General Statement by the Chinese Delegation at the First Meeting on the Outcome Document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development

(January 27, 2015, Trusteeship Council)

Mr. Chairman,

China supports the statement made by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

China would like to make the following general observations on the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development:

1. As a follow up to the International Conferences on Financing for Development in Monterrey and Doha, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development should be based on the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, and adhere to the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities”. Developed countries should take on the primary responsibility for financing for development by honoring their ODA commitments, and effectively providing development assistance to developing countries.

2. Efforts should be made to promote common development and prosperity, and establish a more equal and balanced global partnership
for development, the core of which should remain North-South cooperation led by governments. South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation, cooperation with the private sector and innovative financing are complements, not substitutes, of North-South cooperation, and their roles should not be exaggerated.

3. Further efforts should be made to create a fair, open and orderly international economic environment, bearing in mind the general goal of cooperation and win-win results. The reform of international financial system should be intensified in order to increase the representation and voice of developing countries. A free, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system should be safeguarded, and regional economic integration promoted, so as to facilitate the rational flow of global capital for development. Further debt relief and market access should be provided to developing countries, and priority given to financing support for developing countries to encourage and support their capacity building.

4. The relationship between the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the post-2015 Development Agenda should be properly handled. The main contents of the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development should be incorporated into the post-2015 Development Agenda as the basis and framework for the means of implementation
of the Agenda. However, the section on the means of implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda should not simply cite the entire outcome document of the conference. Instead, it should reiterate the outcome document’s main contents. Meanwhile, the independence of the process of financing for development should be maintained, and it should be kept as a stand-alone process in international development cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the elements of the outcome document prepared by the co-facilitators, China believes that they should fully reflect the above points. In addition, we would like to make the following specific proposals.

1. The outcome document should be based on the frameworks of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development. The current elements of the outcome document do not contain a section on Investment, have replaced “external debt” with “sovereign debt”, proposed “private funding” as a stand-alone section, and added the section on “monitoring, data and implementation”. These structural changes are not conducive to maintaining the coherence of the process of financing for development. They should keep in line with the process.

2. The elements of the current outcome document do not explicitly spell
out the status of ODA as the main financing channel, nor do they specifically mention the assistance responsibility of developed countries. They overemphasize the role of domestic and private funds mobilization, while overlooking the status of international public funds as the main channel of financing. Mobilizing domestic funds should not be used as a pretext to intervene in other countries’ fiscal and taxation policy-making.

3. The elements of the current outcome document overemphasize sustainable development financing, whereas the core of the post-2015 Development Agenda lies in poverty eradication and development promotion. The elements of the outcome document should serve the post-2015 Development Agenda, rather than deviate from its core. Climate financing has its independent operational mechanism, and therefore should not be confused with sustainable development financing.

4. China is not in favor of the following expressions in the elements of the outcome document: “incorporating private savings into international development financing”, “regional and cross-regional cooperation leads to the fragmentation of sustainable development strategy”, “the newly established international financial institutions affect the stability of international system”, “the appearance of emerging government creditors affects debt sustainability”, etc. Given
that these expressions are not true, nor do they have consensus from member states, they should be deleted.

Mr. Chairman,

We hope that you will fully listen to the views of member states and carry out your work in the spirit of openness, transparency, inclusiveness and consensus. China stands ready to work with you and actively participate in the consultations on the outcome document so that the Third International Conference on Financing for Development will achieve positive results.