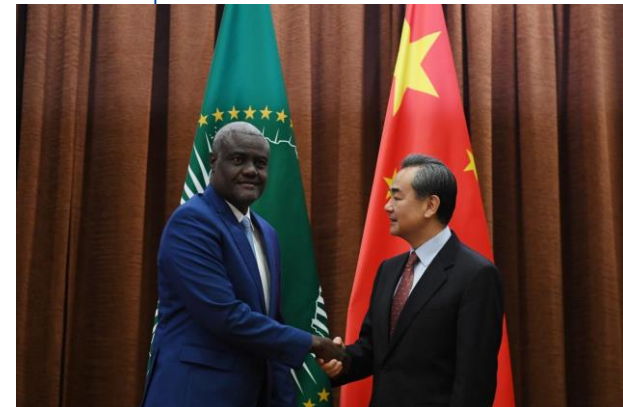


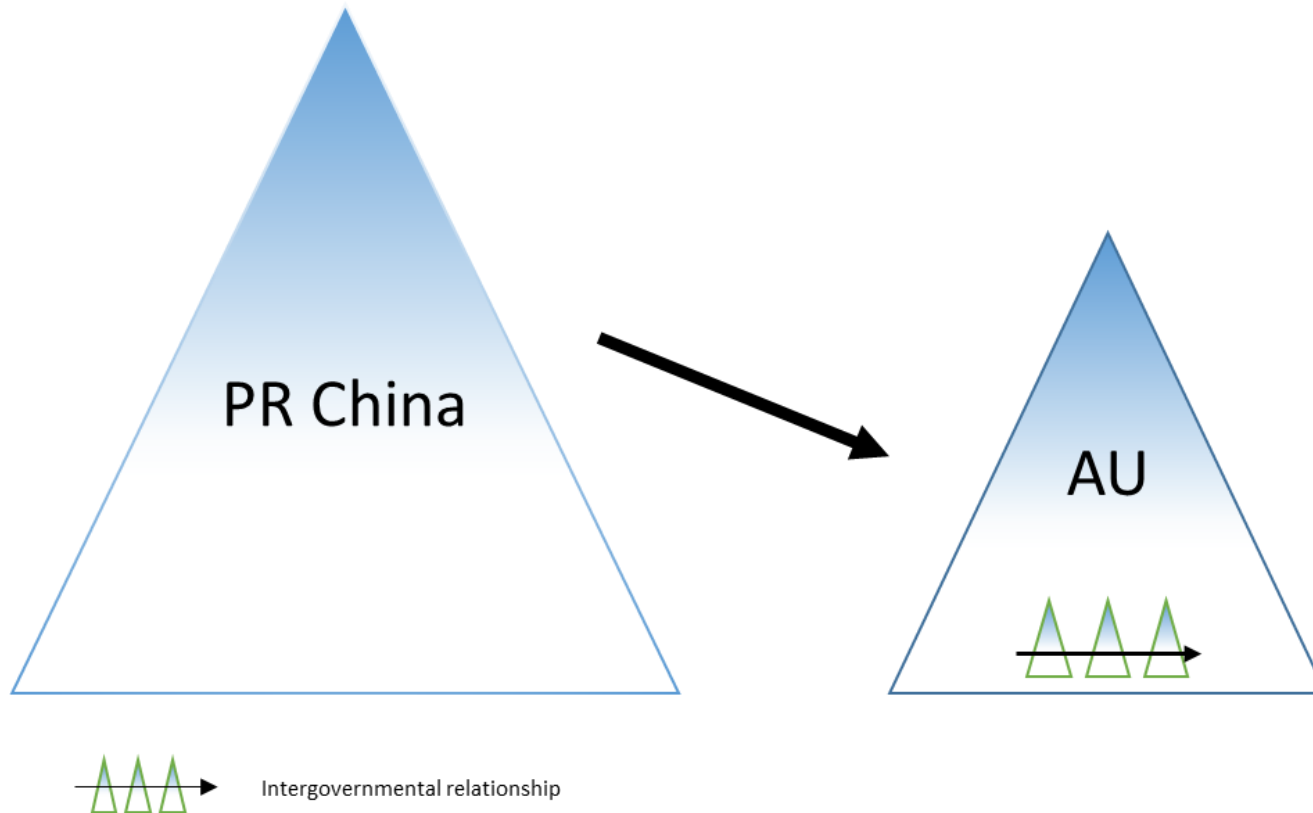
UNIVERSITÄT  
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# ***The Regional Dimension of Sino-African development cooperation***



# Hybrid Interregionalism and actorness gap



# Functions of Interregionalism in an asymmetrical Setting



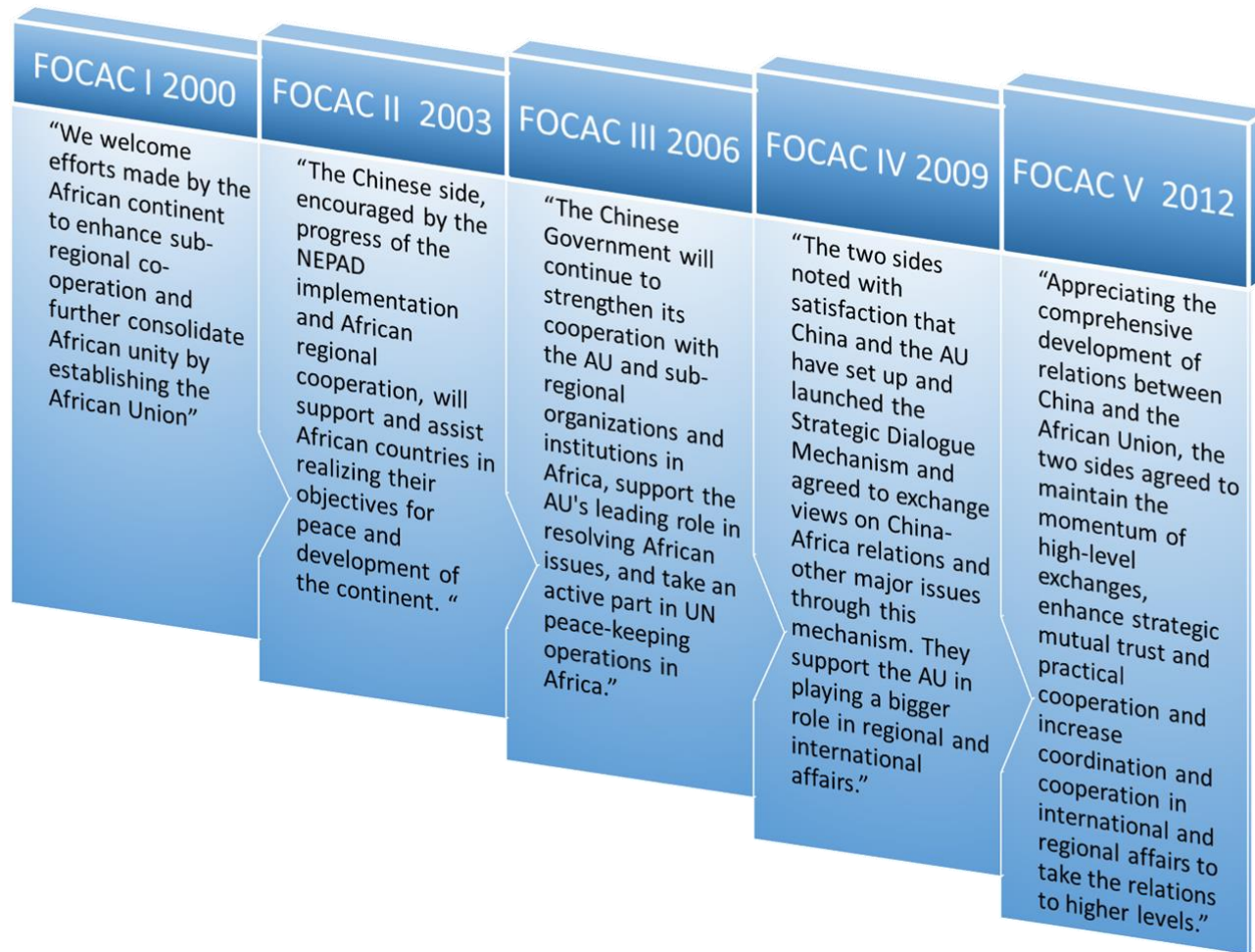
- Balancing
- **(intra-regional) Institution-building**
- Rationalizing
- Agenda setting
- **Diversification**
- **Development**
- **Peace & security**
- **Collective-identity-building**

- Policy shift from suspicion to uncertainty to cooperation
- New transnational economy- and security threats
- Enhanced engagement with regional multilateral institutions (ASEAN, SCO)
- Strategic partnership with the EU



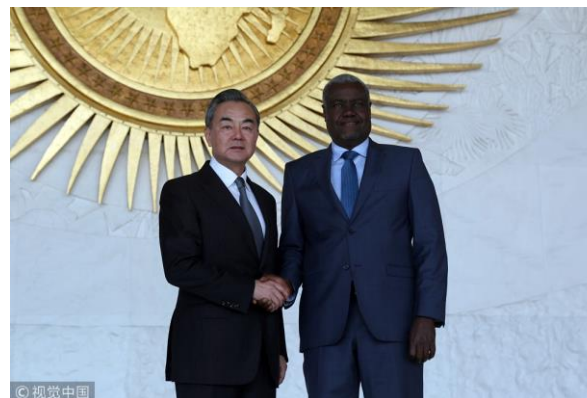
- Emergence of a regional and sub-regional structure in Africa
- From the OAU's defensive posture to AU's „non-indifference“.

“China appreciates the **significant role of the AU** in safeguarding peace and stability in the region and promoting African solidarity and development. **China values its friendly cooperation with the AU in all fields**, supports its positive role in regional and international affairs and **stands ready to provide the AU assistance** to the best of its capacity. “ (China's African Policy 2006)



“We welcome China’s stronger cooperation with the AU, its agencies and African regional economic organizations, and support the AUC in playing a constructive role in promoting China-Africa transnational and trans-regional cooperation.” (FOCAC 2018)

“[...]relations between China and the African Union (AU) are now in the best shape ever.” (Wang Yi 2019)





- The AU as a catalyst for African interests
- Reducing reputational costs
- Shaping international norms (eg. AU as a conflict resolution model with respect to national sovereignty)
- Economic development (also NEPAD)
- **Development:**

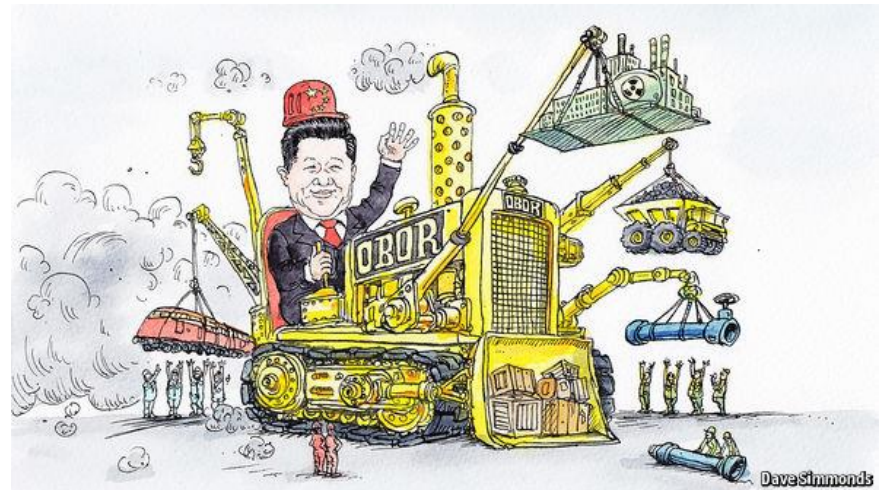
‘China values and supports the AU's leadership in building a united and strong Africa and promoting African integration, its centrality in safeguarding peace and security in Africa, as well as a bigger role for the organization in regional and international affairs’

- Economic Development in Africa in China's national Interest
- AU development goals partially align with Beijing's priorities
- Bilateral cooperation is dominant

## Industrial capacity cooperation'



## 'strategic complementarity'



- Regional projects with NEPAD and the AU

- Agriculture



- Health



- Infrastructure



China has regionalized some aspects of its formerly strictly bilateral development assistance, which in some areas, has increased the cooperation between the national and regional actors in Africa but has had little impact on the capacity of supranational structures.

China's contribution to regional development is limited to sporadic support for individual projects and the rhetoric appraisal of NEPAD in its strategic documents and the FOCAC declarations.

Parallel to NEPAD, the AUC has become the second regional development partner for China, challenging the already weak position of NEPAD