**High Level Forum of South-South Cooperation on Climate Change**

*Opening remarks of David Nabarro*

Excellency’s, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to welcome you all to this High-Level Forum of South-South Cooperation on Climate Change.

I would like to first express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Minister XIE Zhenhua and His Excellency Minister Salaheddine Mezouar, for your leadership on South-South Cooperation, and for convening this Forum with the United Nations.

This last year and a half has been a whirlwind of incredible multilateral triumphs. Together, we adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and just 10 days ago the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force..

The United Nations, under the leadership of the Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, has worked committedly with the international community towards successes like these that will benefit our people and the planet. It was quite an emotional moment for all of us at the United Nations to witness the exciting moment in Paris and to be part of the process toward ratifying this multilateral triumph. What had once seemed impossible is now inevitable!

It is all of you who made this possible. For that, we need to salute developing countries for their great contributions.

We must salute them for their strong and persistent voice calling for climate justice, as well as their commitment and leadership on creating partnerships, the theme of the Forum today.

There is no doubt that we will have to work even harder and smarter to realize the full potential of the Paris Agreement. And we can only succeed by working more effectively together inspired by a shared vision for a low-emission and resilient society everywhere.

It is encouraging and inspiring to see that South-South Cooperation is gaining traction, and we very much welcome countries to extend and deepen their results-oriented collaboration.

China’s flagship program on Climate South-South Cooperation Fund is further expanding the capacities of other developing countries to engage in this kind of collaboration.

India and Africa are making significant contributions towards regional and global low-carbon transition with the Solar Alliance and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, respectively.

Brazil, on the other hand, is leading the efforts on Biofuture Platform, a joint initiative to decarbonize the transport sector.

The Vulnerable 20 group initiated the Global Preparedness Partnership, and I believe that Ethiopia as the new Presidency will carry that momentum forward.

These efforts complement those countries’ domestic progress on climate and sustainable development.

The United Nations has been a consistent supporter of the progress of the global South with their comprehensive, coherent and synergetic approach.

UNDESA, UNEP, UNDP, UNFCCC, UN Office on South-South Cooperation who are representing here and many other UN Agencies are all making solid efforts to advance South-South Cooperation.

But as the United Nations, we can and we WILL do more to nurture this promising area.

It is in this context that this last April, on the margins of the signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement, the Secretary-General initiated the Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI) with UN agencies and other stakeholders as key strategic partners.

The SCPI is about making connections. SCPI is leveraging the UN system to match the needs of developing countries with counterparts willing and able to meet them.

We can help you to learn more from one other. SCPI has reviewed 300 good cases of bilateral, trilateral and pluri-lateral partnerships, facilitated by UN, NGOs, and Multilateral Development Banks, and intends to further guide countries to scale up such activities

And we can help you to scale up your efforts to create more global benefits. Countries’ commitment to this multi-stakeholder approach would establish SCPI as an important catalyzer and accelerator for the achievement of the Goals for developing countries.

We need an enhanced, systematic approach to integrate development and climate cooperation so that we can consistently unify towards achieving the climate goals and SDGs. This approach will stem from our continued and augmented support for advancing progress for the global South.

I believe SCPI Initiative can play a bigger role to contribute to that progress.

Excellences, and all other distinguished guests,

Time is not on our side. As Secretary-General said, “We are the first generation to really feel the effects of climate change – and the last that can prevent its worst consequences.”

Towards our common goal of prosperity, inclusiveness, sustainability and harmony with nature, no one must be left behind. This requires our unwavering support to the most vulnerable and the least capable countries and communities.

I would like to again thank China for its leadership and the generous support provided to advance South-South Cooperation, and further welcome the continued support and/or in-kind contributions from Member States, UN agencies and all other stakeholders, as well as new supporters, to participate and contribute to the United Nations SCPI Initiative.

History will be made by us, towards a low carbon, climate-resilient and prosperous future.