

# ICCCASU

**ICCCASU II 2017 Report  
for Global Affairs Canada  
Recommendations  
on Areas of Possible Collaboration  
between Canada and China in Africa**

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Photos 1 & 2. Cultural presentations organized by MINHDU in front of the Congress of Yaoundé in Cameroon



Photo 3. The audience ICCASU II opening ceremony



Photo 4. Participants at registration table



Photo 5. A glimpse of workshops



Photo 6. Gordon Campbell at his keynote speech



Photo 7. The Minister Mbwentchou meeting with the High Commissioner of Canada in Cameroon, Nathalie O'Neil and Mr. Campbell



Photo 8. Meeting with Prime Minister of Cameroon, Philemon Yang, accompanied by O'Neil, Mbwentchou, Dibong, Campbell, Tuts, Belanger, Gu, Badiane, and Cao. As well as the representatives of the South Korean and Chinese delegation



Photo 9. Minister Mbwentchou at press conference



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Anne Fouda (left) and Chaolin Gu (right)



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Photo 18. The High Commissioner of Canada in Cameroun and the representative of Global Affairs Canada (Pierre Belanger) with the ICCCASU II participants



Photo 19. Meeting of the Chinese delegation



Photo 20. ICCCASU II Coordinator (Rebecca) along with local volunteers

# **Recommendations on Areas of Possible Collaboration between Canada and China in Africa**

**ICCCASU II 2017 Report  
for Global Affairs Canada**



**Secretariat of the International Conference on Canadian,  
Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU)**

Ottawa, Canada

March, 2018

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# Forward

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It is our honour to present this report entitled “Recommendations on Areas of Possible Collaboration between Canada and China in Africa.” It is based on the outcome of the *2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU)*, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. Focusing on Smart Urban Development: From Local to Global Actions, ICCCASU II was staged in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the University of Ottawa. For the approximately 500 scholars, practitioners, policy-makers, students and engaged citizens who participated, ICCCASU II was an excellent opportunity to explore ways in which Cameroon and other African countries might address urbanization in a more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive manner, consistent with their unique context and people. While neither Canada nor China has a “perfect” model of urbanization, both have formulated tailored responses to urban problems and found innovative solutions to complex social challenges.

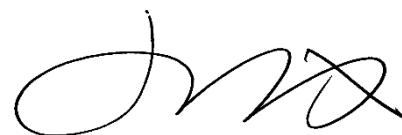
In the process of transitioning to majority-urban populations, African countries have much to learn from Canada and China – both best practices and key pitfalls to avoid. Canadian and Chinese engagement with Africa with respect to urbanization is also consistent with the 2016 joint statement between Canada and the People’s Republic of China supporting collaboration in Third-Party Markets. This underscores the importance of initiatives like ICCCASU that support trilateral dialogue between Canada, China, and African countries. Such exchanges can produce tangible benefits for all parties, strengthening prospects for collaboration in service of sustainable development. We are extremely grateful to Global Affairs Canada (GAC) for its support and sponsorship. The expertise, engagement and enthusiasm of GAC were key to the success of ICCCASU II. We would also like to express our thank to Natalie O’Neil, Canada’s High Commissioner to Cameroon, who hosted a reception for ICCCASU II and graciously dedicated her time to making the conference a success.

We hope that the partnership between Global Affairs Canada and ICCCASU will extend as we are working hard to hold a possible third edition of ICCCASU in 2019 in China, which, among other things, will enable Canada to better engage with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).





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## ummary

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The goals of ICCCASU II -- held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December 2017 -- largely resonate with the four main objectives of Global Affairs Canada (GAC), as well as the five strategic axes of its plan for “Canada and Sub-Saharan Africa.” With its growing international influence, ICCCASU shows significant potential as a platform for dialogue. As a channel of communication, ICCCASU can assist in meeting the strategic objectives of Chinese and Canadian partners in Africa, in support of the tripartite economic collaboration envisioned in the September 2016 agreement between Ottawa and Beijing.

Given its long-time commitment to Africa, Canada’s experience can inform and improve the effectiveness of Chinese development assistance programs. Through strategic partnerships, China’s financial capacity could be brought to bear on achieving GAC’s goals. This situation is particularly favourable to an alignment of Canadian and Chinese initiatives in Africa, building on the common interests of both parties. To this end, we have identified several areas in which ICCCASU might play a strategic role:

- The promotion of smart and sustainable urban infrastructure
- The fight against climate change and need to increase the capacity for resilience
- Building professional capacity through inclusion, research and education
- Peacekeeping and support for security
- Economic cooperation between Canadian, Chinese and African partners

Synergies with respect to the goals and capabilities of Canada and China should be brought to bear on Beijing's new *Belt and Road Initiative* (BRI) – for which Africa is a key focus. To leverage African markets, it will be necessary for China to improve infrastructure, augment the capacity of the African labour market, and increase the purchasing power of the middle class – all areas in which China could benefit from Canada’s long-term experience in Africa. In turn, Canada could strengthen opportunities for economic cooperation and foreign direct investment, especially with the ongoing development of a continental free trade area.

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ICCCASU II on Local Media: [http://chinaeam.uottawa.ca/ICCCASU/?page\\_id=3006](http://chinaeam.uottawa.ca/ICCCASU/?page_id=3006)

ICCCASU II List of Awards: [http://chinaeam.uottawa.ca/ICCCASU/?page\\_id=2993](http://chinaeam.uottawa.ca/ICCCASU/?page_id=2993)



# Overview of ICCCASU II 2017

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With the sponsorship of the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon and in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the University of Ottawa, the *2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization*<sup>1</sup> (ICCCASU II) was held in Cameroon's capital, Yaoundé, from December 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Initiated and supervised by ICCCASU Co-Presidents, Drs. Alioune Badiane and Huhua Cao, this platform made it possible to explore challenges associated with rapid urbanization and facilitated the sharing of knowledge, of technological know-how, and of best practices in the field of urban development. These issues are directly linked to the implementation of the UN's *New Urban Agenda*<sup>2</sup> and are aligned with the four general objectives of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and the five main axes of its strategic plan for "Canada and Sub-Saharan Africa." GAC officials were able to discuss these issues with the many international experts, government officials, and senior members of international organizations who participated in the conference.

## 1.1. A Successful Organization

Approximately 500 academics, professionals and international politicians gathered in Yaoundé, Cameroon to share their perspectives on sustainable and responsible urbanization (Photos 1 & 2). Through more than 50 panels, ICCCASU II enabled close to 200 academics to present their work. In addition to participants from China, Canada and UN-Habitat – roughly half of the total – 90 other institutions were represented, as were 300 Cameroonians (Photos 3 & 4).

Many government officials, professionals and academics from Africa took the opportunity to share their work and concerns about urban development on the continent. In addition, more than 300 professionals from different African countries gathered for the fifteen pre-conference workshops held from December 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> at the Convention Center in Yaoundé (Photo 5). These workshops were a real success. While enthusiastically received by the participants, they greatly contributed to

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<sup>1</sup> The International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU) was originally a University Ottawa initiative developed in late 2014 and consolidated by UN-Habitat professionals at the beginning of 2015. As a non-profit think-tank, ICCCASU has become a joint project between the University of Ottawa and UN-Habitat.

<sup>2</sup> The *New Urban Agenda* (NUA) adopted at the HABITAT III Summit in October 2016 in Quito Ecuador. It is a document intended to guide national and local policies on growth and development of cities until 2036.

ICCCASU's capacity-building efforts for African partners<sup>3</sup>. Several UN-Habitat professionals and international academics provided their expertise, offering training sessions on issues ranging from sustainable urbanization to conflict management, waste management, big data, and community and inclusive fund management.

### **1.2. Major Panelists and International Academics**

The success of the event is also evidenced by the high-level panellists who joined ICCCASU. In particular, we want to acknowledge the remarkable contributions of Rafael Tuts (the Director of the UN-Habitat Program Division), Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza (Director of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa), Gordon Campbell (former mayor of Vancouver and Prime Minister of British Columbia) (Photo 6), Chaolin Gu (internationally renowned Professor from Tsinghua University), and Gordon Harris (urban planner and President and CEO of the Community Trust at Simon Fraser University). In total, nine international speakers delivered keynote addresses at the Conference: three from China, two from Canada, two from UN-Habitat and two from Cameroon. These individuals not only raised the international visibility of the event but contributed a high-level perspective on urban development.

The Canadian delegation was also honoured to include Canada's High Commissioner in Cameroon, Nathalie O'Neil, and Global Affairs Canada's Deputy Director of Pan-African Affairs Division, Pierre Bélanger. Mr. Bélanger, the official representative of the Canadian government to ICCCASU, played a key role in the allocation of funds from GAC to ICCCASU and was involved in all aspects of the event.

Academics from more than thirty countries in Africa and elsewhere (Switzerland, France, Germany, US, South Korea, Romania, Brazil, etc...) reinforced the international character of the conference. The South Korean delegation expressed a strong interest in becoming involved in the third eventual edition of ICCCASU, which we are hoping to stage in China in 2019.

### **1.3. A Platform for Exchange and Cooperation**

The involvement and advocacy of the Cameroonian government were crucial to the success of ICCCASU II. Prime Minister Philemon Yang received a small delegation of key ICCCASU representatives at the opening of the conference, at which he expressed his strong support for the event (Photo 8).

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<sup>3</sup> Initially planned to accommodate a maximum of 120 people, the training workshops on urban development that took place at the Palais des Congrès in Yaoundé from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 received a participation of about 300 people, including 270 Cameroonians. The participants have the following profiles: 5 mayors, 50 government officers, 20 architects, 65 professionals, 57 journalists, as well as 103 students from over 50 academic institutions.

In addition to making the Conference Center in Yaoundé available and allocating essential funds for holding the conference, the Cameroonian government was strongly mobilized in the various panels held throughout ICCCASU II. The Cameroonian Minister of Housing and Urban Development (MINDU), Jean-Claude Mbwentchou, played a central role in the preparation and success of the Conference by expressing his continued involvement throughout the event (Photos 9 & 10). We were also honoured to welcome six other government ministers from Cameroon at the opening ceremony on December 12<sup>th</sup> (Photo 11). Similarly, the Government of Cameroon organized a local committee of some forty professionals and volunteers to work with the ICCCASU International Secretariat and ensure that the event ran smoothly (Photo 12). The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development also staged several networking and entertainment events to support the conference. These included a Gala evening on Thursday, December 13 at the Mont Fébé Hotel, which included the attendance of the Minister Mr. Mbwentchou, the High Commissioner of Canada in Cameroon, Ms. O'Neil, UN-Habitat officials, Rafael Tuts and Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, the former Premier of British Columbia, Mr. Campbell, Chinese Embassy officials in Cameroon, ICCCASU Co-Presidents, Mr. Badiane and Mr. Cao, as well as representatives of the Chinese delegations and the University of Ottawa (Photos 13 & 14).

The ICCCASU Secretariat took advantage of this gala evening to present 17 awards and honours to high-level participants and to the professors and students who contributed to the success and international scope of the conference. The event brought together participants in a warm and constructive atmosphere, favourable to exchanges and networking (Photos 15 & 16).

On the first evening of the conference, we had the honour of being invited by Nathalie O'Neil, Canada's High Commissioner to Cameroon, at her residence to celebrate the success of ICCCASU II. Representatives of the Government of Cameroon, Chinese and Canadian delegations and other government representatives were in attendance. This reception was an ideal opportunity to strengthen the links between the various delegations, to promote many exchanges and to allow the optimization of their respective professional networks (photos 17 & 18).

In the end, it is equally important to highlight the success of ICCCASU II was also made possible by the sustained involvement of the University of Ottawa, where a range of professors and students worked tirelessly to facilitate the productive collaboration between the delegations of Canada, China and UN-Habitat (photos 19 & 20).

One of the most significant achievements of this collaboration is undoubtedly the engagement that the government of Cameroon and UN-Habitat helped with the creation of a UN-Habitat research and training center in Yaoundé. This center will continue the work begun at ICCCASU II in anticipation of the upcoming conference in China. By responding to the challenges of sustainable urbanization – among which are effective development assistance, participatory and collaborative practices, the transition to sustainable sources of energy, stewardship of the environment, the inclusion of women, the promotion of peace and security, and the strengthening of economic and trade links this work is perfectly aligned with GAC's priorities and strategic positions.

## **I**CCCASU's Synergy with the Priorities of Global Affairs Canada

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The various panels, workshops and sessions of this second edition of ICCCASU largely addressed the four main objectives of GAC as well as the five strategic axes of its plan for "Canada and sub-Saharan Africa."

As a platform for bringing people together, ICCCASU represents a strategic opportunity for Canada, both in Africa and with key partners like China. The success of this platform is evident with the engagement to create a research and training center in Yaoundé and the eventual establishment of a research center and international secretariat for ICCCASU at the School of International Development and Global Studies (SIDGS) at the University of Ottawa. This same platform can become a driver for development assistance in Africa, as well as a means of implementing programs that promote peacebuilding and security. It opens the possibility of partnerships with established research centers such as the *Human Rights Research and Education Centre* at the University of Ottawa; the *Réseau d'Échanges Stratégiques pour une Afrique Urbaine Durable* (RESAUD) at the University of Montreal, and *Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism* and the *Institute of African Studies* at Carleton University. By leveraging such partnerships and mobilizing stakeholders from academia, civil society, governmental and intergovernmental organizations, ICCCASU plans to implement workshops and pilot projects that address key issues raised during its biennial conferences. In so doing, ICCCASU can support diplomatic and economic relations between China, Canada and its African partners and help Canada to position itself with respect to one of the key global issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, namely the industrialization and development of Africa and China's involvement in this process.



**2.1. Contribute to Peace, Security and Humanitarian Assistance** (internationally) through renewed leadership and constructive international engagement

ICCCASU both supports and complements GAC's initiatives by organizing high-level international exchanges between governmental and intergovernmental partners, nongovernmental organizations, universities, and industry partners in Canada, Africa and China. Our permanent platform also supports efforts to promote development and sustainable urbanization in Africa with the help of Chinese and Canadian partners. Such tripartite cooperation makes it possible to realize long-term projects while strengthening bilateral relations between stakeholders.

**2.1.1 1<sup>st</sup> Point of Objective 1:** *"Increase Canada's involvement and investment in international conflict management and peacekeeping operations in fragile and crisis-affected places, including advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda and protection and education of children affected by armed conflict."*

ICCCASU supports this objective in as much as conflict management and peacebuilding cannot be separated from the process of urbanization programs. Research, reflection and dialogue on sustainable urbanization in fragile states and/or countries in post-conflict situations helps to address this objective, whether in terms of socio-economic development, access to health care, infrastructure, or inclusive and participatory processes. ICCCASU's efforts are relevant to GAC's policies on Women, Peace and Security. Many studies highlight women's leadership and positive roles in post-conflict situations, particularly at the entrepreneurial level. It is in this perspective that studies on sustainable urbanization could address fragility. In the training workshops that preceded the opening of ICCCASU II, UN-Habitat held workshops on designing safe and inclusive public spaces, as well as supporting sustainable urbanization by empowering women. Workshops conducted by academics from the University of Ottawa, University of Montreal and the University of Yaoundé 1, also addressed issues related to the development of innovative and competitive local economies or collaborative and participatory management methods in informal settlements.

Several panels were devoted to the prevention and management of security risks in urban areas, including mechanisms for political management and community participation. Panel A, a panel on urban security and risk management directed by Claude Albert Meutchehe Ngomsi from UN-Habitat specifically addressed the fight against crime in Cameroon, the security challenges in Central Africa, and crime-prevention in Sub-Saharan Africa. Similarly, the special Panel No. 3: Commitment of Women and Youth, led by GAC Representative Pierre Bélanger, focused on issues of

gender and inclusivity in urban planning in Africa, as well as on employment for women and youth.

**2.1.2 3<sup>rd</sup> Point of Objective 1:** *"Providing needs-based, principled and effective responses to humanitarian crises to protect and assist crisis-affected populations, including those forcibly displaced."*

While most urban development outside of large metropolitan areas occurs informally, the identification of best practices for small- and medium-sized cities in Africa could augment their capacity and long-term resilience. Resilience-building could, for example, be accomplished by planning for the waves of rural-to-urban migration that result from humanitarian and environmental crises, and by better resource management (water, food, habitat) in order to support these populations as close as possible to their zones of origin. ICCCASU II included panels on cities and resilience planning, on the mobility and urban demography, and on food security. A representative from Douala, for example, gave a presentation about the use of hydraulic infrastructures to mitigate environmental risks. At the same time, Allan Cain, from the Development Workshop of Angola, and professor Yangfan Li of the Chinese University of Xiamen, presented the different goals of resilience building in African and Chinese cities facing climate change.

**2.1.3 4<sup>th</sup> Point of Objective 1:** *"Advancing Canada's Interests in Key international forums such as the United Nations and through our campaign for a UN Security Council seat."*

Support for ICCCASU, which stages international conferences on a different continent every two years, comes primarily from the University of Ottawa and UN-Habitat. These events attract high-level players from different countries and international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank, as well as academics and international professionals.

From its first conference, held in 2015 in Ottawa, ICCCASU has attracted a number of co-sponsors. As part of the second conference, staged in Yaoundé, Cameroon, UN-Habitat worked with ICCCASU to establish a research and training center Yaoundé, a concrete outcome of its efforts at engagement with the government of Cameroon.

From the first edition, held in 2015 in Ottawa, UN-Habitat has been a co-organizer. Also, it acted during this second edition to enable the creation of a research and training center Yaoundé, a concrete possibility to realize in engagement by the government of Cameroon and UN-Habitat on the issue of ICCCASU II.

With the possibility of creating a similar research center at the SIDGS, which will also house a permanent secretariat for the organization, ICCCASU is poised to play an increasingly important role for Canada. ICCCASU can provide a framework for collaboration between intergovernmental organizations in support of common goals. It is expected that organizations like the World Bank, the OECD and other agencies within the UN would embrace ICCCASU as a platform through which to mobilize international specialists in sustainable urbanization, especially with regard to diplomatic action and development programs initiated by Canada and China on the African continent.

While numerous representatives from UN-Habitat, the World Bank, the Cameroon government and universities participated in ICCCASU II, the involvement of two individuals was especially significant. These are Rafael Tuts, Director of the Programme Division of UN-Habitat, and Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Director of UN-Habitat's regional office for Africa. Their efforts focused on the implementation of the UN's *New Urban Agenda* and its role for Africa. In addition, the panel chaired by Nana Lee of the *Korea Appraisal Board* addressed the funding of sustainable urbanization for which two other panels dealt specifically with the mobilization of endogenous financial resources. This issue was of particular interest to the Lead Delegate of the European Union in Cameroon and to representatives from the World Fund for City Development and the World Bank.

ICCCASU provides a very useful channel through which Canada can augment its presence and strengthen relationships with two very important players on the global scene of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, namely China and Africa.

## ***2.2. Consolidate Key Bilateral Relations to Continue Serving Canada's Best Interests***

ICCCASU can play a strategic role in consolidating bilateral relations between Canada, China, and key partners in Africa – which will play an increasingly important role in the global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Apart from the sustained involvement of African players within ICCCASU II (notably Philemon Yang, the Prime Minister of Cameroon, and Jean-Claude Mbwentchou, Cameroon's Minister of Housing and Urban Development), the conference in Yaoundé engaged a number of significant Asian partners, including an important delegation of Chinese academics, representatives from the town councils of Yinchuan and Heihe, and the representatives of the *Korean Appraisal Board*. Thus, ICCCASU provided a channel for a cross-governmental partnerships with China, and an opportunity for Canada to better position itself with respect to such partnerships where initiatives in Africa are concerned.

### **2.3. Consolidate the Canadian Contribution for a Fairer, more Sustainable and more Inclusive World**

The challenges of sustainable and inclusive urbanization in Africa are complex – as are the range of responses and approaches. As a key focus of ICCCASU, sustainable urbanization in Africa aligns with Canada’s efforts to aid development, increase of the capacities of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, involve women, and battle climate change.

- 2.3.1. 1<sup>st</sup> Point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Objective:** *"Implementing a distinctive new Canadian vision for international assistance that advances the dignity and livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable people, promotes the economic empowerment of women and girls, builds on Canada’s strengths, and makes a strong contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."* and
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Objective:** *"Pursuing strategic collaboration with Canadian, international and local partners to champion poverty eradication and the values of inclusive and accountable governance, including by promoting human rights, women’s empowerment, peaceful pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity."*

ICCCASU supports efforts to maintain the dignity and the self-sufficiency of the poorest and most vulnerable populations by fostering dialogue and helping both to identify and implement projects that support the social and economic development of women and girls. Many panels and presentations were devoted to the active participation of women and youth, and to the strengthening of the local social and economic infrastructure. Such presentations included one on the empowerment of women through smart urban development and another on the role of youth in making energy resources more accessible in Africa.

Related presentations topics included the role of public policy in maximizing the potential of emerging urban economies, the different aspects of the poverty in informal development in Africa, and the potential impact of urban policies on social and economic transformation. To expand on these topics, the Special Panel #1, conducted by Angela Wai from UN-Habitat dealt with health and diet by exploring the link between, on one hand, urban policies and health, and between health and the environment on the other. The Panel I1, monitored by Sylvie Siyam from the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance (FEICOM) addressed the advantages and challenges of urban agriculture in Africa. Other panels focused on climate change, access to water, and water resource management. This was the case for panel E1, moderated by Allan Cain from Angola’s Development Workshop, panel E3 conducted

by Xinping Wang from the University of Southeastern China, panel E5/6 run by Yangfan Li from Xiamen University and Dingping Guo from Fudan University.

Based at the University of Ottawa, ICCCASU is a Canadian asset from which GAC can benefit. The interaction it fosters and the initiatives it undertakes contribute to the realization of sustainable development goals – with the collaboration and direct involvement of the parties most likely to be affected. In addition to the many representatives from the Cameroon Ministry of Housing and Urban Development who identified concerns and presented their work, other African partners greatly contributed to ICCCASU II. While it's important to acknowledge the sustained support of academics, town planners, and civil servants from Cameroon, ICCCASU attracted participants from local associations, from the Tanzania Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Cattle, and the Director General of Mali's National Agency for Community Investment (l'Agence malienne Nationale d'Investissement des Collectivités Territoriales).

**2.3.2 3<sup>rd</sup> Point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Objective:** *"Contributing to the protection and responsible management of the environment and the global fight against climate change."* and

**4<sup>th</sup> Point of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Objective:** *"Promoting inclusive, sustainable and green economic growth in developing countries."*

These interconnected objectives are at the core of ICCCASU, which supports not only the discussion and sharing of best-practices related to sustainable urbanization but promotes capacity-building in communities to which these practices are applied and supports the development of networks and infrastructures which require little energy and have negligible environmental impacts.

Several panels and presentations addressed the management and treatment of waste in African cities, including the development of sustainable and efficient transportation networks, the use of local materials as a means of combating climate change, and urban planning as a tool to promote resilience and mitigate environmental degradation. Particular focus was given to urban agriculture and to boosting environmental services in urban agglomerations, stressing the positive impacts of food security and public health, and the importance of green spaces and networks in the African cities of tomorrow.

ICCCASU's focus on sustainable urbanization is also an ideal lens through which to reflect on the efficient use of natural resources. Our platform fosters and promotes indigenous solutions from those living in informal settlements and in areas threatened by climate change. These have not only drawn attention to the issues of management

and distribution of water resources, energy citizenship, but also the ongoing links between urban and rural communities (Rurbanisation<sup>4</sup>) and the exploitation of natural resources.

## **2.4. Contributions to Inclusive Prosperity in Canada and Abroad**

At ICCCASU II, importance was placed on transitions underway on the African continent. By working upstream in this process, the conference emphasized the importance of alternative energy sources in the economic and industrial transformation of Africa. The D1 panel led by Joly René Assako, the Vice President of the University of Douala, discussed the evolution of industrial parks in Africa, focusing on areas of economic development and the potential role that technological parks might play.

### **2.4.1 3<sup>rd</sup> Point of the 4<sup>th</sup> Objective: "Developing and leading a progressive trade agenda that will consider issues such as labour, the environment, gender equality, transparency and inclusive economic growth."**

ICCCASU can play an important role in bringing Canadian companies into the African market to work on a range of issues. These include the development and construction of transportation infrastructure, renewable energy generation, responsible resource extraction, and sustainable and inclusive approaches to the urbanization linked to the extraction of such resources. As leaders in these areas, Canadian companies could supply materials and machinery. Canadian entities also have much to offer the African market with respect to expertise and training, whether in terms of urban planning and architecture, energy development, engineering and construction, resource extraction, or the implementation of urbanization policies, plans and programs. Moreover, by working in collaboration with China, Canada would not increase its influence in Africa but would also ensure the promotion and defence of its values on the international stage.

## **R**ecommendations for Areas of Possible Collaboration between Canada and China in Africa

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Sustainable urbanization has both trans-disciplinary and multi-sector implications that permit multiple areas of collaboration between Canada and China in Africa. This field links ICCCASU with Global Affairs Canada's strategic objectives, including

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<sup>4</sup> According to the Oxford Dictionary, *Rurbanisation* is defined as the influence of rural society on urban life, or inversely, rural urbanisation. For more information see links below: <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/rurbanization>

development assistance, increased inclusiveness, peace and security, the fight against climate change, as well as prospects for economic, scientific and political cooperation.

By fostering the dialogue with Beijing, Canada could benefit from Chinese influence and experience in Africa, enabling it to better achieve its own goals. ICCCASU also opens a second channel of communication with the Chinese institutions and partners active on the African continent. The importance of Sino-Canadian collaboration in Africa was underscored by the signing of a joint statement to develop Sino-Canadian collaboration in third-party markets on the occasion of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's state visit to Canada in September 2016<sup>5</sup>. This agreement encourages China and Canada to work together to pursue economic opportunities in developing countries. This agreement can be essential tool and mechanism to foster Canadian-Chinese partnerships in Africa, particularly with respect to numerous sections of the report. The Chinese Embassy in Canada has also expressed its support for collaboration with respect to China's development assistance, which is well-funded. Canadian's experience in development assistance can be complementary to those of China's programs.

### **3.1. Development Assistance**

Beijing's major development efforts over the last two decades have enabled Chinese companies to be at the forefront of the African market – whether in the fields of construction, transportation, heavy industry or communication infrastructure. Cooperation between Canada and China in the area of development assistance could not only augment the implementation of the GAC's strategic objectives; they will lead to the strategic positioning of Canadian companies and players in Africa while strengthening opportunities for collaboration with their Chinese counterparts. GAC should, therefore, pay particular attention to several key areas of development assistance directly related to the ongoing urbanization of the African continent.

#### **3.1.1 Development for Smart Cities**

While the Smart City phenomenon is of interest to cities in both Canada and China, many Canadian research centers are dedicated to this topic. In Africa, the development of Smart Cities must occur in tandem with the ongoing urbanization of the continent. This will require technological infrastructure, the training of qualified personnel, and companies that specialize in the collection and processing of data. This is an area in which Canadian experience could be brought to bear, and a means of promoting collaboration with Chinese partners.

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<sup>5</sup> For more details on the Joint Statement Between Canada and the People's Republic of China, visit: <https://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2016/09/23/joint-statement-between-canada-and-peoples-republic-china>

The National Institute of Scientific Research (INRS) in Montreal has several research chairs on the subject of smart cities, while Polytechnique Montréal recently launched the largest volume of research in Canada on the use of big data. Like Chinese cities, Canadian municipalities are investing heavily in this area of research. Several experimental neighbourhoods are also under development in Canada, including the *Quarter of Innovation* (Quartier de l'innovation) in Montreal led by Videotron, XCellAir and Ericsson in partnership with the School of Higher Technology (SHT) of Montreal. *Toronto's Sidewalk project* is being underwritten by the multinational company, Google, while the headquarters of the World Council on City Data at the University of Toronto, a world leader in the field.

An equally strategic issue for Chinese cities, along with security, is the management of transport flows and energy transition. Using development assistance in support of sustainable urbanization to bring together Canadian and Chinese companies with experiences in Africa offers significant potential for economic and commercial cooperation in the coming decades. With its experience and capabilities, Canada could be particularly attractive to Chinese partners who, through joint capacity-building and smart infrastructure programs in Africa, could forge important relationships with Canadian stakeholders.

### 3.1.2 Infrastructure

Chinese development aid is often tied to massive investment in heavy infrastructure, including transportation (roads, highways, port and rail infrastructure), buildings (public administration, hospitals and health centers, sports and cultural infrastructure), communication (internet, fiber optic, and telephone networks), public health (distribution and collection networks for drinking sanitation and stormwater). These investments, in turn, enable Chinese companies to enter the African market directly, in particular by awarding public contracts for the construction of this infrastructure.

Although it can be considered a model of rapid growth and urbanization, China could still benefit in terms of sustainable development – an area that can be addressed by Canadian experience and expertise. This expertise is also being promoted by ICCCASU which, as a Canadian organization, is very proud to be active on the African continent. Through the exchange of knowledge, training, capacity-building and support for the rapid urbanization of African cities, ICCCASU could be a point of convergence between Chinese and Canadian experts and entities who are active in Africa. Similarly, while China has invested heavily in African economies over the last few decades, African governments continue to hire third parties to test the feasibility of projects and to inspect construction, a role that Canadian companies could easily fulfill.



### **3.1.3 Electrification of Cities and Rural Areas**

Energy production and distribution also deserve special attention. One of the major challenges facing Africa is electrification. Both Canadian and Chinese companies have extensive national and international experience in this area. Sino-Canadian collaboration could be particularly promising in this emerging market. It would address the desire to develop third-party markets in which companies could work together.

### **3.1.4 The Development of Health Services**

The development of health services should also be a priority, both for sustainable urbanization and Rurbanization in Africa. Canadian development assistance in Africa could benefit from sustained collaboration with Chinese partners in the training of health professionals, the development of health infrastructure (availability of care, access to facilities, equipment, medicine, etc.), and awareness-raising with respect to the health of women and children. Healthcare being one of Canada's strengths, China could strengthen its own capacity through Sino-Canadian cooperation in Africa under the joint agreement between Ottawa and Beijing. Cooperation in development assistance and human capacity-building should be done in advance of investment in infrastructure and supply programs -- on which Chinese and Canadian companies could also cooperate.

### **3.1.5 Food Security and Self-sufficiency**

Food security and self-sufficiency figure prominently in international development assistance programs. Tied as they are to the fight against undernutrition and malnutrition, they must be seen in relation to health issues. Urban agriculture could be an area of focus with respect to urban planning in African cities. In addition to addressing the need for food self-sufficiency, it can mitigate air pollution (by strengthening the plant base in urban areas). Canadian companies are well positioned to contribute and cooperate with Chinese partners in the area of Urban Agriculture. Also, at play is the purchase of agricultural land in Africa by Chinese entrepreneurs whose production is exclusively export-oriented. Canada could intervene by cooperating with China both to promote urban agriculture and to optimize the impact of foreign direct investment in agriculture. China may be interested in better integrating its companies into the local socio-economic environment and in working more closely with local communities.

### **3.1.6 Education**

Both Canada and China have much to gain from collaboration in the area of education in Africa, especially with respect to managing urbanization, addressing environmental issues, promoting the inclusion of women, and implementing participatory management mechanisms. Awareness of these issues is largely limited to economic and political elites and public authorities. Investment in human and financial capacity in Africa has the potential to simultaneously sensitize and mobilize the general population on issues that affect them. It will also improve the long-term impact of aid by ensuring that the African populations are the primary actors of change and development.

Similarly, greater cooperation on primary and secondary education is essential, particularly through the provision of textbooks and supplies, the construction/rehabilitation of schools, and the training of staff. Post-secondary education is also a major issue for Canadian and Chinese interests. Building capacity in Africa helps to increase the effectiveness of aid programs. China and Canada are well positioned to provide professional training and to “train the trainers.” Given its affiliation with University of Ottawa and links with other Canadian universities, ICCASU offers an excellent platform for collaboration with China in the area of education and training. ICCASU's ambition is to promote exchanges and academic partnerships between Chinese, Canadian and African universities while offering quality training on the African continent.

### **3.2. *Inclusion, Peace, and Security***

Recognized for its role in maintaining peace on the African continent, Canada should look for ways to work with China in the areas of inclusion, peace, and security. As a key player on the continent over the past ten years, China remains discreet about these issues. Canada's continued cooperation with China could lay the groundwork for a ‘win-win partnership’ (as per China’s slogan for development aid in Africa). On the one hand, this partnership would strengthen China's political weight in Africa and augment Canada’s diplomatic position on the international stage. At the same time, this collaboration would better enable GAC to meet its objectives in Sub-Saharan Africa. This cooperation could be based on micro-level interventions aimed at strengthening the socio-economic sphere and social fabric of Africa. Such interventions should encourage participation and collaboration within African municipalities, improve urban security, promote better access to justice, and encourage the inclusion of women in society. As evidenced by the numerous panels and interventions devoted to these topics at ICCASU II, sustainable urbanization is at the intersection of many of these issues.

### 3.2.1 Peacekeeping

While Canada is internationally recognized for its commitment to peacekeeping and peace-building in Africa, China is increasingly emerging as a key player in this area. Now representing the second largest supporter of peacekeeping missions, China could become Canada's partner of choice for peace and security on the African continent.

In this regard, there are several opportunities for strengthening Sino-Canadian collaboration. Like Canada, China has developed a strategy based on its *soft power* in international markets. From this perspective, it may be of interest to China and Canada to work together on a pan-African response force under the guidance of the African Union, in line with what was accomplished with the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). This could involve the training of military personnel, the supply of equipment and armaments, and funding, but also technical, political and diplomatic support for the creation of such force coupled with a continental coordination center under the aegis of the African Union.

Over the past decade, peacekeeping in Africa has been done under the leadership of international armed forces more than by United Nations missions. The French military intervened in Libya, in the Central African Republic, and in Mali, in cooperation with the United States. At the same time, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) strengthened its military positions in the Sahel. It seems crucial for Canada and China to work together to reposition and enhance the role of the UN in these areas. In addition to joint political and diplomatic action under the auspices of the United Nations, the G5 Sahel could be an opportunity for Sino-Canadian collaboration. As France acknowledges the need for African security forces to compensate for the withdrawal of French troops engaged in Operation Barkhane, China and Canada could be part of a multi-party effort to build the capacity of African peacekeepers and national security forces. This is especially important in as much as Russia has already expressed an interest in increasing its military presence in the region as French troops withdraw.

Finally, cooperating with China to strengthen Canada's role in peacekeeping also means working upstream with (and within) the United Nations. This must be done only to promote political and diplomatic solutions to conflict resolution, but to foster collaborative multi-stakeholder platforms that are able to anticipate points of tension and to deploy international forces to avert conflicts.

### **3.2.2 Strengthening the Socio-Economic Context and the Fabric of Civil Society**

Although replete with challenges, the ongoing urbanization of Africa presents an excellent opportunity for fostering socio-economic development, strengthening civil society and building the capacity of African institutions. Emphasis should be placed on educational tools and on fostering entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on youth and women. This can be accomplished through joint initiatives, through support for organizations that promote collaborative and participatory processes, and through support for entrepreneurship. While these issues do not meet China's domestic priorities, they are nevertheless essential elements of any peace-building process. Canada, with its experience and expertise in this area, could help by complementing China's experiences to strengthen its commitment to peacebuilding and peacekeeping in tandem with development assistance.

### **3.2.3 Participatory and Inclusive Mechanisms in Municipalities**

Public participation and collaborative processes, both in the formulation of inclusive urban policies and in local political management, is at the heart of the concerns raised by ICCASU. These participatory and inclusive mechanisms are also key to the reconciliation, power-sharing, and mobilization of civil society necessary for peacebuilding and for strengthening the structure of the state.

Both Canada and China have demonstrated that increased participation at the municipal level has multiple benefits, whether in terms of urban planning, local governance or the development of local social and community programs. There are numerous examples of inclusive and participatory governance programs in Canada and China that could be applied to African cities. In Canada, the cities of Guelph, Toronto and Vancouver provide excellent case studies as does Shanghai, where citizen participation in budget reform in the Minhang district improved buy-in for governmental policies. Similarly, the Chengdu Municipality used participatory development as a strategy to promote community ownership of the municipal budget and to strengthen support for policies in both urban and rural areas of Sichuan province. Canadian experience with citizen participation could greatly benefit China, both with respect to its initiatives in Africa and its efforts to strengthen local governance at home. Inclusive participation is also essential for peace and security in Africa. Canada could work with China to promote participation through its ongoing international development assistance programs. This could also be done through academic research programs and their tripartite implementation through African government partners.

### 3.2.4 Security in an Urban Environment

As a key component of sustainable urbanization, urban security received considerable attention at ICCCASU II. Security involves not only the strengthening of the rule of law and the guarantee of safe and inclusive spaces for all, but also the fight against networks of informal governance that impede socio-economic development, erode institutional capacity, and block access to justice. While this is a major concern of Chinese and Canadian municipalities, different contexts require different methods and objectives. Canada ranks at the top of the world's benchmarks in the fight against corruption, access to justice and in the strength of the rule of law, while China has considerable expertise in combating corruption in the public sphere. As such, there is much to be gained from the two countries bringing their combined expertise to bear on governance in Africa. This could be done through tripartite collaboration between Canadian, Chinese and African municipalities, joint recommendations within government programs, or through joint initiatives within the various international programs focused on peace and state building that are underway on the African continent. Similarly, ICCCASU could be a point of departure for Canadian-Chinese cooperation in this area. In addition to the sustained involvement of the Cameroonian government in ICCCASU II, many representatives of African, Chinese and Canadian municipalities participated in the conference. Their partnerships, together with academic partnerships in this area, could facilitate collaboration through pilot projects led by ICCCASU.

### 3.2.5 Justice

Access to justice underscores the paradigm of participation and inclusivity in the process of urban development. In particular, the concept of the "right to the city," put forward in studies on urbanization, emphasizes that access to urban resources, collective power, and respect for the opinions of each individual are necessary to effect real social transformation. Access to justice is necessary in order both to manage both local conflicts and to address larger issues related to the distribution of power and corruption. Not only does Canada have effective models for fighting corruption and enhancing the transparency of the public sector, but it has the advantage of hosting international organizations like *Lawyers Without Borders*, which is already working on access to justice in several African countries. GAC could thus benefit from the synergy between governmental and non-governmental players in Canada to achieve its strategic objectives while leveraging opportunities for cooperation with Chinese partners in this domain. As with the previous points, Canadian expertise in this area can enhance Chinese capabilities and be brought to bear on peace and security in Africa.

### 3.2.6 Inclusion

Only when women and men have equal rights and opportunities with respect to access to land, housing, justice, and economic prosperity can we truly understand inequalities rooted in the structures of power. Equality translates to greater economic opportunity. Solutions to the problem of the inclusion of women should be addressed with all stakeholders, including governmental actors, representatives of civil society, affected communities and international partners involved in development aid. A particular focus must be on the different needs of women and girls marginalized by urban poverty.

It is also important to consider that gender-based issues of inequality are partly the result of conflicts between rural traditions and the legal frameworks associated with the rule of law. While national laws increasingly guarantee legal equality between women and men, the overlap between traditional and national legal frameworks creates obstacles to with respect to women's rights. It is essential to begin with awareness-raising campaigns to promote the rights of women. These campaigns could be targeted to women and girls, to traditional authorities, to local public authorities, and, in a broader sense, to men and boys. After laying the groundwork, efforts can be re-directed towards multilevel mechanisms, ranging from traditional to national authorities, to guarantee these rights. This could include online platforms, mobile networks, information on rights, access to rights and legal bodies, mechanisms through which to report grievances, and access to legal advice, assistance and dispute resolution.

As noted previously, inclusion and the enhancement of women's capacities are some of the major areas in which ICCCASU is involved. It is also an area in which Canada could offer its expertise to not only its African partners but to China. Access to land and the guarantee of women's rights are also major themes in China, as demonstrated by the mobilization of the *All-China Women's Federation*. China is also launching an ambitious system of legal land registration and rights protection. Collaborating with Chinese partners on this issue could, among other things, enhance opportunities for the participation of women in sustainable urban development, encourage women to take leading roles in post-conflict situations, and promote entrepreneurship and engagement in civil society.

### 3.3. *The Fight against Climate Change*

Since its launch at the University of Ottawa in 2015, the fight against climate change has been central to ICCCASU. It is also one of the key international issues on which Canada and China could collaborate, particularly in Africa. While the continent mobilizes to expand electrification, Africa could begin transitioning to renewable sources. With sustained and continuous urban growth, Africa must indeed anticipate

a sharp increase in energy demand and think carefully about modes of production and consumption.

While Canada has a wealth of experience and many leading companies in the field of hydro-electric generation and renewable energy, China has demonstrated its willingness to establish itself as the international leader in the fight against climate change – especially since the withdrawal of the United States from the *Paris Agreement*. A world leader in solar energy, China has extensive experience in both small- and large-scale renewable energy generation. Examples include the development of low-consumption and low-impact infrastructure and the electrification of both urban and rural zones. Environmental management, waste management and treatment infrastructure are essential to Africa, as is the need to augment the resilience and adaptation capacities of such infrastructure. Transitioning to renewable energy sources and designing infrastructure to be more resilient and responsive to climate change are a key part of strengthening African capacities with respect to Beijing’s *Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)*<sup>6</sup>.

### **3.3.1 Energy and Industrial Transitions**

Applying Canadian and Chinese expertise to energy retrofits, energy efficiency, pollution abatement, and to the development of renewable energy will help Africa bridge the gap that separates it from the rest of the world. Canada could benefit from the economic and diplomatic weight of China to capitalize on strategic opportunities on the African continent. As urbanization and industrial expansion lead to increased energy consumption, Canada should support its African partners in the development of renewable energy (e.g., solar, wind and hydroelectric power). Not only would this help Canada achieve its objectives with respect to the aid it provides and the fight against global warming, but it would create opportunities to capitalize on Canadian expertise. Such collaboration could be fostered through partnerships in international and regional climate action forums, scientific and academic partnerships, and tripartite partnerships with governments in Africa. Working with China would improve the chances of winning public contracts -- combining the know-how and economic capabilities of two world leaders in the field of energy.

### **3.3.2 Environmental Management and Waste Treatment**

The fight against global warming involves not only a change in energy production and consumption, but also efficient management of the environment and waste treatment.

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<sup>6</sup> For more details on the Belt and Road initiative, please see [http://en.silkroad.news.cn/?gclid=CjoKCOjwZzWBRD2ARIsAIPenY3oK\\_GtfrNWQtpvDr543FIVuOD4rdMa-MenbYCjIPg7bnydotXMhgaAtx-EALw\\_wcB](http://en.silkroad.news.cn/?gclid=CjoKCOjwZzWBRD2ARIsAIPenY3oK_GtfrNWQtpvDr543FIVuOD4rdMa-MenbYCjIPg7bnydotXMhgaAtx-EALw_wcB)

Canadian expertise can benefit both Africa and China. China could consider the opportunity to work with Canada in Africa as a way to strengthen its own capacity in these areas.

### **3.3.3 Coastal Cities**

The resilience of coastal cities with respect to climate change and rising sea levels is a key concern of Chinese, Canadian and African authorities. Many African cities are located on or near the coast. Residents and infrastructure of these rapidly expanding urban agglomerations are particularly vulnerable to climate-related disasters. As coastal cities are crucial economic zones for Africa, Canada and China, China could be particularly receptive to collaboration with Canada with respect to human, technical and scientific capacity to mitigate the impact of climate change. A roundtable at ICCCASU II, moderated by Professor Yangfan Li from Xiamen University and Allan Cain, the Director of Angola's Development Workshop, addressed issues of resilience and vulnerability of coastal cities, including public policies and other measures to deal with them.

### **3.3.4 Building Resilience and Capacity for Adaptation**

Where urbanization is concerned, Canada and China are working to improve the quality of life of their citizens by, among other things, maintaining green spaces, urban parks and outdoor recreation areas. With the highest rate of urbanization in the world, it is important that public officials in Africa know how other countries have responded to the challenges of rapid growth and are aware of best practices to minimize risks and negative effects. This is a point on which the Chinese experience can be quite instructive. As discussed at ICCCASU II, the integration of environmental and ecological services within urban agglomerations is beneficial in terms of improving public health, fighting air pollution, reducing the risk of flooding, increasing resistance to drought, and improving water quality. Such services must be placed at the heart of urbanization projects as well as being integrated both up and downstream of cities. As illustrated by the integrated and environmentally responsible development plans for its metropolitan regions, Canada has strong expertise in this area, and China could learn and improve on via collaboration with Canada. Collaboration in this domain in Africa could be done to the mutual benefit of all parties, facilitating training and the sharing of knowledge, and augmenting technical capacity of both Chinese and African partners. It could take the form of joint tripartite projects -- involving Canadian universities and both public- and private-sector entities -- to assist in the development of urbanization plans, evaluation and audits of African capacity in the field, training, or carrying out the work necessary to build resilience and capacity for adaptation.



### **3.4. Economic, Scientific and Political Cooperation**

The various issues related to sustainable urbanization in Africa also offer significant potential for economic, scientific and political cooperation between Canada and China. On the economic front, there is especially a strong potential for the integration of Canadian and Chinese companies into the African market especially with respect to foreign direct investments in resource extraction, urban development and infrastructure. At the scientific/academic level, joint initiatives such as ICCCASU open opportunities for collaboration between universities and specialized companies in Canada and China. Such economic and scientific partnerships could pave the way for Sino-Canadian cooperation in the political arena. Specifically, Canadian and Chinese collaboration in Africa both strengthens and promotes multilateralism and augments Canada's influence within the United Nations.

#### **3.4.1 Economic**

Africa is one of the most dynamic economic regions in the world. According to the International Monetary Fund, five of the twenty most dynamic economies of the world are in Sub-Saharan Africa. The economic prospects of Africa improved in 2017 compared to 2016. Africa's gross domestic product was 3% in 2017 and is expected to grow to 3.7% in 2018. The overall performance of the continent is quite favourable when compared to global economic growth. Canada could increase its trade and investment in Sub-Saharan Africa under the Global Market Action Plan. To establish a regulatory framework that encourages trade and investment, Canada has negotiated agreements with countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Nigeria, Tanzania, Mali, Madagascar, Senegal and Zambia. Trade and investment objectives include opening new markets for Canadian exports and focus on sectors like extractive industries and energy. These initiatives highlight Canada's expertise and enhance its reputation as an international partner committed to sharing knowledge and best practices. Canadian expertise in urban development also has tremendous potential to support these sectors on the African continent.

As evidenced by the success of the Canada-China Chamber of Commerce (CCCC) and the Chamber of Commerce of Africa in Canada, great opportunities exist for collaboration between Canada and China. Building bridges between these two organizations could generate additional opportunities for tripartite collaboration related to rapid urbanization on the African continent, namely the implementation of the *New Urban Agenda*, extraction and management of natural resources, strengthening of direct foreign investment, the development of free trade zones, and support for the development of the middle class.

### **3.4.1.1 Natural Resources**

Like China, Canada is one of the dominant players in the extraction of natural resources in Africa. Cooperation in this field could be particularly sustainable with respect to the development and management extraction sites at a variety of scales. Indeed, there are benefits to capitalizing on synergies between the efforts and investments made by Canadian and Chinese companies in developing the energy, transport, and waste management infrastructure necessary for the exploitation of resources, as well as in the training of personnel. Such cooperation could support efforts by GAC to avoid repeating the mistake of developing infrastructures exclusively for the export of resources and/or to support extractive activity. Following the recommendations of the African Union, the OECD, the African Development Bank and the World Bank, this collaboration could strengthen local supply chains. The activities and infrastructure associated with the mining sector should not only support sustainable development in, but should be able to be leveraged to, support economic diversity in the areas where extraction occurs.

Similarly, China and Canada could cooperate in the creation of sustainable networks of mineral purchasing and resale that are certified, equitable, and eco-friendly -- mobilizing African companies involved in small- and medium-scale extractive activities. Canadian and Chinese partners could facilitate the creation of these networks, and, in support of their efforts at corporate social responsibility, promote their labels on the world market. Chinese and Canadian authorities could also help these companies capitalize on synergies with parallel governmental and regional initiatives. It is also important to acknowledge that resource extraction requires workers who, in turn, require housing and other forms of community infrastructure. As people attract other people, greater synergy is needed between resource extraction and urban and regional planning in Africa. Not only is such planning a key social responsibility of Canadian and Chinese companies, but also strengthens the sector's capacity to work as a real driver for development.

### **3.4.1.2 Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)**

Urban development, especially as it relates to the construction of transportation, communication, and sanitation infrastructure, provides opportunities for Canadian and Chinese Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in Africa. Leading Canadian and Chinese should both position themselves as leaders in the transition to green and sustainable energy in Africa and leverage opportunities for partnerships. This energy transition must be able to support the ongoing industrialization of the continent, a process in which Sino-Canadian cooperation could be beneficial. This process of industrialization represents significant business opportunities and possibilities for

collaboration between Canadian and Chinese companies in a range of sectors and markets. It is also very much in line with China's *Belt and Road Initiative*.

### **3.4.1.3 Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)**

Canada must position itself with respect to the "Continental Free Trade Area" (CFTA) recently put forward by the African Union. This initiative has the potential to be among the continent's greatest economic achievements; it also opens significant opportunities for economic collaboration between Chinese and Canadian partners in Africa. Recently created, the CFTA is certainly the largest and most ambitious free trade area on the planet. Given the structural constraints of African states, this ambitious project requires international support and cooperation – from which Canadian and Chinese expertise could benefit. Ultimately, the CFTA will constitute a market of 1.2 billion people. It will drive the industrialization of the African continent, helping individual countries to diversify and specialize. As a lever for economic development, the CFTA will lead to the gradual elimination of customs barriers between the continent's economies and promote intra-African trade. However, there is little doubt that this initiative, which will absorb pre-existing regional mechanisms (CEMAC, SADEC, UEMOA, COMESA, OAS, etc.), will need the support, experience and expertise of foreign partners.

Like Canada, China has been successful in promoting free trade. Tripartite cooperation at this level could help Canada to better position itself in the African market and foster collaboration with Chinese companies, both in Africa and globally. China could be particularly interested in such cooperation, not only because of Canada's expertise in economic cooperation but also because of its experience in development assistance, state-building and the consolidation of peace in Africa.

### **3.4.1.4 Strengthening the Middle Class**

It is important that the benefits from the investments that both Canada and China have made in African economies accrue to the African people in terms of profits, equitable remuneration and employment opportunities. China and Canada must work together to ensure the implementation of equitable labour practices that boost the development of the African middle class and contribute to the overall wellbeing of the people. This is an essential issue with respect to human capacity-building and worker qualification in Africa. Canada and China could be particularly sensitive to this, with a view to increasing the number of qualified personnel that can be employed by their respective companies in African markets.

### 3.4.2 Sciences

The exchange between Canadian, Chinese and African academics allows the development of real scientific collaboration in Africa. This was highlighted by the agreement to establish a joint research and training center between UN-Habitat and several Canadian and Chinese university partners at the conclusion of the ICCCASU conference in Yaoundé. Similarly, Canada and China could benefit from the convergence of their training and human capacity-building efforts of their key partners in Africa.

#### 3.4.2.1 Joint Research Programs

Chinese, Canadian and African academics can work together to formulate joint research agendas that grasp local realities, address existing plans and programs, and directly involve African citizens. With its experience in both the environment and urbanization, Canada could play a major role in helping to guide urbanization in Africa. In recent decades, China, too, has proven itself to be both extremely nimble and extraordinarily efficient in managing rapid urbanization and adapting urban environments. China's experience with urbanization can both inspire and provide roadmaps for African cities wrestling with rapid growth. With a strong interest in developing their own capacity, African actors have much to learn from these two partners and much to gain from joint research – both theoretical and applied. ICCCASU addresses this need by offering a space for academic collaboration between Canada, China and Africa. ICCCASU has also been successful at engaging African governmental partners, opening the way for the development of pilot projects and for the implementation of recommendations that result from research programs.

Pilot projects, on which ICCCASU will be focusing in the future, could be established around ICCCASU's key research areas and involve several research centers, partner institutions and governmental actors. Our goal is to structure pilot projects in several stages: 1) a reflection stage, supported by workshops and panels involving all interested parties, 2) a field observation stage, and 3) an experimentation and implementation stage. A related goal is to present and discuss the results of the observation stage at the next meeting of ICCCASU to identify strategies for implementation. Such a process would support ICCCASU's long-term involvement and collaboration with its national and international partners. It would also serve as a point of convergence between Canadian and Chinese partners -- public, private and academic -- and foster opportunities for cooperation on projects related to sustainable urbanization and related areas.

### 3.4.2.2 Engagement with UN-Habitat

As evidenced by the successful partnership that resulted in the recent conference in Yaoundé, Canada could leverage ICCCASU to work with UN-Habitat strengthen its relationship with China. This could facilitate the formulation and implementation of programs to improve housing for vulnerable populations, as well as programs for the implementation of low-rent housing and slum upgrading. These issues were addressed by Professors Benjamin Gianni (Carleton University) and Chaolin Gu (Tsinghua University) – both vice-presidents of ICCCASU -- in the H2 panel, a panel on informal settlements at ICCCASU II. Working with ICCCASU, GAC and UN-Habitat could capitalize on synergies with respect to efforts to empower and involve women at the highest levels of decision-making levels in Africa.

### 3.4.2.3 Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063, endorsed by the African Union Summit in May 2013, focusses on the ongoing structural transformations of the continent. It focusses on the long-term viability of the pan-African vision, drawing on lessons learned from global development experiences.

There is great potential for Canada and China to cooperate on initiatives associated with Agenda 2063, which emphasizes sustainable urbanization and people-centred development that enhances the potential of its populations, especially women and youth. Inasmuch as these areas synchronize with Canada's experience and expertise, sustained involvement in the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) could be quite beneficial. This could be done through ICCCASU and the upcoming African Center for Research and Training on urbanization, supported by UN-Habitat and based in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

China's *Belt and Road Initiative* (BRI), endorsed by African countries including Kenya, Egypt, Ethiopia, Morocco, South Africa, etc... is directly in line with the Agenda 2063. Virtually all Chinese investments in Africa will be associated with the BRI, especially the building of infrastructure. African partners see the BRI as an opportunity to strengthen their relations with international economic partners. These evolving relationships present opportunities for Canada to collaborate in the areas of engineering, urban management, risk management and construction, as well as research and training. It is essential that Canada positions itself with respect to Agenda 2063 and the BRI in order to capitalize on the opening of markets in Africa. Among the most significant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, African markets offer significant economic and commercial potential as well as opportunities for political and diplomatic influence.

### 3.4.2.4 Human Capacity Building

Whether through research centers, academic partnerships and exchanges, or collaboration between companies, scientific cooperation between Canada and China in Africa offer significant possibilities for training and human capacity-building. In addition to being an effective platform for the training of Canadian students and professionals, it is a vehicle through which to transfer knowledge on good governance and public policy. As evidenced by the success of the training workshops in Yaoundé, ICCCASU offers a platform through which Canada and China can strengthen the human capacities of their African partners. This includes joint projects related to urbanization, the development of attractive investment frameworks in the fields of science and technology (e.g., for innovative urban development), the transfer of knowledge, and the identification of best-practices and effective development models involving regional and international collaboration.

### 3.4.3 Policy

Such economic and scientific collaboration will lead to political rapprochement between the Chinese and Canadian governments while strengthening Canada's bilateral cooperation with African states. Similarly, collaboration through intergovernmental organizations (e.g., UN-Habitat) makes it possible both to advocate for the role of the United Nations on the international scene and to highlight the ties uniting China and Canada. The promotion of UN-Habitat can only strengthen Canadian efforts to expand the UN Security Council – a reform largely supported by African States.

## Conclusion

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ICCCASU II, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon in December of 2017, was a great success. ICCCASU has demonstrated both its international reach and its ability to mobilize high-level institutional, political and academic players. Nearly 500 academics, professionals and international participants gathered in Cameroon to share perspectives on responsible and sustainable urbanization. The focus of ICCCASU, sustainable urbanization is line with the four key objectives of GAC and engages all five of the strategic axes of GAC's "Canada and Sub-Saharan Africa" plan: development aid, promoting democracy, establishing strategic partnerships, peace and security, and promoting trade and economic links.

#### ***4.1. Agreement for Economic Collaboration in Third Party Markets***

As per the joint statement signed in September 2016 calling for the strengthening of economic cooperation between China and Canada in third-party markets, Africa is now implicated in the official lines of Sino-Canadian diplomacy. By supporting opportunities to strengthen business collaboration, the agreement is a key point of departure for bringing Canadian and Chinese partners closer to Africa. Working together in Africa would not only benefit Africans but deepen the ties between Canada and China. ICCASU offers an additional channel of communication with Chinese institutions and partners involved in the African continent. As such, it can enable Canada to better position itself with respect to the ongoing industrialization, urbanization and economic development of Africa as well as to the new political reality of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in which China will play an increasing role.

In light of the upcoming international research and training center on urbanization established in Yaoundé (under the auspices of UN-Habitat) and plans for a parallel center at SIDGS, ICCASU is distinguishing itself as an international forum for research on sustainable urbanization. The collaboration it supports between Canadian, Chinese and African partners on sustainable urbanization could become a bridge for cooperation between international partners involved in development aid in Africa.

Moreover, the pilot projects that ICCASU is developing in partnership with governmental agencies could be a vehicle for rapprochement and cooperation between Canada and China, both in terms of development and economic assistance. Private and corporate actors in both countries could be particularly interested in participating in these projects, whether in support of corporate social and environmental responsibility or as part of the procurement of projects in Africa.

#### ***4.2. Canada's Strengths in Development Assistance Programs***

Internationally recognized for its long-standing commitment to Africa, Canada's experience and expertise can add value to China's development assistance programs on the continent. Especially as China has more resources than experience, the strengths of the two countries are quite complementary. This situation is conducive to an alignment of Canadian and Chinese programs in Africa, building on their common interests in the continent. There is a real potential for synergy, opportunities for which we have identified throughout this report.

As suggested, Canada could benefit greatly from tripartite collaboration with Chinese partners. While this can and should be done on a number of levels, there is real value to working through intergovernmental bodies such as the United Nations, the OECD,

and regional development banks such as the African Development Bank. This is especially true with respect to development assistance programs. Finally, research programs with academic partners in China, Canada and Africa can facilitate a larger rapprochement with Chinese actors operating in Africa. Such programs create exchange opportunities and promote development efforts with African partners while engaging local authorities and involving populations over the course of their implementation. In this perspective, they represent a strong potential for the integration of Canadian and Chinese companies in African markets and open a platform for collaboration. Such a platform is all the more promising inasmuch as it dovetails with China's *Belt and Road Initiative* (BRI). Linked as it is to the energy and industrial transition in Africa, the work in Kenya is extremely promising for Canadian companies and offers a route into African markets by working with Chinese partners.

### **4.3. China's National Strategy of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**

The goal of Beijing's *Belt and Road Initiative* is to strengthen existing and to establish new lines of communication and trade between China, Central Asia, Europe and the coastal countries of the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Africa is both an integral part of this initiative and a focal point for new markets for Chinese exports. To this end, it is essential for China to strengthen the road, rail, port and energy distribution networks on the continent. It is more than likely that Chinese development assistance will take the form of low-interest loans in exchange for strategically positioning Chinese companies to compete in open public procurement processes for the work involved with modernizing Africa's infrastructure. This is an area in which Canadian partners could position themselves by identifying synergies within the larger objectives of Chinese development assistance. Canada's extensive experience in development assistance in Africa could benefit China. Similarly, Canadian companies could participate in the large-scale projects envisioned under the BRI, positioning themselves in the procurement processes and working with Chinese companies to modernize transportation infrastructure. Since the BRI is closely linked with energy and industrial transitions on the African continent, and, by extension, the strengthening of its middle class, we envision that the BRI will be the central theme of ICCCASU III, planned for China in late 2019. This event will be the perfect opportunity for Canadian stakeholders to make contact with their counterparts in China and Africa and learn more about the project with which they are involved.



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