



PAKISTAN AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

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“PROMOTING PAKISTAN-AFRICA RELATIONS THROUGH REVIVAL OF THE BANDUNG SPIRIT OF AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY”



President PAIDAR, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed invited at the 70th Anniversary of the Glorious National day of Algeria in Islamabad.



President PAIDAR speaking at the seminar “24 years of FOCAC: The impact on China-Africa Cooperation”



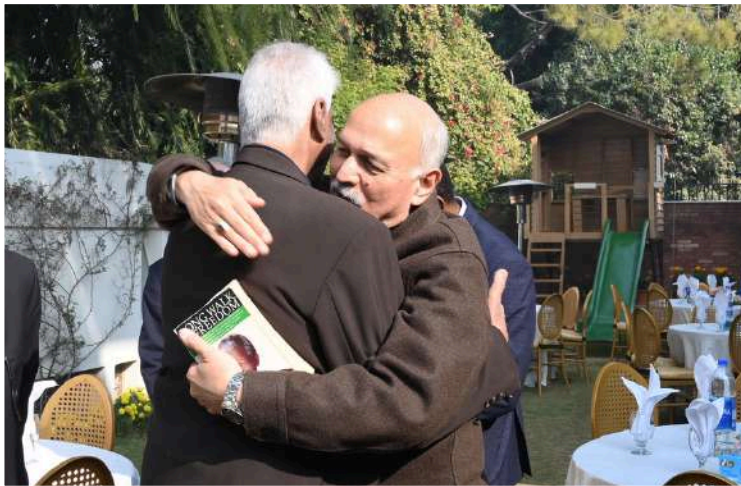
**President PAIDAR
with first High
Commissioner of
Rwanda to
Pakistan, Her
Excellency
Harerimana Fattou.**



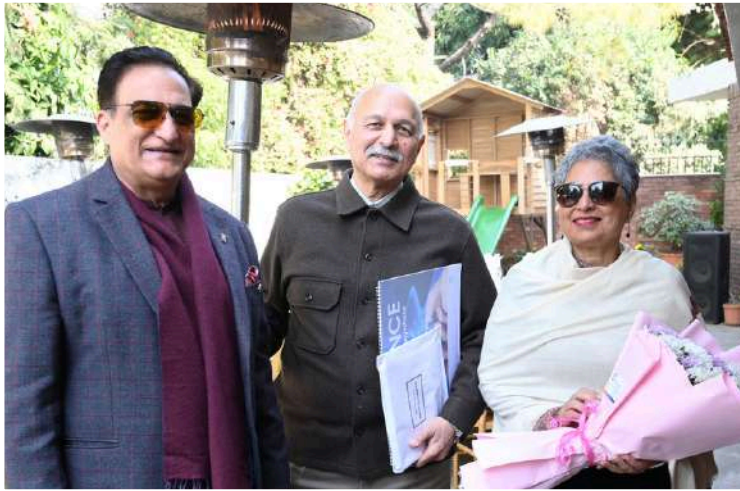
**President PAIDAR delivered a keynote speech at dialogue series of MIUC
on “Pakistan & Africa: Unlocking Opportunities Through Trade, culture &
Collaboration”**



President PAIDAR hosted lunch in the Honor of African Ambassadors in Islamabad



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President PAIDAR's article for *Africa-China Review* on "Africa, China and Resurgence of Global South"

It's my pleasure and privilege to be participating in this important webinar on 24 years of the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and I am grateful to my good friend in Kigali Rwanda, Gerald Mbanda who is the Chief Editor of the Africa China review for organizing this important conference at time of turbulence and transformation, when the world is being turned to Topsy-turvy, when the world is seeing a historical transition of economic and political power away from the west to the global south of which China, Africa and Pakistan are an important component. This conference which was convened in and as President Xi Jinping rightly said at the conference on 5th of September that China and Africa comprise one third of the world's population and he added that without our modernization, without the modernization of China there can be no global modernization, so when we look at China Africa relations, we are looking at Africa's biggest trading partner, China, over \$280 billion worth of trade registered in 2023 and we are talking of this cooperation which spans so many areas at the FOCAC in Beijing on 5th of September where over 50 African leaders were present.

President Xi Jinping pledged over \$50 billion to 10 partnership goals in different areas of health, of agriculture, of common security, of green development, of poverty alleviation in the next three years, so China-Africa cooperation is going to be one of the pillars in the resurgence of the global south, and this did not start today, we can trace it back soon after the Chinese revolution in 1949, which led to the formation of the People's Republic of China, China was one of the first countries to lend a helping hand to their third world brothers in Pakistan in Asia, in Africa they started building the TAZARA railway, Tanzania and Zambia.

In the 60s, Chinese experts were there, supporting liberation movements in Zimbabwe, in South Africa and Namibia, in different parts of Africa, part of the national liberation movements, so China was in the forefront of the freedom struggle, struggle against racism, racial discrimination, western hegemony, and for those want to know about western hegemony in Africa, the worst crimes were committed by the colonialists and we have already seen that, there is a book I saw called King Leopold's ghost, it's about Belgian colonialism in Congo, and the crimes that were committed, because Congo was not a colony even, it was a private property of King Leopold, the king of Belgium, and how they left Congo in shambles when it achieved independence, and how the first leader of a free Congo, Patrice Lumumba was brutally murdered by western intelligence and then we have also seen other examples.

We saw the movie "blood diamonds" which shows how these western mercenaries and mining companies have exploited and plundered the natural and mineral resources of Africa and it is no accident that the great African leader Nelson Mandela who when he visited Pakistan in 1999 as President of South Africa I was then minister for information, culture and tourism, I had the honor to be his minister in waiting for four days, and I took him around and he gave me his book also, "long walk to freedom", duly signed for me, for which I am eternally grateful. He said these western leaders and I quote are dinosaurs, meaning they are they have mindset based on the past.





It is China which is talking about the future, a brighter future, better future so when we talk of China modernization, how is China's role different than the west. First, China's relationship is neither transactional, not tactical, not temporary, nor based on conditionalities, nor seeking to extract things, it's based on peaceful development, win-win cooperation, inclusivity through the Belt and Road Initiative, which is the most important global initiative on diplomacy and development in the 21st century, where China has invested over one trillion dollars and three thousand projects in the last 10 years, then we are talking of the global development initiative of President Xi Jinping, the global security initiative and the global civilization initiative.

All of these are inextricably intertwined, because whether it's development, whether it's security, whether it's civilization, there is talk of harmony, connectivity, cooperation, working hand in hand of shared prosperity. So it's not an exclusive approach, it's not a zero sum game approach, it's not an approach of seeing things in a scenario where one side wins and one side loses, or it's not a talk of control and coercion, it's about connectivity and cooperation, and that is what the way forward is, and then when we talk of these initiatives in the new situation, on the one side, the Americans, the west are still talking of seeing Africa in a cold war context.

America established in 2007, United States Africa Command, which is based in Germany by the way, and where they either do have interventions ostensibly on counter terrorism, but they are promoting their own interests along with other western powers. China does not do that, Chinese modernization is an example of peaceful development of socialist modernization, of harmony between nature and humanity, as opposed to the militarization promoted by the west, where they talk of control, coercion, use of force, extraction.

So in this context, we have two contrasting visions in the world, and when Africa is moving forward to build global south as the vehicle of progress of which we are integral component, we should be on the right side of history, we should be with those countries who support our independence, who talk of preserving, protecting and promoting our national liberation not just from the yoke of western colonialism and neocolonialism, but also from hypocrisy, double standards and racism that is evident. We stand with principles, we stand with progress, we stand with prosperity and we stand with China in building better tomorrow for the global south, for Africa, for us even in Asia and Pakistan, better tomorrow, with no overlords, no underdogs, a peaceful and a prosperous tomorrow, and we feel that China, Africa relations are the biggest guarantee for this prosperous future which is now reshaping the world, throwing new light into Africa's development from the age of darkness under colonialism to the age of light and prosperity, under new alternative emerging global order based on equality, inclusivity and peaceful development and modernization of shared prosperity.



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Daily Parliament Times

The Art of Gifting in Africa: Past and Present

Asadullah Qamar



When you step into 2025, the tradition of gift-giving lives on around the world and crosses over all cultural and societal walls. What started as sharing and goodwill has become a complicated business, not only affecting personal relationships but international policy as well. Gifting from its early human survival strategies to contemporary manifestations in philanthropy and political

patronage, has been central to how humans interact.

Cultural Adaptations and Historical Trajectory:

The roots of gift-giving can be traced back to ancient Africa, where early human societies used gifting to survive and to keep themselves together. Giving was a deeply ingrained part of societies where people were mainly hunter-gatherers, the act helped forge alliances, maintain social order and help get resources. Even gifts, in the form of cattle or food, acted as a catalyst to cement horizontal ties between equals and vertical bonds to the person of authority laying the groundwork for a complex social grid.

As human societies expanded and diversified, so did the gifting practice. When concepts of charity and communal giving were introduced to Africa, as well as the introduction of Islam and Christianity, brought about a large-scale change. Islamic zakat and Christian Caritas institutionalized giving through their religious teachings and reiterated the importance of giving to the stability of the society and the welfare of the whole community. African societies were disrupted and foreign systems were introduced during the colonial era. But then gifting adapted to this new reality, a tool of resistance and of life. For instance, Harambee — or pulling together — in East Africa, helped communities share resources and make progress together on educational front in spite of colonial oppression.

Gifting in the contemporary context in Africa:

As we glide into 2025, Africans are again engaging in the art of gifting differently as the continent transforms. The Cold War and postcolonial period between 1960 and early 2000 continued the tradition as new states in Africa grappled with boundaries imposed by colonial powers. Borisov noted that leaders leaned on vertical gifting, where the state used its resources to control tensions within the society. As much as it was helpful in centralization of power, it aggravated patronage structures that are in practice to date.

However modern century has bid this tradition adieu and a new style of gifting has emerged in Africa. When people became uncomfortable with the conventional ways of providing support toward development and charity operations in foreign countries, innovations appeared. Others have turned to models of trust-based philanthropy, philanthocapitalism, and effective giving, all of which value rationality and data to hold organizations accountable for demonstrable impact. These innovations stand out from the one-directional charity model, delegate the power to local communities, and allow people to address social problems.

In addition, diaspora remittance flows as a source of funding for development have assumed even greater significance in Africa. With the focus to tap on domestic resources, the continent has started to cut on aid dependency, in his majesty of locally-driven plans. It is social change because it underlines the emerging process of identifying and empowering from within.

Charity also continues to be one of the important instruments of Africa's diplomacy abroad. In foreign relations, the gifts that presidents or prime ministers share during a state visit or during multilateral summits are meant to improve relations. This characteristic of open-handedness, as a key instrument of soft power in the Africa Resilience Forum (ARF) demonstrates that gifting continues to play a vital role in contemporary diplomatic relations.

Conclusion:

Lessons from Gift-giving in Africa as we look toward the future of 2025. The culture of gifting has a deep-rooted history of being used as a tool to determine the interaction between people and countries, which has not only survived but also has prospered through time and is an essential tool in present-day diplomacy. It will therefore be the task in the future to find how to maintain the novelty of gifting while strengthening the specific cultural characteristics that allow the practice to promote social cohesion, political responsiveness, and development that is perennial.

Africa has a lot to learn from history and today's uses of gifting, and in turn, use them as a tool to improve the existence of human communities, the governance, and, generally, to work on claiming its position on the world stage. As we begin this new year, we are reminded that the practice of giving, both within our communities and across borders, has the power to bring the continents closer to their desired future—a more generous, interconnected, and sustainable world.

Art of Gifting in Africa: Past and Present

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As human societies expanded and diversified, so did the gifting practice. When concepts of charity and communal giving were introduced to Africa, as well as the introduction of Islam and Christianity, brought about a large-scale change. Islamic zakat and Christian Caritas institutionalized giving through their religious teachings and reiterated the importance of giving to the stability of the society and the welfare of the whole community. African societies were disrupted and foreign systems were introduced during the colonial era. But then gifting adapted to this new reality, a tool of resistance and of life.

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Analysis

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Africa has a lot to learn from history and today's uses of gifting, and in turn, use them as a tool to improve the existence of human communities, the governance, and, generally, to work on claiming its position on the world stage. As we begin this new year, we are reminded that the practice of giving, both within our communities and across borders, has the power to bring the continents closer to their desired future—a more generous, interconnected, and sustainable world.

Assistant Editor at Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR)

The Article "Art of Gifting in Africa: Past and Present" examines the evolution of gift-giving in Africa, from ancient traditions fostering social cohesion to its contemporary role in philanthropy, development, and diplomacy. It highlights the shift towards trust-based models, remittances, and local empowerment, emphasizing gifting's enduring impact on social change and global engagement.



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PAIDAR's Vision for Pakistan-Africa cooperation-II

Furthermore, PAIDAR should be given a conducive environment to penetrate the academic and research spaces in both regions. Academic collaboration is essential to foster understanding, share knowledge, and promote mutual interests. By facilitating joint research projects, student and faculty exchange programs, and intellectual dialogue between Pakistani and African universities and think tanks, PAIDAR can serve as a platform for meaningful academic cooperation. Such collaborations can help build a foundation for long-term relations that are grounded in shared values and mutual benefits.

A practical step towards strengthening Pakistan-Africa relations could be the exchange of delegations consisting of experts, professionals, and laborers. These delegations can focus on key sectors such as agriculture, technology, healthcare, education, and particularly the blue economy. Such exchanges would allow both sides to learn from each other's experiences, best practices, and innovations, thereby building stronger economic and cultural linkages. It would also help foster people-to-people contacts, which are crucial for developing trust and understanding between different cultures and societies.

Additionally, Pakistan can offer African countries a strategic route for trade with Central Asian states. This geostrategic advantage could be leveraged to open new markets

and economic opportunities for African nations, thereby making Pakistan an essential partner in their trade and economic strategies. Such initiatives could pave the way for a new era of diplomatic and economic linkages that benefit both regions.



M Azam Tariq

The creation of PAIDAR by Honorable Mushahid Hussain is a timely and visionary initiative that offers immense potential for enhancing Pakistan-Africa relations. However, for PAIDAR to achieve its full potential, it must receive robust support from both governments, as well as from academic, business, and civil

society stakeholders. By providing PAIDAR with the necessary resources, policy backing, and collaborative environment, a new chapter of diplomatic, economic, and strategic partnership between Pakistan and African countries can be realized.

In conclusion, PAIDAR has the potential to serve as a catalyst for redefining Pakistan-Africa relations. By focusing on strategic areas like the blue economy, enhancing academic collaboration, promoting trade and investment, and fostering people-to-people contacts, a new era of cooperation and partnership can be established. This partnership would not only bring economic benefits but also contribute to regional stability, sustainable development, and prosperity, creating a win-win situation for both Pakistan and the African continent.

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Pakistan-Africa Relations

- Pakistan's links with Africa predate the creation of the country in 1947 as the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited Egypt in 1946 which laid the foundation of building this common bond;
- Pakistan has the honour of strongly supporting the freedom struggles of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco in the 1950s, even providing Pakistani diplomatic passports to their leaders during the anti-colonial struggle;
- Pakistan supported the struggle for independence of Libya and Eritrea at the United Nations and provided military, diplomatic and political support to the liberation movements of ANC in South Africa, ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe and SWAPO in Namibia;
- Pakistan was at the forefront of opposing the racist apartheid regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia;
- Pakistan helped in military training, administrative capacity building, plus providing scholarships to students, technical expertise in areas of health, education and law to the newly independent African states.
- Pakistan has 60 year track record of the Pakistan Army serving Africa through participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- Pakistani people have always had an affinity with struggles of people of Africa: in 1960, after the assassination of Patrice Lumumba, there was a huge solidarity demonstration in Lahore & one of the most famous poems of Pakistani popular poet, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, is 'Come Back Africa'.

Aims of PAIDAR

- **Rejuvenate** the historical bonds of solidarity between Pakistan and Africa which were cemented during Pakistan's support to freedom movements in Africa.
- **Restore** Pakistan's foreign policy priority orientation and involvement in Africa given common interests and centrality of Africa to the resurgence of the Global South in 21st century;
- **Revive** Pakistan-Africa relations through people-to-people exchanges and business-to-business connectivity.

Pakistan's efforts in Africa

- Pakistan played a pivotal role in supporting the liberation movements of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Eritrea during their anti-colonial struggles, offering **diplomatic passports** and backing at the United Nations.
- Pakistan has consistently extended **humanitarian aid** to African countries during times of crisis, providing relief assistance, medical aid, and disaster response support.
- Pakistan staunchly **opposed apartheid regimes** in South Africa and Rhodesia, providing military, diplomatic, and political support to movements like the ANC, ZANU-PF, and SWAPO.
- With a 60-year track record, the Pakistan Army has been instrumental in serving Africa through participation in **UN Peacekeeping Operations**, contributing to regional stability and conflict resolution.
- Pakistan actively contributed to the **development of newly independent** African states, offering military training, administrative capacity building, scholarships, and technical expertise in crucial areas such as health, education, and law.
- Pakistan has supported **healthcare initiatives** in Africa, including medical missions, training programs for healthcare professionals, and assistance in combating diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and Ebola.



Brief Profile of President PAIDAR

Mushahid Hussain Sayed has a long experience and interest in Africa from his student days. As a student, he founded the Pakistan Youth Committee on Afro-Asian Solidarity.

While in the United States, he studied Africa among his principal areas of academic interest in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where his Academic Adviser, Dr. Chester Crocker, a leading American expert on Africa, later went on to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in the administration of President Ronald Reagan. As journalist, he covered the war in Western Sahara & interviewed Yasser Arafat in Tunisia as well as Sudan's Sadiq al-Mahdi in London.



As Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, he had the honour to serve as Minister-in-Waiting for President Nelson Mandela during his visit to Pakistan in May 1999.

He also had the privilege of interacting with President Julius Nyerere, when he visited Pakistan in 1989 as Chairman of the South Commission.

He served as Leader of Pakistan's Parliamentary Delegation to Nigeria in 2021 as well as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly at Luanda, Angola in October 2023.

He was elected Vice President of the IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, during the IPU Conference in Kigali, Rwanda in October 2022 where he focused on issues of democracy and Human Rights in Africa. He also served as Convenor of Pakistan-Nigeria Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate during 2021-2024.

He is the first Pakistani to be invited to a BRICS official event, when, in August 2023, on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, he was specially invited in his personal capacity by the National School of Government & the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa to the BRICS Forum on People-to-People & Cultural Exchanges in Johannesburg.



With grandson of Nelson Mandela at Tehran International Conference on Palestine



With President of Angola, Mr. João Lourenço





Pakistan-Africa Institute for Development and Research

Pakistan's First Think Tank on Africa

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