Sixty-years of China-Uganda relations, forging our comprehensive co-operative partnership



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The year 2022 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Uganda, which established their diplomatic relations on October 18, 1962, just nine days after Uganda gained independence.

Over the past 60 years, China and Uganda have forged unbreakable fraternity through our struggle against imperialism and colonialism and have embarked on a distinct path of co-operation in our journey toward development and revitalisation.

Together, we have written a splendid chapter of mutual assistance amid complex changes, and set a good example for building an even stronger China-Africa community of shared future in the New Era.

Sixty-year anniversary is a milestone for us to review the ways where we came from and continue to consolidate our mutual political trust.

History attests that our solidarity and friendship weathered through fluctuation and challenges of the times, with both countries supporting each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, supporting one another on issues concerning our respective core interests and major concerns.

Since the early years of Uganda's struggle against colonialism and imperialism for national independence, freedom and development, China has been providing political, moral and material support to the Ugandan people at best of her capacity.

On the other hand, Uganda cast her sacred vote with dozens of other African countries in support of the UNGA Resolution 2758, which declared restoration of the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations, and has been supporting China on issues concerning China's core interests and major concerns, including the Taiwan issue.

In an interview with Xinhua News Agency on August 4 following a visit to Taipei by Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives, Okello Oryem, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, reiterated Uganda's commitment to the One China Principle, as it forms the core of the diplomatic relations between Uganda and China.

The state minister also stressed that the West must stop its continued interference in the internal affairs of other states, and that as a sovereign country, China has a right to manage her internal affairs, and to safeguard integrity of her sovereignty and territorial integrity without being lectured on how to manage or act.

Throughout the six decades, the political mutual trust has been continuously enhanced.

In recent years, President Xi Jinping and President Museveni have maintained close interaction with each other by means of visits, meetings and correspondences, among others.

Our bilateral relations were elevated to the level of Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership in June 2019, which has grown from strength to strength, with our mutual trust growing despite all challenges.

The sixty-year anniversary is a testament to our solid foundation of friendship and brings a new start where we motivate stronger momentum in China-Uganda practical co-operation.

Supporting each other's endeavour in social and economic development has been an important feature of our relations throughout the six decades.

In recent years, thrusted by the momentum of Belt and Road Initiative and Forum on China-Africa Co-operation (FOCAC), the practical co-operation is delivering more and more tangible benefits to the our people, contributing to the social economic transformation of Uganda. The Kampala-Entebbe Expressway, the Isimba Hydropower plant and other major infrastructure projects have been commissioned, several industrial parks with Chinese investments are operating vigorously despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges, contributing to the industrialisation, skilling and job creation efforts of Uganda.

Meanwhile, the Karuma Hydropower plant and the reconstruction and expansion of Entebbe Airport are all well in progress in their final stages, and investment of $4.7b by CNOOC in the field of Uganda's oil exploration industry is being implemented, as a bigger picture of our practical co-operation commences to unfold in 2022.

In the fight against COVID-19, the two countries have all along been supporting each other, and the Chinese government has provided three batches of preventive and medical materials as well as 1.6 million doses of vaccines to Uganda, as the two countries are working closely for the implementation of more Chinese vaccine donations to Uganda.

Last November, President Xi Jinping announced the Nine Programmes for China-Africa co-operation at the opening ceremony of the Eighth FOCAC ministerial conference, and China and Uganda are working closely to implement the nine programmes, especially practical co-operation projects in small but beautiful, quick-acting projects, navigating our co-operation to new heights.

Sixty-year anniversary demonstrates how we have been co-ordinating on international and regional issues, and serves as another starting point for closer co-operation and co-ordination. China appreciates the positive role played by the Ugandan side in maintaining regional peace and stability and supports Uganda's efforts to safeguard its own security.

The two countries have been working together to oppose protectionism and unilateralism, safeguard the international system and international order with the United Nations at the core, and commit themselves to building a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. The two countries will work even closer in the future in this regard. Today, China and Uganda relations are at their best in history. Standing at the critical juncture of the 60th anniversary, China will work hand in hand with Uganda to commence a new chapter of fraternity, solidarity, friendship, co-operation and partnership in the next six decades and more!

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