



Africa and the US Agree to Foster Closer Working Relationship

In recent years, there has been a rise in global powers such as the US, China and the EU (European Union) seeking to strengthen economic, political and security relations in Africa. The US has traditionally used its foreign policy framework to determine the type of relations it will have with different countries across the globe. However, this has had to change as many African countries have shifted their focus East toward China. The recently concluded US-Africa Leaders Summit held in Washington D.C. will see Africa and the US reigniting relations. This summit also indicates that competition between these three major global powers will continue as we head into 2023 and beyond. According to Voice of America, the US has pledged USD 55 billion over the next three years, with trade, agriculture and infrastructure (digital, energy and physical infrastructure) getting the most attention. These three areas are critical for Africa's growth and continue to take centre stage as global economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine contributed to slowed growth of these sectors. Below is a breakdown of the focus areas that the two continents made significant commitments.