

**Remarks by USG Alison Smale
Chinese Language Day Celebration
Thursday, 18 April 2019, 6:30 p.m.
South Wall, Conference Building**

Your Excellency Ambassador WU Haitao, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China;

My dear colleague, Mr. LIU Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs;

Ms. Cecilia Elizalde, Director of Documentation Division, UN Department for General Assembly and Conference Management;

Friends and colleagues, ladies and gentlemen; Dà jiā hǎo

It is my pleasure to be here and to celebrate with you Chinese Language Day this evening.

At the UN, we have been celebrating this Day since 2010. Language Days at the UN shine a spotlight on multilingualism and cultural diversity, two core values of the UN that are also sources of our strength. They remind us, the UN staff, to look within and respect our rich diversity, and at the same time, to look outside and remember the diversity of people that we serve.

Every day we create and share UN content in Chinese, the most spoken language in the world with over one billion speakers, through our digital platforms such as the UN News, UN website and social media. In fact, at this moment, we are not far from having 10 million fans on our Weibo platform. So, I am using this opportunity to ask you to help us reach that number by following our Weibo channel!

We also particularly engage young Chinese-speaking audiences in global conversations on sustainable development. Just last week, a young Chinese singer and influencer, Yi Yangqianxi from the TF Boys became our 'Honorary Editor of the Day' for the Chinese UN.org website during his visit to UN Headquarters for the ECOSOC Youth Forum. Through this and other collaborative projects, we will continue to embrace the Chinese language and the diversity of languages that we have at the UN.

Before I conclude, I would like to sincerely thank the Chinese-speaking staff members in DGC, DGACM and other departments who have worked tirelessly to craft and deliver the words and voices of the UN. I also thank all artists that have contributed to this exhibition.

I wish you an enjoyable evening and *zhōng wén rì kuài lè xiè xiè!* [Happy Chinese Language Day and Thank You!].
