

# BRI Pulse

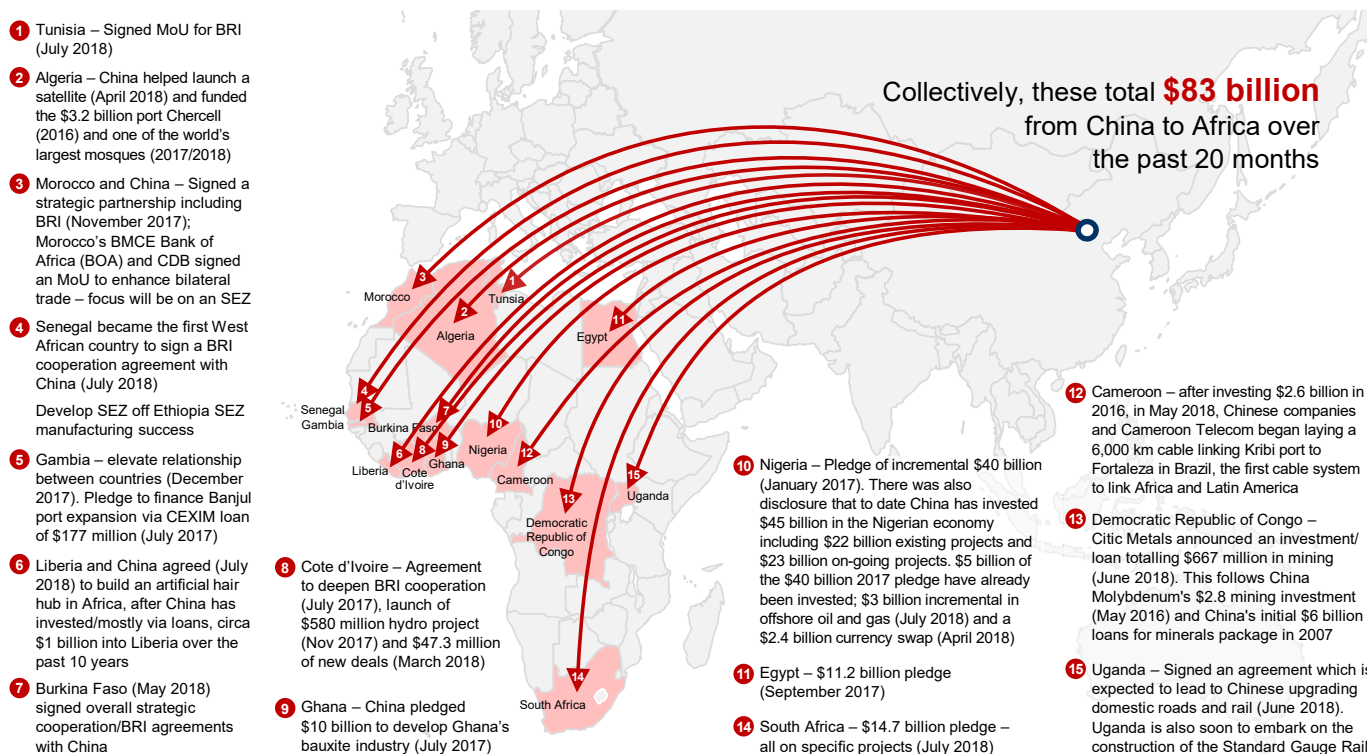
## Upcoming Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

### The Initial Silk Road Heads West Across Africa?

The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September in Beijing. There have been two summits held to date, the first in Beijing in November 2006 and second in South Africa in December 2015. For the past six years, South Africa has acted as co-chair of the Forum. Many leaders from nations across Africa have accepted to attend this third conference.

The agenda appears to be one of aligning a number of interests including the BRI Initiative, the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union's Agenda for 2063 and development strategies of individual African countries. We believe that China's key objective in this FOCAC is to elevate the China-Africa Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnerships with the participating countries to a new level as well as potentially developing a number of project/loan deliverables just as in the outcome of the Belt and Road Forum in May 2017.

In order to demonstrate how well China plans for these events, and how far in advance, we wanted to develop this one page BRI Pulse which shows the amount of investment/loans/agreements China has made/pledged to a number of African countries since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.



East Africa, and its countries along the Nile, represent the BRI's initial Silk Road and is led by countries with key ports (including Kenya and Djibouti). We see that Chinese investment activity in Africa in 2017/2018 as continuing the development of key ports in West African countries, thus assisting in developing trade between these countries and Europe, Latin America/Caribbean and North America.

All of these point to an extension of the initial Silk Road extending west from Uganda across to West Africa, linking to deep water ports which China has been constructing over the past 5 years (see: [www.chinainvestmentresearch.org/homepage](http://www.chinainvestmentresearch.org/homepage)).

Separate from all of the aforementioned investment/loans/pledges, during the past quarter we were also intrigued by President Xi and Prime Minister Modi calibrating diaries for East African visits and loans as well the possibility of "turning Portugal into an important hub for the building of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road."

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