Wuhan Action Initiative for China-Africa Young Scientists Cooperation (2026)

REVISED DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

Building on the China-Africa Young Scientists Roundtable Dialogue, we—researchers, educators, students and representatives of relevant institutions who voluntarily support this Initiative—emphasize science, technology and innovation for shared development, and youth cooperation for mutual understanding. We seek to respond to the Global Development Initiative through practical action and contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. To this end, we put forward the following:

1. We reaffirm that equality, mutual trust, openness, inclusion and shared benefits are important foundations for China-Africa scientific cooperation. We respect national development needs, research capacities and local knowledge, and support partners in jointly defining priorities, conducting research and sharing its benefits fairly, while upholding research integrity and ethics and respecting intellectual property.

2. We emphasize that scientific cooperation should advance people's well-being and address shared challenges and practical needs. In sustainable agriculture, nutrition and health, biodiversity conservation, clean energy, green technologies and digital applications, we encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, beginning with specific problems and feasible tasks to develop practical joint research and technology cooperation projects.

3. We support a more active role for young people in China-Africa scientific cooperation. We encourage two-way exchanges, mentoring, open learning and professional training, and recognize the bridging role of African scholars and students in China. We value the equal participation of women and young people in less-resourced research settings, and support meaningful responsibilities for young people in research design, project implementation and the application of research outcomes.

4. We advocate closely linking the application of research outcomes with local capacity building. We encourage universities, research institutions, enterprises and local partners to jointly test and apply technologies, considering local suitability, affordability, operation, maintenance and environmental sustainability, while promoting knowledge sharing, skills development and stronger local capacity for innovation.

5. We support stronger collaboration among platforms and the expansion of open, diverse cooperation networks. We encourage institutions and platforms, including the China-Africa Innovation Cooperation Center and Africa Open University, to serve as bridges, strengthening links with universities, academies of sciences, research institutions, youth organizations and enterprises across countries. While deepening existing cooperation, we seek new partnerships, channels for exchange and forms of resource support, connecting resources across research, education, industry and wider society.

6. We advocate bringing together collaboration needs, sharing project information and connecting potential partners, so that scientific exchanges, joint research and the application of outcomes reinforce one another. We encourage willing participants with the necessary capacity to develop collaborative projects, clarify tasks, resources and contact arrangements, and share progress and experience on an ongoing basis, making the Wuhan dialogue an important starting point for practical cooperation and joint action.

We welcome voluntary support for this Initiative from researchers, educators, students and relevant institutions worldwide. Together, we seek to expand China-Africa innovation partnerships, strengthen scientific capacity in the Global South, improve people's lives through science and technology, and enable young people across countries to share development opportunities.

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