

# The Belt and Road Initiative: Brightens the Future of China Africa Cooperation.

By

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## **Abstract**

The Cooperation between Africa and China, through Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), China Africa Think Tanks Forum (CATTF), among others, has gained momentum and triggered much interest in the recent past. This is because China is playing an increasingly prominent role in global trade, investment, finance, and governance to the extent that name “*China*” has become a household name, not only in the world, but more so in Africa. This is a testimony to the deepened engagement between these societies. This deepening extends also to diplomatic and cultural relations, as evidenced by the established of Confucian Institutes in a number of African countries with a view to promote people to people exchanges.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013, is yet another framework, not only for consolidating and complimenting the existing China- Africa relations, but also for addressing Africa’s socio-economic challenges more comprehensively, given its rich menu of objectives; ranging from connectivity promotion, industrialization, development of agriculture, provision of finance, to enhancing inter-and intra trade. Looking at the menu and taking into consideration Africa’s development challenges, across the board, and the attendant aspirations to address them, the BRI is indeed a timely savior cum a wakeup call to Africa’s political leadership to grasp this unfolding, rare and unprecedented opportunity in the history of global partnerships in socio-economic development process. The paper, firstly, analyses the characteristics of the Initiatives. Secondly, builds up a case why Africa should or needs to embrace the

Initiative. Thirdly, puts forward recommendations on how to deal with emerging challenges in the implementation of the Initiative. Ultimately, concludes by underscoring that BRI is the vehicle for brightening the future of Africa in the context of China-Africa cooperation.