement of Sino-African relations. It demonstrates China's ongoing commitment to a more equitable and rational international order within the global governance framework. The collaborative innovation between Chinese and African nations across institutional, normative, and technological domains has generated a distinctive Southern governance framework, effectively amplifying developing countries' international discourse and contributing to global governance transformation. President Xi Jinping's address at the 2024 FOCAC articulated clear strategic directions for collaboration whilst introducing fresh perspectives to international relations theory. Within this context, the South Africa emerges as a crucial actor: as the continent's economic and political nucleus, it advances China – Africa

cooperation through its strategic role in global value chains, while simultaneously consolidating Africa's presence within international institutions through business regulation and political engagement. The South Africa's cultural production capabilities and intellectual development, alongside its partnership with China in cultural soft power projection, provide robust foundations for creating a diverse world cultural landscape. Simultaneously, China's development-oriented humanism in Africa presents a new paradigm for sustainable and autonomous development, contrasting with Western models. By prioritising infrastructure development and comprehensive support, this approach facilitates economic transformation and empowerment in African states, holding considerable practical and theoretical significance for the realisation of a community with a shared future for humanity.

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