
China Zero-Tariff Move Boosts Africa Trade Prospects



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The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, has welcomed

China's decision to grant zero-tariff access to imports from African countries, calling it a "timely"

step amid mounting global economic uncertainties.

Speaking in Addis Ababa following the China-Africa Entrepreneurs Summit, Youssouf said the

initiative would help African economies navigate ongoing global challenges, including disruptions linked to tensions in the Middle East and restrictions affecting the Strait of Hormuz. He noted that African nations, particularly those with structural vulnerabilities, are facing rising pressures from supply chain disruptions, fertilizer shortages, and growing protectionist trends worldwide. These factors, he warned, are increasing the risk of food insecurity across the continent.

China's policy will allow products from 53 African countries with diplomatic ties to enter its market tariff-free starting May 1, significantly improving market access and trade competitiveness. Youssouf described the move as a gesture of partnership reflecting a commitment to fair and transparent economic cooperation.

Trade between China and Africa continues to expand, reaching \$348 billion in 2025, according to data from the General Administration of Customs of China. Imports from Africa totaled \$123 billion, showing steady year-on-year growth.

The initiative is expected to create new opportunities for African industries, promote value addition, and strengthen Africa's position in global trade.