

# Post-workshop Briefing Paper: Preventing a COVID-19 Crisis in Africa (May 14, 2020)

**The Carter Center  
South African Institute of International Affairs  
China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations**

**Preventing a COVID-19 Crisis in Africa**  
How can African Countries and International Partners Coordinate their Pandemic Response?

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2020  
07:30 EDT, 14:30 EAT, 19:30 CST

**THE CARTER CENTER**  
**SAIA** SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
**CICIR** 中国现代国际关系研究院 CHINA INSTITUTES OF CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carter-center-preventing-a-covid-19-crisis-in-africa-tickets-104801283460>

Facilitated by:  
The Hunger Project | Emory Global Health Institute | IANPHI  
College of International Development and Global Agriculture at China Agricultural University (CIDGA, CAU)

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**June 11, 2020**

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## Background

***Update: On May 20, Chinese President Xi Jinping opened his address at the World Health Assembly by highlighting China's diplomatic relations with Africa.<sup>1</sup> In his speech, President Xi said China has provided health aid to 200 million Africans over the past 70 years<sup>2</sup> and pledged to give the WHO \$2 billion over the next 20 years.<sup>3</sup> On May 29, President Trump announced that the U.S. would pull out of the World Health Organization.<sup>4</sup>***

The presence of COVID-19 in Africa continues to present a looming threat to the continent, with 209,380 confirmed cases, 108,607 active cases, and 5,689 deaths as of June 11, 2020<sup>5</sup>. The seven countries with the most confirmed cases in Africa are South Africa (55,421), Egypt (38,284), Nigeria (13,873), Algeria (10,484), Ghana (10,201), Cameroon (8,681), and Morocco (8,508).<sup>6</sup> If left unchecked, the pandemic could present unprecedented public health, economic, social, and political challenges to the continent.

On April 7, 2020, Peter Sands, executive director of the Global Fund, stated, “Unless extremely fast action is taken, the prospect of an imminent catastrophe in Africa will become real. Current confirmed cases and deaths are still relatively low in Africa, and the continent may be four to six weeks behind Europe’s outbreak. But the trajectory and impact of COVID-19 could be far worse – much harder to contain and causing far more death and damage to communities.”<sup>7</sup>

China has been engaging with African countries on COVID-19 response. President Xi Jinping has had phone calls with multiple African heads of state<sup>8</sup>, while top Chinese leaders have spoken

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<sup>1</sup> Ken Klippenstein, “Trump’s Decision to Freeze WHO Funding Worries the US Military.”

<sup>2</sup> Jenni Marsh. “As China faces a backlash in the West, Xi needs Africa more than ever.” CNN (May 20, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/19/asia/xi-jinping-africa-coronavirus-hnk-intl/index.html>.

<sup>3</sup> “China announces \$2 billion in virus help at WHO assembly.” *Politico*, reported by *Associated Press* (May 18, 2020). <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/18/china-announces-2-billion-in-virus-help-at-who-assembly-264939>.

<sup>4</sup> Although the WHO has stated that cooperation with the U.S. Health and Human Services on containing the new Ebola outbreak would continue. See Jason Hoffman and Maegan Vazquez. “Trump announces end of US relationship with World Health Organization.” CNN (May 29, 2020), <https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/05/29/politics/donald-trump-world-health-organization/index.html?fbclid=IwAR3IcYyjWEiifRBLv2VGYbZVczsBAH6kR3ilmbYonli9ACxd57hUpkaXr7M>. See also Jamey Keaten. “US cooperates with WHO on Ebola despite Trump pullout threat.” *Star Tribune* (Jun. 10, 2020). <https://www.startribune.com/us-cooperates-with-who-on-ebola-despite-trump-pullout-threat/571166992/>.

<sup>5</sup> According to the BBC’s Coronavirus in Africa tracker, which is sourced from Johns Hopkins University. See “Coronavirus in Africa tracker.” *BBC News* (May 26, 2020). <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-4a11d568-2716-41cf-a15e-7d15079548bc>.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Peter Sands. “Africa Faces a Covid-19 Catastrophe Unless Immediate Action is Taken.” *Telegraph* (Apr. 7, 2020). <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/africa-brink-covid-19-catastrophe-unless-immediate-action-taken/>.

<sup>8</sup> See “President Xi Jinping Speaks with Namibian President Hage Geingob on the Phone.” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (April 3, 2020). [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1766118.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1766118.shtml). See also “President Xi Jinping Speaks with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali on the Phone” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Feb. 25, 2020). [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1749613.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1749613.shtml). All of President Xi’s phone calls with African leaders are listed here: [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjdt\\_665385/wshd\\_665389/](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjdt_665385/wshd_665389/).

with several African heads of state in the past few weeks, including leaders in Namibia, Algeria, Egypt, and Ethiopia. On March 26, the Chinese Foreign Ministry and National Health Commission jointly organized a video conference with approximately 200 health officials and experts from 16 countries in West Asia and North Africa, along with the Gulf Cooperation Council.<sup>9</sup>

On March 22, donations of medical supplies from Jack Ma and the Alibaba Foundation arrived in Addis Ababa<sup>10</sup>, while on April 6, a specially chartered plane from China filled with personal protective equipment landed in Ghana.<sup>11</sup> The U.N. is helping distribute these much-needed supplies to 18 African countries. On April 17, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson indicated that China is ready to begin negotiations with developing countries to refinance their debts to China.<sup>12</sup>

On March 19, at a virtual meeting of African finance ministers, The U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) estimated that the African continent “needs an immediate economic stimulus of \$100 billion” to combat the impact of the pandemic.<sup>13</sup> UNECA noted that waiving interest payments on loans for African countries would singlehandedly yield half of the funds for this stimulus package.<sup>14</sup> It further noted that “without coordinated efforts, the COVID-19 pandemic will have major and adverse implications on African economies and the society at large.”<sup>15</sup>

Since 2001, the U.S. government has provided more than \$80 billion to Africa for global health.<sup>16</sup> This investment was instrumental in building the foundations for public health development throughout the continent. In light of the looming COVID-19 threat, the U.S has been working to leverage existing long-term assistance to African countries – such as the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), and Polio eradication programs – in order to address COVID-19, and explore ways to fill gaps in that infrastructure with new resources. The U.S State Department announced that it is

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<sup>9</sup> “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang's regular press conference on March 27, 2020. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (April 3, 2020).

[https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/2511\\_665403/t1762834.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/t1762834.shtml).

<sup>10</sup> Dawit Endeshaw & Giulia Paravicini. “Coronavirus supplies donated by Alibaba’s Ma arrive in Africa.” *Reuters* (March 22, 2020). <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-africa/coronavirus-medical-supplies-donated-by-alibabas-ma-arrive-in-ethiopia-idUSKBN2190JU>

<sup>11</sup> Eric Olander. “Coronavirus aid: Chinese medical teams arrive in Africa to mixed reactions.” *The Africa Report* (April 6, 2020). <https://www.theafricareport.com/25746/coronavirus-aid-chinese-medical-teams-arrive-in-africa-to-mixed-reactions/>.

<sup>12</sup> Joe Parkinson, James T Areddy, and Nicholas Bariyo. “As Africa Groans Under Debt, It Casts Wary Eye at China.” *Wall Street Journal* (Apr. 17, 2020). <https://www.wsj.com/articles/as-africa-groans-under-debt-it-casts-wary-eye-at-china-11587115804>.

<sup>13</sup> “African Finance Ministers call for coordinated COVID-19 response to mitigate adverse impact on economies and society.” *Bloomberg* (Mar. 23, 2020). <https://www.uneca.org/stories/african-finance-ministers-call-coordinated-covid-19-response-mitigate-adverse-impact>.

<sup>14</sup> Alonso Soto. “Africa Needs \$100 Billion Stimulus to Combat Virus.” *Bloomberg News* (Mar. 23, 2020). <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-23/africa-needs-waiver-on-44-billion-interest-bill-to-combat-virus>.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> “The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)” KFF (May 27,2019).

<https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-u-s-presidents-emergency-plan-for-aids-relief-pepfar/>.

providing nearly \$274 million for emergency health, disaster, and emergency foreign aid to dozens of countries affected by the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>17</sup> The U.S. also has announced its own vaccine development campaign.<sup>18</sup>

Responses from international organizations have also been ongoing. On Feb. 5, the WHO announced a \$675 million COVID-19 preparedness plan.<sup>19</sup> The Coalition of for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), an international NGO based in Norway, announced that it will fund four programs to develop vaccines against COVID-19.<sup>20</sup> On May 5, The Coronavirus Global Response Pledging Conference – featuring representatives from 43 countries<sup>21</sup>, as well as major nonprofit and scientific groups – collected pledges worth \$8.2 billion dollars to “accelerate the development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics.”<sup>22</sup>

Existing models for coordinating on disease prevention assistance could help guide U.S.-China coordination on COVID-19. PEPFAR was instrumental in building African health capacity and infrastructure to fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases, while Chinese medical teams have provided medical assistance and support.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, international cooperation in the fight against Ebola in West Africa in 2014 set an important precedent for this kind of coordinated assistance and offers a range of lessons that could improve future cooperation.<sup>24</sup> The ongoing efforts of the African CDC – with support from the U.S., China, and other countries – has allowed the continent to continue preparing for this new threat. COVID-19 presents an opportunity to support the African CDC in successfully meeting the largest and most complex public health challenges while playing an important role in public health development on the continent.

It is in this context that we worked with our partners to organize a virtual workshop to further an urgent dialogue on how international partners can coordinate their efforts to support the African campaign to fight coronavirus. While government-to-government coordination within both bilateral and multilateral frameworks remains important, the NGO sectors in African nations as

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<sup>17</sup> Michael Pompeo. “U.S. Foreign Assistance in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.” U.S. Department of State (March 26, 2020). <https://www.state.gov/u-s-foreign-assistance-in-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>.<sup>18</sup> Carolyn Johnson. “Moderna’s coronavirus vaccine shows encouraging early results.” *Washington Post* (May 19, 2020). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/05/18/coronavirus-vaccine-first-results/>.

<sup>18</sup> Carolyn Johnson. “Moderna’s coronavirus vaccine shows encouraging early results.” *Washington Post* (May 19, 2020). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/05/18/coronavirus-vaccine-first-results/>.

<sup>19</sup> “US\$675 million needed for new coronavirus preparedness and response global plan.” World Health Organization (Feb. 5, 2020). <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/05-02-2020-us-675-million-needed-for-new-coronavirus-preparedness-and-response-global-plan>.

<sup>20</sup> “Norway pledges \$1 billion to vaccines against Covid-19, other diseases.” *CNBC* (May 4, 2020). <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/04/norway-pledges-1-billion-to-vaccines-against-covid-19-other-diseases.html>.

<sup>21</sup> The U.S. and China did not attend this meeting. See “Coronavirus Global Response Joining Forces to Accelerate the Development, Production and Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines, Diagnostics and Therapeutics - On-line Pledging Event.” European Union (May 5, 2020). [https://global-response.europa.eu/programme\\_en](https://global-response.europa.eu/programme_en).

<sup>22</sup> “Press release: Coronavirus Global Response: €7.4 billion raised for universal access to vaccines.” European Commission (May 4, 2020). [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_797](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_797).

<sup>23</sup> Callie Aboaf. “U.S-China Collaboration in Creating and Supporting the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.” *Trilateral Cooperation Research Series* (Sept. 27, 2019). <https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/china/trs-04-us-china-collaboration-africacdc.pdf>.

<sup>24</sup> Callie Aboaf. “U.S-China Collaboration in Combating the 2014 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa”, *Trilateral Cooperation Research Series* (Sept. 27, 2019), <https://www.cartercenter.org/resources/pdfs/peace/china/trs-03-combating-ebola-breakout.pdf>.

well as in China, U.S., and other countries could also bolster cooperation in everything from sharing information and resources to developing joint programs and strategies.

## **Workshop Overview**

On May 14, the Carter Center’s China Program partnered with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) and the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) to organize a virtual workshop on Africa-U.S.-China cooperation on COVID-19 response. The workshop – Track 1.5 dialogue conducted under Chatham House Rules<sup>25</sup> – brought together a range of experts from the U.S, China, Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, and South Africa to discuss the public health impact and wider policy implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent. Emory University’s Global Health Institute and The Hunger Project also helped identify speakers and moderate panels.

Official participation included experts from the African CDC, the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, and the United States Institute for Peace (joining in an observer capacity). A communications officer from USAID’s Office of Local Sustainability was unable to join us because of technical issues. The U.S. CDC was unable to participate, but several staff offered feedback on the workshop agenda.

The workshop lasted for approximately 3 hours, and at its height had over 110 participants. There were presentations from a wide range of nongovernmental stakeholders, including NGOs, think tanks, universities (e.g. Wuhan University School of Health Sciences/Global Health Institute and Brown University), and the private sector (e.g. RAND Corporation and Development Reimagined).

On May 18, during a regular press briefing by the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson was asked to comment on the virtual work on trilateral cooperation organized by The Carter Center. The spokesperson responded: “The current situation in Africa is grim. Closer cooperation between China, the U.S. and Africa can play an important role in African countries' fight against COVID-19. China holds a positive stance on that.”<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> The opening remarks, closing remarks, and projects panel were on the record, through the consent of the speakers.

<sup>26</sup> “Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian's regular press conference on May 18.” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (May 18, 2020). [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/xwfw\\_665399/s2510\\_665401/t1780283.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1780283.shtml).

## Policy-level Consensus Points and Themes

Participants shared information on what different African, Chinese, and U.S. stakeholders have been doing on both policy and project levels to prevent a wider crisis and possible steps in making the response more effective. While the diversity of the participants' expertise was reflected in the focal areas of their presentations, there were several broad consensus points:

- In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries and regions are only as strong as their weakest link.<sup>27</sup>
- An effective COVID-19 response in Africa has to take into account the socioeconomic ramifications of the pandemic, on both national levels (e.g. debt restructuring) and local levels (e.g. assistance for communities in lockdown).
- It is important to address public health and economic challenges that result from the outsized role that the informal economy plays in most African countries.
- It is necessary to ensure rural communities' accessibility for medical supplies, as well as access the vaccine once it is developed.
- The U.S. and China need to work in concert with international partners and multilateral mechanisms – such as the Africa CDC. That is the most realistic way to continue public health cooperation.

### Recommendations for Africa-U.S.-China Cooperation

#### *Opening Remarks*

- Carter Center CEO Ambassador Mary Ann Peters encouraged collaboration among NGOs, think tanks and the private sector as a way to boost Africa-U.S.-China cooperation and offset difficulties in governmental-level cooperation.
- CICIR President Yuan Peng called for joint U.S-Chinese medical research in order to develop the vaccine.
- SAIIA Chief Executive Elizabeth Sidiropoulos noted that given the generally limited medical infrastructure and resources on the continent, any assistance policies based on zero-sum competition between the U.S. and China will result in an ineffective COVID-19 response in the African continent. She also noted the importance of understanding the broader geopolitical atmosphere, including the diplomatic fallout from the treatment of African expats and students in Guangzhou.

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<sup>27</sup> COVID-19 has targeted countries' most marginalized and deprived communities, exposing these vulnerabilities and "blind spots," which then fuel further waves of infection. One illustration of this is the spread of COVID-19 among Singapore's migrant worker communities. See Hillary Leung. "Singapore Was a Coronavirus Success Story – Until an Outbreak Showed How Vulnerable Workers Can Fall Through the Cracks," TIME (April 29, 2020), <https://time.com/5825261/singapore-coronavirus-migrant-workers-inequality/>.

### *Panels I-IV*

- Greater involvement and cooperation between Chinese<sup>28</sup> and American private sectors could help increase the overall supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), ensure quality control, and optimize distribution.
- Greater cooperation is necessary to bolster research for clinical trials, build capacity for the Africa CDC's Rapid Response Team, support the Africa CDC Partnership to Accelerate COVID-19 Testing (PACT) initiative, and to ensure equitable access to essential medical supplies including PPE, testing kits, and vaccines, once they are available.
- Developing the capabilities of regional CDCs in Africa, as well as national-level public health institutions, could offer further areas of public health development cooperation.
- Collaboration on digital infrastructure, which is unstable and underdeveloped in many African countries, is crucial for spreading public health information, economic activities, and remote education.
- Public health policymakers should cooperate to develop and use tools that will allow them to tailor specific COVID-19 response policies capable of meeting the needs of individual countries.
- Greater cooperation from lending countries and institutions on debt restructuring for African countries is key because these countries have been particularly affected by quarantine measures and the global economic downturn.<sup>29</sup> Debt relief would also free up resources to fund COVID-19 response programs as well as economic stimulus programs.

### *Closing Remarks*

- Ambassador Zhong Jinhua stressed the importance of scientific expertise taking precedence over both politics and misinformation, the need to support and protect medical and public health workers, the critical need to engage community leaders, and the enforcement of social order – especially in underdeveloped countries – as key factors in driving efficient and effective pandemic responses.
- SAIIA Senior Researcher Cobus van Staden noted an erosion of multilateralism and a weakening of international institutions, adding that since crises that are larger in scale and permanence (e.g. climate change) are looming, the COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity for global actors to find ways to collaborate. Past instances of cooperation – both on a government and nongovernmental level – demonstrate the need for these stakeholders to once again find ways to collaborate.

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<sup>28</sup> Donations of PPE by Chinese private sector actors, such as the Alibaba Foundation, were appreciated by the Africa CDC.

<sup>29</sup> Such as by the decline in the oil and gas industry, tourism, and remittances.



## COVID-19 Projects and Initiatives

### Current Projects and Initiatives

Throughout the workshop, a number of organizations gave presentations on projects that they were either currently working on or designing for potential implementation:

- The Africa CDC Institute For Workforce Development (IWD) has been using a range of virtual tools in order to support workplace development and training designed to address gaps and build public health capacity. Revamping the WHO's International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) – with a particular emphasis on greater utilization of modern information and communication technology – is a potential opportunity for collaboration.
- The Hunger Project's Epicenter Strategy has helped increase awareness of public health issues and mobilized local resources as part of a broader approach to advance community-led development.
- Project HOPE is providing PPE and training for public health workers throughout the African continent. While there are opportunities to cooperate around procurement and technical assistance, such efforts must originate from, and be guided by, each individual country.
- The China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) is assisting with the COVID-19 response in Ethiopia. It has helped Chinese companies transfer donated medical supplies to African governments, set up a "school feeding" food distribution program for Ethiopian students, distributed hygiene kits, and helped implementing partners modify their projects to address COVID-19 needs.<sup>30</sup>
- A participant from Brown University discussed the use of social distancing and tracking technologies by African governments and local entrepreneurs. This includes contact tracking apps, such as a locally developed app in Kenya that allows operators of public transportation to collect information from passengers, who can later be contacted.<sup>31</sup> The participant also noted that the Kenyan government has employed a U.S.-developed app as its official COVID-19 tracker. It features mobile electronic medical record services and free applications for patients to take daily surveys.<sup>32</sup>

### Proposed Projects and Initiatives

A panel was also dedicated to exploring proposed COVID-19 projects in a number of African countries. Proposals on potential projects featuring public health cooperation and/or COVID-19 response were shared with the Carter Center's China Program in response to a broader call for proposals that the China Program released in March. The authors of these proposals gave the China Program permission to share them with attendees before the workshop. Participants were

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<sup>30</sup> Implementing partners include the WASH Project, which is helping to convert schools with wash facilities into quarantine centers, and the International Red Cross, which is working with CFPA's school feeding programs in refugee camps to distribute powdered milk.

<sup>31</sup> "Kenya university launches contract tracing app, ventilators to help address COVID-19 pandemic." *Xinhua* (May 7, 2020). [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/07/c\\_139035989.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/07/c_139035989.htm).

<sup>32</sup> Alex Skjong. "BackpackEMR Approved as Kenya's Official COVID-19 Tracker," *Tech.mn*(April 9, 2020), <https://tech.mn/news/2020/04/09/backpackemr-approved-as-kenyas-official-covid-19-tracker/>.

encouraged to read these proposals in advance so that they could give feedback and ask questions following the panel.

- The Institute for Global Dialogue presented a proposed “collaborative futures” research and dialogue platform capable of monitoring current and emerging regional crises using the Delphi Technique. These scenario-building workshops would bring together political leaders, policymakers, scholars, private sector companies, international NGOs, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to engage on public health crises and other human security issues.
- Development Reimagined outlined a proposal to develop African capacity for manufacturing medical supplies and pharmaceutical products. Given African countries’ overdependence on importing medical products – especially pharmaceuticals<sup>33</sup> – the COVID-19 pandemic has posed immediate as well as long-term challenges for the resiliency of African public health systems. Trilateral cooperation can help address this gap, while simultaneously helping to boost the health sector economies of African countries. Such a project would focus primarily on “action-oriented” private sector actors from the U.S., China, and Africa, but other stakeholders would also take the lead at different stages.
- A public health expert from Wuhan University School of Health Sciences/Global Health Institute outlined how information and communication technology can help improve the pandemic response throughout Africa. China’s information and communication technology (ICT) COVID-19 strategy involved a range of major stakeholders, including telecommunications companies, IT companies, portal websites, and mobile and online payment platforms such as Alipay and WeChat. Although African countries don’t have the same level of ICT infrastructure, global cooperation could help utilize available resources while finding innovative, locally designed solutions. African countries should be able to utilize networks of healthcare workers and volunteers to implement home-quarantine services such as non-contact temperature monitoring.

### **Post-workshop Next Steps**

The China Program connected participants with each other, including by relaying questions that weren’t covered during the Q&A session. On May 21, the China Program released an online survey and continues to monitor responses – especially to track levels of post-workshop engagement and partnership building. Additionally, this briefing paper will be shared with participants, programmatic partners, and other relevant stakeholders. The program will incorporate feedback from this workshop to help inform future workshops, especially virtual ones.

The China Program will work with partners to organize a project incubator workshop in July, which will feature proposed projects incorporating Africa-U.S.-China cooperation on both the

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<sup>33</sup> The participant referenced an article on McKinsey that noted that sub-Saharan African countries import between 70 to 90 percent of the drugs consumed by their populations. *See* Michael Conway, Tania Holt, Adam Sabow, and Irene Yuan Sun. “Should sub-Saharan Africa make its own drugs?” McKinsey (Jan. 10, 2019). <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/public-sector/our-insights/should-sub-saharan-africa-make-its-own-drugs>.

governmental and nongovernmental level. It has developed a preliminary agenda (see ANNEX V) and has already begun sharing it with programmatic partners. The China Program will share a final agenda with all potential participants once complete.

Finally, pending interest and availability from participants, the China Program is considering organizing a smaller follow-up COVID-19 workshop, tentatively scheduled for August.

## **ANNEX I: Agenda**

### **Preventing a COVID-19 Crisis in Africa: How Can African Countries and International Partners Coordinate their Pandemic Response?**

A Virtual Workshop

*Organized by The Carter Center, South African Institute of International Affairs, The China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations*

*Facilitated by The Hunger Project, Emory Global Health Institute, IANPHI, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, and College of International Development and Global Agriculture at China Agricultural University (CIDGA, CAU)*

Date: May 14, 2020

Start time: 0730 EDT, 1430 EAT, 1930 CST

#### **Opening Remarks:**

Introductions: Zhang Li (Vice President, CICIR) (1 minute)

Opening speakers (5 minutes each):

Amb. Mary Ann Peters (CEO, The Carter Center)

YUAN Peng (President, CICIR)

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos (Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs)

#### **Panel I: Emerging issues and needs on the African continent**

Moderator: Neuma Grobbelaar (Director, The South Africa Institute of International Affairs)

Presentations (6 minutes each):

“Continental COVID situational update” (Patrick Kabwe, Africa CDC)

“COVID situational update in Ethiopia” (Tewodros Haile Gebremariam, Addis Ababa University)

“Latest steps by Africa CDC” (Raji Tajudeen, Africa CDC)

“COVID-19 response in Algeria” (Lina Benabdallah, Wake Forest University)

**Panel II: Current assistance by international partner governments, international bodies, NGOs, and businesses**

Moderator: Parminder Suchdev, Emory Global Health Institute

Presentations (6 minutes each):

“USAID assistance on COVID-19 response” (Arjun Tasker, USAID Office of Local Sustainability)

“Africa CDC Institute for Workforce Development Provides Online, Multi-communication e-Learning and Communities of Practice” (Scott McNabb, Africa CDC Institute For Workforce Development)

“COVID-19 responses and innovative approaches” (Rowlands Kaotcha, The Hunger Project)

Providing PPE and training (Tom Kenyon, Project HOPE)

**Panel III: Possible Mechanisms for International Cooperation**

Moderator: XU Weizhong (Director Institute of African Studies, CICIR)

Presentations (6 minutes each):

“How to enhance Sino-Africa public health cooperation” (QIAN Liwei, Institute of African Studies, CICIR)

“China’s global health activities in Africa and outstanding needs on COVID-related medical supplies” (Jennifer Bouey, RAND Corporation/Georgetown University)

“Development Finance in Covid19: Liquidity, Forex and Debt” (CHENG Cheng, Made in Africa Initiative)

**Panel IV: Projects<sup>34</sup>**

Moderator: Ann Hendrix-Jenkins (The Hunger Project)

Presentations (6 minutes each):

“Regional crises monitoring via the Delphi Technique: (Philani Mthembu, Sanusha Naidu, Arina Muresan, Faith Mabera, Institute for Global Dialogue)

“Social distancing and tracking technologies” (Nitsan Chorev, Brown University)

“COVID-19 response projects in Ethiopia” (Fengwei Ina Liu, China Foundation

for Poverty Alleviation)

“Developing African capacity for production of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals” (Hannah Ryder, Development Reimagined)

“Pandemic Response via use of Information and Communication Technology”  
(Hao Li, Wuhan University School of Health Sciences/Global Health Institute)

**Q&A Session I: Questions, Engagement, and Feedback on Projects** (20 minutes)

**Q&A Session II: General** (20 minutes)

**Recommendations and Concluding Remarks** (5 minutes):

Introductions: Atif Choudhury (The Carter Center)

Speakers (5 minutes each):

Cobus van Staden (SAIIA)

Amb. Jianhua ZHONG (Former PRC Special Representative of African Affairs)

# **ANNEX II: Draft agenda for Project Incubator Virtual Workshop**

## **Carter Center Project Incubator Workshop: Proposals on Africa-U.S.-China Cooperation**

A virtual workshop

**Date:** July 13, 16 & 22, 2020 (tentative)

### **Draft Agenda**

#### **1. Context**

This workshop is the result of a call for proposals issued by the China Program at The Carter Center for projects that advance Africa-U.S.-China cooperation on peace and development issues in Africa. Out of the large number of project proposals received, the six presented in Sessions I and II were chosen because of the policy dimensions and implications of their proposals on fostering greater Africa-U.S.-China cooperation. These themes have allowed us to split this workshop into two thematic-based sessions: Sustainable Development, and Peace and Security.

The four proposals in Session III were selected because of their emphasis on concrete, actionable pilot projects. These projects focus on public health, agriculture, women’s empowerment, and corporate social responsibility.

The objectives of all the workshops are to give panelists an opportunity to present their proposals and for other participants to engage with the proposals and discuss the policy environment and context around some of the common themes in each panel.

#### **2. Format**

Each proposal will take a maximum of 30 minutes. In the first 10-15 minutes, the project lead will give an overview of the proposal, with particular emphasis on its potential for trilateral cooperation.

The last 15 minutes are for Q&A, and each proposal will have an expert who will serve as a discussant. This will allow the project lead to receive feedback from the discussant, other experts, and Center colleagues to raise questions and engage with the project. Proposal authors have given us consent to share their project abstracts in advance of the workshop, which will help encourage attendees to be knowledgeable about the proposals and submit questions to the project leads in advance of the workshop.

#### **3. Timing**

The unique trilateral cooperation of the workshop presents logistical challenges with timing. We suggest the following times:

USA	Africa	China
07:00 – 08:30 EST	12:00 – 13:30	19:00 – 20:30

**Session 1: Sustainable Development Workshop (July 13)**

<b>Time EST</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
	<b>Proposal I</b>
07:00 – 07:10	<i>Southern Africa Resource Watch: Dr. Claude Kamemba</i>
	USA-China-Africa and the Quest for New Global Environmental Protection Due Diligence
07:10 – 07:20	Panel: Expert Trilateral Dialogue & Discussion
07:20 - 07:30	Proposal Engagement
	<b>Proposal II</b>
07:30 – 07:40	<i>South Africa Institute for International Affairs: Neuma Grobbelaar</i>
	Chinese and American Firms in Africa: Opportunities for cooperation in the nexus between Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development Goals
07:40 – 07:50	Panel: Expert Trilateral Dialogue & Discussion
07:50 – 08:00	Proposal Engagement
	<b>Proposal III</b>
08:00 – 08:10	<i>Influence Africa: Florence Mutesi</i>
08:10 – 08:20	Governance for Production and Development (GPD)
	Panel: Expert Trilateral Dialogue & Discussion
08:20 – 08:30	Proposal Engagement



**Session II: Peace and Security Workshop (July 16)**

<b>Time EST</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
	<b>Proposal I</b>
07:00 – 07:10	<i>Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation: Hugo van der Merwe and Annah Moyo</i>
	US-China-Africa cooperation in supporting national transitional justice processes in Africa
07:10 – 07:20	Panel: Expert Trilateral Dialogue & Discussion
	2 Participants: TBC
07:20 - 07:30	Open Q&A
	<b>Proposal II</b>
07:30 – 07:40	<i>Search for Common Ground: Claudia Maffettone</i>
	Preventing Naval Incidents in the Waterways Around the Horn of Africa
07:40 – 07:50	Panel: Expert Trilateral Dialogue & Discussion
	2 Participants: TBC
07:50 – 08:00	Q&A
	<b>Proposal III</b>
08:00 – 08:10	<i>Centre for African Studies Yunnan University: Zhang Chun</i>
	Regional transformation of Horn of Africa and its implications for china, Africa America trilateral cooperation
08:10 – 08:20	Panel: Expert Trilateral Dialogue & Discussion
08:20 – 08:30	Q&A

**Session III: Public Health, Agriculture, Women Empowerment, and CSR (July 23)**

USA	Africa	China
07:00 – 09:00 EST	12:00 – 15:00	19:00 – 21:00

<b>Time EST</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
7:00 – 7:15	<b>Proposal I</b>
	<i>The Hunger Project: Megan Nykyforchyn-Clark</i>
	China, the United States, and African Countries partner to strengthen local governance and community-led development.
7:15 - 7:30	Proposal Engagement
7:30 – 7:45	<b>Proposal II</b>
	<i>Development Reimagined: Hannah Ryder</i>
	Agricultural Trilateral Cooperation
7:45 - 8:00	Proposal Engagement
8:00-8:15	<b>Proposal III</b>
	<i>Project Hope: Tom Kenyon</i>
	Trilateral Cooperation to Lower Child Mortality in Africa
8:15-8:30	Proposal Engagement
8:30 – 08:45	<b>Proposal IV</b>
	<i>China-Africa Business Council: Suki Lee and Sandrine Nduwimana</i>
	Women Empowerment and Gender Equality
8:45 - 9:00	Q&A
9:00 - 9:15	<b>Proposal V</b>
	<i>Sunmaker Education Technology Uganda Ltd: Mark Gong Zhu</i>
	Poverty Alleviation and Social Development in Uganda through Youth Skilling
9:15 – 09:30	Proposal Engagement