

**Speech by Ambassador Liu Guijin
On South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation
At the First Development Cooperation Forum**

New York, 30 June 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to attend the First Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and exchange views with you on international cooperation on development.

This year is an important one for international cooperation on development, the year of the mid-term review for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The United Nations will hold the MDG High-Level Event to give a comprehensive review to the implementation of the MDGs. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development will be held at the end of the year to discuss ways of financing and building a global partnership. These meetings will provide the international community with an important opportunity to strengthen international cooperation on development.

As the most universal, authoritative and representative inter-governmental organization, the UN plays a crucial role in advancing international cooperation on development. The DCF, a new UN mechanism for comprehensive review on international cooperation on development, serves to encourage the international community to increase input and mobilize resources for development and strengthen development agencies. I believe that the DCF should remain committed to promoting development, bring into full play the role of various stakeholders and help all parties to deepen partnership for development. While assessing all countries' achievements in development, we should also monitor and evaluate international cooperation and the fulfillment of the development assistance commitments, and contribute to the global cause on development by studying the new trends and new issues in international cooperation on development.

The theme of the meeting, South-South Cooperation and Triangular

Cooperation, constitutes a major component of international cooperation on development and important supplement to North-South Partnership on Development. I hope that our discussions today will help enhance the role of the DCF and the UN in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, and that we will come up with specific suggestions for better development cooperation between developing countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vast number of developing countries are actively exploring development paths suited to their own national conditions. With sound momentum for development, they have become an important force for world peace and common development. However, the unfavorable environment developing countries face in world development process remains basically unchanged, and their capacity to cope with the challenge and impact brought by globalization needs to be strengthened. It is important for developing countries to be active in South-South cooperation and achieve development through mutual assistance and assimilation, so as to create a sound external environment for the overall development of developing countries. I wish to put forward the following three suggestions in this respect.

First, safeguard common interests through solidarity and coordination. Developing countries should actively engage in consultation and coordination on major international issues and try to act in unison to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of them all. They should also take an active part in the formulation of international economic, financial and trade rules, have a greater say in international affairs and in decision-making, and seek better competition conditions and greater space for their development.

Second, deepen cooperation in all fields while keeping abreast of the times. As developing countries grow in strength, they conduct more and more South-South cooperation on trade, investment, science and technology, infrastructure, health and education. Developing countries should, in light of the circumstances and their own needs and in the principle of equality and mutual benefit, constantly expand the channels of, create new models for and add new contents to their cooperation.

Third, enhance coordination and make effective use of the multilateral mechanisms. We should work for substantive results in favor of developing countries to be achieved in the important meetings this year, such as the upcoming UN MDG High-Level Event and Follow-up

International Conference on Financing for Development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China has always been dedicated to South-South cooperation and conducts diversified forms of mutually-beneficial cooperation with other developing countries for common development. I myself have long been working on China-Africa relations and wish to use China-Africa cooperation as an example to talk about South-South cooperation. China-Africa cooperation is a success model in South-South cooperation. China has always viewed its solidarity and cooperation with African countries from a strategic height and regarded Africa as an important force for world peace and development and an important partner in China's endeavor to achieve peaceful development. China has always stood side by side with African countries in their struggle for national liberation and independence and on their path towards development and revitalization, and the two sides have offered each other support and assistance for common progress. China and African countries set up a new type of strategic partnership featuring political equality and mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchanges at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in 2006. It reflects the political will of China and Africa, under the new circumstances of growing multi-polarity and globalization and based on their fundamental interests, to further enhance China-Africa friendship and cooperation and meet together the opportunities and challenges.

In fifty years, China-Africa cooperation has made tremendous progress thanks to concerted efforts of both sides. Such cooperation covered all aspects of social and economic development and brought tangible benefits to the Chinese and African people. China-Africa economic cooperation and trade keeps expanding, evidenced by the increase of the two-way trade from merely US\$12.11 million in the 1950s to US\$73.31 billion in 2007. Vigorous progress has been made in their cooperation in finance, environmental protection and other new fields. China and Africa have ever closer cooperation in social development and human resources. China has built for Africa over 900 infrastructure and public welfare projects, sent a total of 16,000 members of medical teams to Africa, cancelled debts of over RMB20 billion in total owed by African countries to China under the framework of the FOCAC, and offered African countries over 20,000 government scholarships. China and Africa have also strengthened their exchanges on governance experience to share development experience, promote democracy and rule of law, and help each other avoid detours on the path of development.

Friendship and cooperation between China and Africa in more than half a century has contributed to enhancement of Africa's ability of independent development and increased international attention to and investment in Africa, thus creating a more enabling external environment for the development of Africa. The history of China-Africa cooperation makes me believe the following consistent features of the cooperation have enabled it to withstand the test of times and grow stronger and more vibrant every day:

First, equality. In their exchanges and cooperation in political, economic or international affairs, China and African countries have always conducted friendly consultation and rendered each other support and coordination in the principle of mutual respect and equality. The two sides regard each other as an important cooperation partner and have always had consultation on equal basis and showed mutual understanding in the identification and implementation of relevant projects.

Second, mutual benefit. China-Africa cooperation is based on complementarity and mutual benefits from the first day. Africa is abundant in resources and China has rich experience in manufacturing, construction and agriculture. China-Africa cooperation enables the two sides to turn their respective advantages in resources and technology into favorable conditions for development. It is a win-win cooperation.

Third, credibility. Credibility is an important guarantee for the smooth development of China-Africa cooperation. China is delivering its commitments made on the FOCAC on debt relief, zero-tariff treatment, human resources training and assistance projects on schedule, in full and with good quality.

The above-mentioned experience could be useful for South-South cooperation between other countries and regions. Of course, like other South-South cooperation, China-Africa cooperation is not perfect and has some problems. We should recognize them as problems in the process of development which should be resolved step by step in the course of development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China-Africa cooperation is open and non-exclusive. In recent years, China has conducted triangular cooperation in Africa with some international organizations. This new model of international cooperation

on development has drawn world attention. I wish to share some of my observations on this. Under the framework of Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), China has, since 1996, entered into triangular agreements on South-South cooperation with FAO and the recipient countries, including Mauritania, Ghana, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Gabon. More than 700 Chinese agricultural experts were sent to African countries to provide technical guidance to improve agricultural production in African countries and train local technicians. In May 2006, China and FAO signed the Letter of Intent Between the Chinese Government and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. According to this agreement, China would send 3,000 agricultural experts to Africa within 6 years. In support of the "Light-up Rural Africa Project" of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), China has been working with UNIDO and African countries to develop small hydropower projects in Africa. In addition, China takes part in the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). Under this initiative, China will donate about US\$195 million to the African Development Fund (ADF) in the next 5 decades and has set up a technological cooperation fund of US\$2 million with the African Development Bank (ADB). China and the World Bank are actively exploring opportunities of cooperation in Africa. In May 2007, the Export-Import Bank of China signed an MOU with the World Bank on cooperation in Africa.

During its participation in the triangular cooperation in Africa, China keeps enriching and improving its cooperation model and has accumulated certain experience. In our opinion, the following principles should be followed to have effective triangular cooperation in Africa.

First, respect for Africa. No cooperation should be conducted at the cost of sovereignty, interest or dignity of any African country. In particular, we should heed the opinions of the African side on whether or not and how to conduct such cooperation, instead of imposing our opinions on the African side.

Second, be pragmatic. Attention should be paid in such cooperation to combine good practices of other parts of the world with specific conditions of Africa to serve the actual needs of African countries and avoid "one-size-for-all" practices that are neither practical nor effective.

Third, step by step. We should start with small and easily operable projects and learn from experience and constantly improve our work. It is

important to remember "More haste, less speed".

Fourth, everyone doing his best. The key to success of the triangular cooperation is to let each party do what it is best at. When developed countries are involved in the triangular cooperation, their financial strength should be combined with developing countries' advantages in applicable technologies and cost.

Fifth, efficiency. The triangular cooperation should make full use of existing authoritative cooperative mechanisms, such as the United Nations development assistance mechanism, to avoid overlapping institutions and waste of resources caused by setting up too many new mechanisms.

In a world of ever deepening globalization, helping other developing countries is helping ourselves. China is ready to take an active part in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and make its contribution to international cooperation on development.

Thank you!