

THE CHINA-ARAB STATES COOPERATION FORUM (CASCF)



BRICS Policy Center Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas - BRICS

This factsheet outlines the international cooperation between China and the Arab League countries promoted by the China Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF)

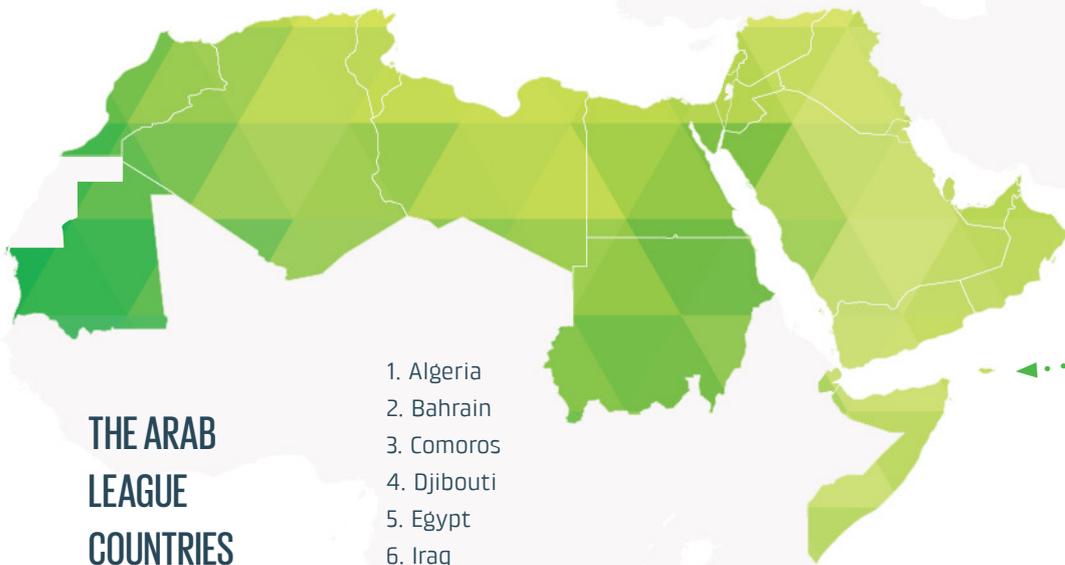


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What is the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF)?

Source: ([The Diplomat, 2014](#)); ([Xinhua, 2016](#))

- CASCF is a formal dialogue initiative between China and the Arab League (AL), which has currently 21 members¹.
- It was established in 2004 during a visit of the then-Chinese President, Hu Jintao, to the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo, Egypt.



THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNTRIES

Source: ([Arab League Online, 2012](#))

1. Syria, which was the 22nd member, is suspended from the AL since 2011, "due to its government's brutal way of dealing with political opponents." ([Arab League Online, 2012](#)).

2. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of China has already stated the Chinese support of the Palestinian right to form an independent State ([China Daily, 2014](#)). This political course aligns China with the Arab League's claims for the recognition of Palestine as a formal country.

1. Algeria
2. Bahrain
3. Comoros
4. Djibouti
5. Egypt
6. Iraq
7. Jordan
8. Kuwait
9. Lebanon
10. Libya
11. Mauritania
12. Morocco
13. Oman
14. Palestine²
15. Qatar
16. Saudi Arabia
17. Somalia
18. Sudan
19. Tunisia
20. United Arab Emirates (UAE)
21. Yemen



Mission and Principles

Source: ([Xinhua, 2016](#)); ([Kuangyi, 2014](#))

CASCF aims to promote cooperation in various fields, such as politics, trade, culture, technology, foreign affairs, as well as to advance peace and development through friendly exchanges.

On the establishment of the forum, Hu Jintao proposed four principles to guide the new era of China-Arab interactions: (i) Establish political relations based on mutual respect; (ii) Foster economic and trade exchanges to accomplish common development aims; (iii) Learn from one another via cultural exchanges; (iv) Promote world peace and common development by cooperating in international affairs.

Structure

Source: (Xinhua, 2016); (Jalal, 2014); (Xinhua, 2016)

Ministerial Meeting

A permanent mechanism which gathers every two years the Secretary General of the AL and the Foreign Ministers of China and all League's members, rotating the location of the meeting every year between China and an Arab state. These meetings concern regional and international matters of common interest, particularly to address the former Action Plans published by the Forum and the following ones.

Senior Officials Meeting

An annual meeting organized in order to prepare the next Ministerial Meeting; to implement resolutions made by the last one and to call political consultations between China and the AL.

Liaison Group

This group promotes communication between all parties involved and implements resolutions made by the Ministerial Meeting and the Senior Officials Meeting. The Chinese Embassy in Egypt is the liaison group of China while the Arab Envoys Committee to China and the Arab League Representative Office in China form the liaison group of the League.

Other Mechanisms:

The forum is composed by more than ten other mechanisms aimed to deepen cooperation.

Main Mechanisms

Source: (China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, 2017)

ENTREPRENEURS CONFERENCE

Focuses on enterprises and aims to improve economic and trade exchanges between China and the Arab world in a global context.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE SEMINAR

A flexible mechanism which provides an opportunity for co-operation projects and enhances the relevance of trade co-operation between involved parties.

ENERGY COOPERATION CONFERENCE

The goal is to strengthen China-Arab energy cooperation and sustainable development.

CHINA-ARAB RELATIONS AND CIVILIZATION DIALOGUE SEMINARS

Promotes equality, solidarity and communication between different cultures with a major aim to accomplish peaceful coexistence.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Cultural activities such as art festivals are held in both parts to promote mutual understanding.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION SEMINAR

A seminar to enhance cooperation in the educational and scientific area.

NEWS COOPERATION FORUM

The goal is to cooperate in the mass media field using the press to enhance friendly cooperation.

ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

Promotes cooperation in environmental protection and sustainable developmental efforts.

HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING

The goal is to promote cooperation through seminars and technical training courses for a diverse group of public officials.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES

An important auxiliary channel in boosting friendly cooperation between China and the Arab League.

CASCF'S TIMELINE



Action Plans

Source: (China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, n.d.)

1st Action Plan

Main chapters:

(I) POLITICAL COOPERATION: China and the AL pursue coordinated positions on regional and international affairs and seek peaceful solutions, sustainable development and cooperation on themes such as organized crime and drug trafficking.

(II) ECONOMIC COOPERATION: the members agreed to focus on areas such as trade, investment, energy, science, technology, agriculture, environment and labor to promote their common development and to create favorable conditions to economic partnerships.

(III) SOCIAL, CULTURE AND NEWS COOPERATION: The Forum promotes different kinds of culture exchanges and cooperation opportunities in human resources, education, health, poverty, rural development and media fields.

2nd Action Plan:

The two sides agreed to establish a political cooperation mechanism.

Environment

Source: (China Arab-States Cooperation Forum, 2018)

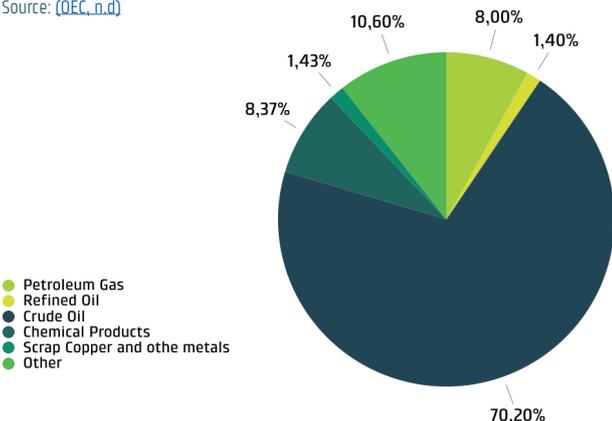
The China-Arab Conference on Environmental Cooperation (2006)

- Established the importance on economic development, social progress and environmental protection, emphasizing the creation of sustainable development and the promotion of cooperation between the two parties. To achieve these mutual goals, both parties have signed the "Joint Communiqué" to guide the deepening of their regional environmental cooperation.
- An Annual Implementation Plan is completed every two years to actively promote and establish cooperation in projects and activities in the areas of policy making, financing, and environmental legislation.

Trade and Investment

Crude Oil's Participation in the Arab States Exportations to China in 2015 (%)

Source: (OEC, n.d)

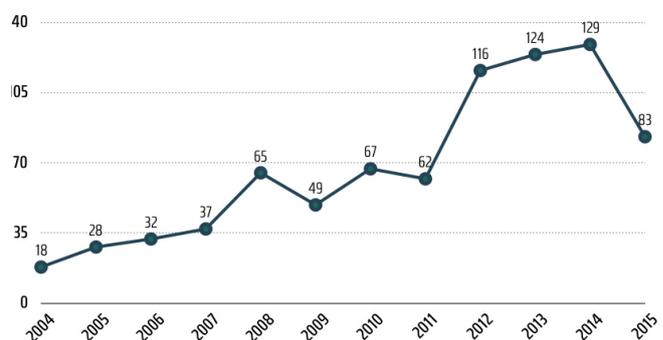


- Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Arab States, cooperation and trade has continually increased. The Arab States have become China's greatest supplier of crude oil and the 7th biggest trading partner. Source: (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC, 2016)
- China also has an investment and support policy with the Arab States in the field of petroleum and natural gas; cooperative investments are articulated to optimize oil extraction, transportation, and refining. Source: (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC, 2016)

Chinese participation in the Arab States Exportations (2015) Source: (OEC, n.d)

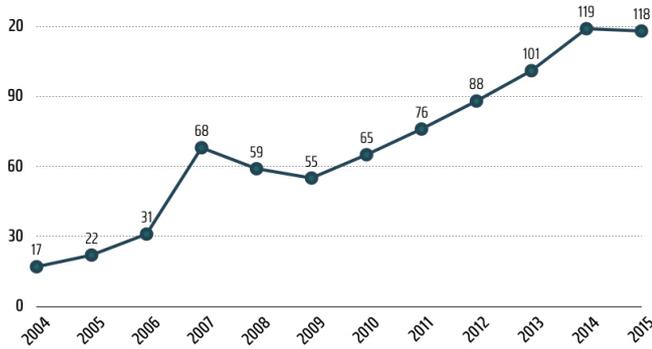
ARAB STATES COUNTRIES	PORTION OF EXPORTATIONS GOING TO CHINA	CHINESE RANKING ON COUNTRY'S EXPORTATIONS
Sudan	54%	1 ^o
Oman	44%	1 ^o
Yemen	39%	1 ^o
Mauritania	33%	1 ^o
Iraq	23%	1 ^o
Saudi Arabia	15%	1 ^o
Kuwait	13%	2 ^o
United Arab Emirates	7%	3 ^o
Somalia	4.3%	3 ^o
Libya	9.6%	4 ^o
Qatar	6.5%	4 ^o
Jordan	4.8%	6 ^o
Egypt	3%	9 ^o
Morocco	1.8%	11 ^o
Djibouti	1.1%	14 ^o
Tunisia	1.1%	14 ^o
Algeria	1.1%	17 ^o
Bahrain	4.2%	25 ^o
Palestine	0.045%	31 ^o
Lebanon	0.69%	31 ^o
Comoros	0.053%	43 ^o

Exports from the Arab States to China (2004-2015) (in billions of US\$) Source: (OEC, n.d)



Imports from China to Arab States (2004-2015) (in billions of US\$)

Source: (OECD, n.d)

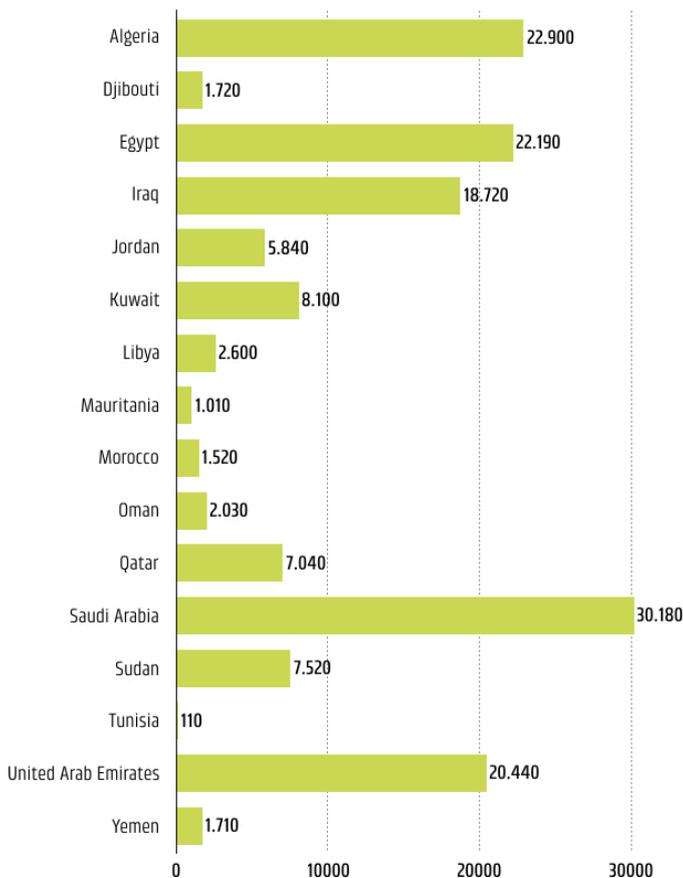


- Since the foundation of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, trade volume has increased. In 2003, the trade volume was USD 25.4 billion and in 2004 the exchange between both parties increased by USD 11.3 billion. In 2008, the trade value rose to USD 132.9 billion, reaching the bilateral trade volume goal.

Source: (Kuwait News Agency; 2010)

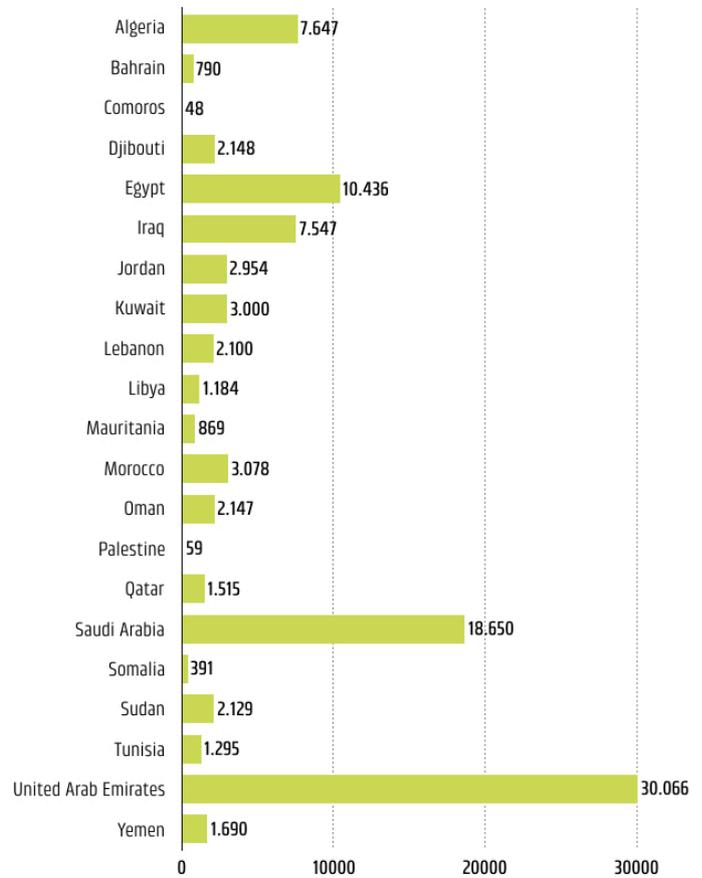
Chinese Investments in Arab Countries (2005-2017) (in millions of USD)

Source: (The China Global Investment Tracker; n.d.)



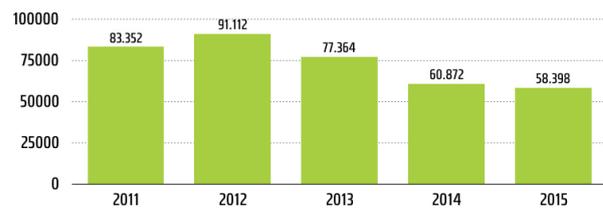
Amount of imports to each country in the Arab States (2016) (in millions of USD)

Source: (WITS; n.d)



Arab-States exportation of crude oil to China (2011-2015) (in millions of USD)

Source: (OECD, n.d)



- The direct Chinese investment in the Arab States in the first semester of 2017 had a volume of USD 630 million, showing an increase of 25,6% compared to earlier investments.

Source: (Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China; 2017)