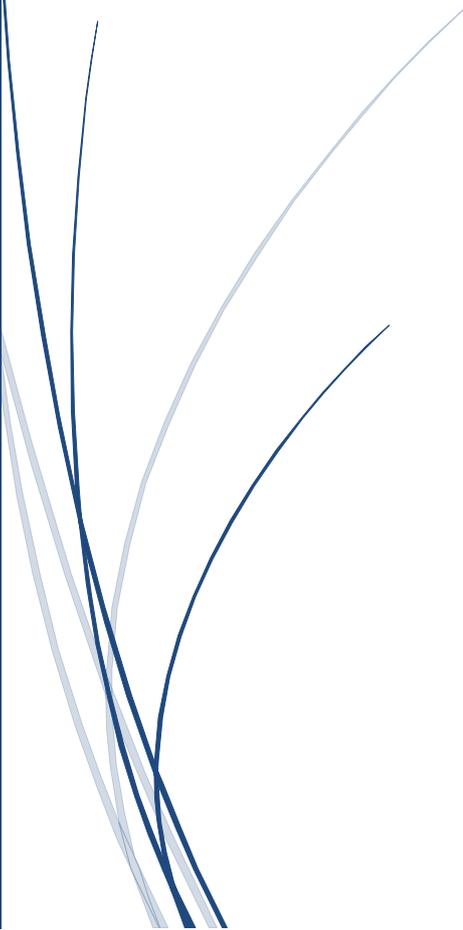


28/10/2020

Africa-China Media Cooperation 2020

The China-Africa media cooperation in the post-pandemic era



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AFRICAN UNION OF BROADCASTING

Distinguished members of this Assembly;

Ladies and Gentlemen...

The world is definitely going through hard times.

Because of the Covid19 Pandemic, hundreds of important events have been postponed while others have simply been cancelled to restrict the spread of the virus through physical contacts.

Let me therefore seize the opportunity to send words of encouragement to the Government of the People's Republic of China and our colleagues in the media for their commitment, perseverance and resilience during these critical moments.

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I'm especially pleased to meet with you on the occasion of the 2020 edition of the China-Africa Media Summit.

This morning, I have been invited to speak on the China-Africa media cooperation in the post-pandemic era, so, allow me to stress on "The role of Chinese and African media for supporting economic and social development".

Ladies and Gentlemen....

Media cooperation between Africa and China is growing crescendo. China and African countries have been sharing experiences in media operations, programs, productions, technical services, capacity building, etc.

During the last two years, more than 400 government officials and heads of media organization from close to 50 African countries and from China attended the China-Africa Media Summit and many cooperative agreements have been signed to this effect.

This cooperation is also evidenced by the strong connection between the African Union of Broadcasting and the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union which has perpetuated the exchange of news and programs of the two regions (Africa & Asia).

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, China has been standing by African countries as a partner of choice. One of the most sparkling, significant and immediate actions taken by China was the important donation made by Chinese business magnate and philanthropist, Jack Ma.

As reported by hundreds of media worldwide, in March 2020, Jack Ma's Foundation announced a donation of anti-Covid19 material and equipments, notably masks and testing kits to a total of 54 African countries.

Each of the 54 African nations were to receive twenty thousand testing kits, one hundred thousand masks and one thousand medical use protective suits and face shields.

These donations started with Ethiopia where the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took the lead in managing the logistics and onward distribution of the supplies to the African countries.

In the same vein, the support of the Rwanda Development Board and the close cooperation with the Rwanda Biomedical Center has been playing a vital role in enabling rapid response and delivery of donated medical supplies.

In June 2020, Chinese president, His Excellency Xi Jinping called on Africa and China to stay committed to fighting Covid-19 together. He promised that China will continue to do whatever it can to support Africa's response.

Sino-African solidarity and better multilateral cooperation are keys to winning the battle against the pandemic.

From a financial point of view, China also worked with G20 members to implement the G20's Debt Service Suspension Initiative so as to extend debt service suspension for third world nations including African countries and enable their governments sustain their fragile economies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Most of the significant projects taking place across Africa in various sectors are led by the Chinese government and Chinese firms.

This economic cooperation is the outcome of the economic and political cooperation that has been the stamp of China-Africa relations since African countries started fighting for independence in the 50's.

Chinese companies are present in Africa in the fields of public works (construction of roads, bridges, museums, congress hall, stadia, just to name a few). And the media has always been playing an important role in the implementation of these projects by giving the right information to the general public on the progress of works and potential benefits.

Africa and China are encouraged to strengthen the bonds of solidarity and take collective action to secure the future of humanity. To this effect, we encourage Chinese media to report fairly on racists and hate speeches encountered by African citizens living on their territories during these difficult times.

Today, we believe that Africans are mature enough to tell their own story through their media.

To this end, we invite China to fully join our AUB Network of Program Exchange which is an assurance that both regions will perpetuate good content exchanges and respectively learn about each other's values and culture.

By committing our joint efforts, we will then contribute in building up a **Community of Shared Future of Mankind**.

Thank you for your kind attention!