

▶ Projects have been conducted under FOCAC framework

China, Africa to embrace green transformation opportunities

By Yin Yeping

China-Africa cooperation sees greater opportunities in green transformation as both sides embrace high-quality cooperation in the new era, Chinese officials and experts said ahead of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which will be held from Wednesday to Friday in Beijing.

Speaking at a press briefing on Tuesday at the China National Convention Center, the forum's venue, Liu Yuxi, special representative of the Chinese Government on African Affairs, said that China and Africa have seized the historic opportunity of a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation in areas such as green development and digital innovation.

Sun Xiao, secretary general of the China Chamber of International Commerce, said at a separate press



conference that "many clean energy and green development projects have been conducted within the framework of FOCAC."

"China is an important partner for Africa in terms of green transition... China supports African countries to better leverage their advantages in solar, hydro and geothermal energy to achieve green, low-carbon and high-quality development," Sun said.

Energy shortages, especially the lack of electricity and the difficulty in achieving self-sufficiency, constrain Africa's industrialization and modernization, and cooperation with China has been a good response to such needs, Song Wei, a professor at the School of International Relations and Diplomacy at Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times.

Energy projects have been constructed in more than 40 African countries and regions, including photovoltaic, wind power, hydro-power and biomass, per official data.

This cooperation has resulted in an addition of 120 million kilowatts of installed power capacity and the construction of 66,000 kilometers of power grid lines.

In South Africa's Northern Cape Province, the Redstone 100-megawatt tower-type solar thermal power project, constructed by the Power Construction Corporation of China (PowerChina), has almost finished construction. It is the first CSP project in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a statement PowerChina sent to the Global Times.

Once it enters operation, the project will supply 480 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually to the grid, meeting the demand of 200,000 local households, PowerChina said.

Spanish PM to visit China, 'showing consensus of stabilizing China ties among European nations'

By Zhang Yuying and Li Yawei

The upcoming China visit by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez is expected to further promote practical cooperation and shows a consensus that European countries, Spain included, are willing to foster a healthy and stable relationship with China.

At the invitation of Premier Li Qiang of the State Council, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will pay an official visit to China from September 8 to 11, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning announced on Tuesday.

During Sanchez's visit, the two sides will exchange views on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. The two sides will also hold the China-Spain Forum, the China-Spain Business Advisory Council Meeting and the China-Spain Business Forum, among other events, Mao said.

China hopes that through this visit, the two sides will further advance bilateral relations, deepen mutual trust through high-level exchanges, address global challenges through high-quality cooperation, and add new dimensions to China-Spain comprehensive strategic partnership, Mao added.

The visit of the Spanish Prime Minister to China at this time reflects the consensus between China and Europe to uphold high-level interactions, so as to stabilize and promote China-Europe relations, Cui Hongjian, a professor from the Academy of Regional and Global Governance with Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

China-Spain relations have maintained stable development for a long time, and Cui believes Sanchez's visit and bilateral communication will focus on overall positioning and planning for future advancement of the relationship between the two countries.

Economic and trade exchanges are expected to be a key part of the agenda, as there are significant opportunities for stronger cooperation on manufacturing, infrastructure, new energy and green transformation, Cui said.

Against the backdrop of EU imposing tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, Cui noted the two sides will also touch on how to properly handle trade frictions between China and Europe.

Sanchez's upcoming visit sends a clear signal that most European countries, including Spain, are committed to fostering a healthy and stable relationship between China and Europe, Cui said.

Cui believes this will help enhance global confidence in the stability of major power relations amid current major changes in the global landscape.

▶ Responding to infections



A passenger walks past airport staff members standing in the Overseas Infectious Disease Reporting Center at Incheon International Airport in Seoul, South Korea on September 3, 2024 in a training drill to respond to an influx of new infectious diseases. South Korea redesignated monkeypox, now renamed Mpox, as an infectious disease subject to border screening on August 21. Photo: VCG

Pressure mounts on Netanyahu amid protests; 'cease-fire deal elusive with US support'

By Yang Sheng

Nationwide protests against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu across Israel are calling for a cease-fire deal in exchange for hostages, but analysts saw dim hope of such a deal as Israel, with US support, can still withstand the pressure and sustain the war.

Hundreds of thousands of protesters took to streets in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Caesarea and other sites in Israel on Monday over the government's failure to

make a deal with Hamas, CNN reported. Protests were fueled by the killing of six hostages in Gaza, whose bodies were retrieved over the weekend.

Netanyahu has been accused of stalling efforts for a deal by some hostage families and their supporters. More than 100 hostages, including 35 believed to be dead, are still being held in Gaza, according to CNN.

Netanyahu's wartime cabinet has three major missions to hold on to power - bringing the hostages back, eliminating

Hamas and rebuilding a Gaza based on Israel's interests, Liu Zhongmin, a professor at the Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University, told the Global Times on Tuesday.

But 11 months into the conflict, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed and Hamas is still fighting, and as some Israeli hostages were killed by Israeli strikes, the situation is extremely embarrassing for Israeli leaders, Liu said.

The pressure comes also

from Israel's key allies. US President Joe Biden said on Monday that Netanyahu was not doing enough to secure a deal for the release of hostages, Reuters reported.

The UK has suspended some arms sales to Israel, saying there is a "clear risk" the equipment could be used to commit serious violations of international law, the BBC reported.

Liu said that by attacking not only Palestinians, but also Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis

in Yemen and other targets in Iran, Israel has made enough enemies, and at this point, the fight is getting increasingly pointless and meaningless, and it is time to stop the bloodshed.

But as long as the US' support remains, Israel will be able to afford the cost of the war and withstand external pressure, so it will be difficult to see a sustainable cease-fire, Liu noted.

