

Abstract: Sino-African relations and their relevance in South-South Cooperation

Throughout history, international relations have been framed according to the interests of countries from the Global North. Established concepts such as the status quo maintenance and the world order stability illustrate how important it has been for Northern states to maintain their positions and privileges in the hierarchies of international power. With the rise of new powers and the post-Cold War multipolarity, some of the developing countries have gained more preponderance and have become more relevant in international politics. This scenario has engendered a new way of thinking about cooperation and its agendas, since the countries of the South, for the first time, have acquired the status of not only recipients of investments, cooperation projects, etc., but have also become investors and providers of projects and programs.

China, due to its high economic growth rates in the last three decades, has made many investments and cooperation projects in developing countries, thus becoming an extremely relevant actor in South-South Cooperation. In general, Chinese investments have occurred mainly in infrastructure projects and trade agreements in search of raw materials and energy. Secondarily, China has also made technical, educational and cultural cooperation agreements.

Thus, the present study has sought to analyze China's relations with the countries of the South (mainly African and Latin American), observing mainly China's investment patterns, priority sectors and types of projects implemented. The Scientific Initiation project consisted of reading texts and documents that presented quantitative and qualitative data on the investments made by China and the preparation of oriented abstracts proposed by the project's coordinating professor, who sought to observe specific characteristics in Chinese projects.

So far, we can state that the most significant investments were made in Latin America and in African countries, especially in the public construction and energy sectors. However, one of the results of the research was also the finding that Chinese relations with African countries are very relevant to Beijing, since the projects go beyond the infrastructure sphere and also address issues such as improving the quality of life and peace and security indices on the African continent. In addition, in financial terms, African countries receive the largest amount of cooperation projects directed by

China, and in political terms, the relationship between the two poles is more institutionalized, taking as an example the China-Africa Cooperation Forum since 2000.