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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Li Chenggang, Head of the Chinese Delegation
and Assistant Minister of Commerce at the 2018 High-level Meeting of
the Development Cooperation Forum in the Session of “Leveraging
South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development:
On the Road to BAPA +40”**

New York

May 22, 2018

Madam Chair,

Dear colleagues,

The Chinese Delegation supports the remarks delivered by Egypt yesterday on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

It gives me great pleasure to attend this session of the Development Cooperation Forum. China values the opportunities offered by this platform to discuss with other colleagues ways to better implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through development cooperation.

2018 is a year of special significance. 40 years ago, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution on the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, which

established the first global framework for South-South cooperation. Over the past four decades, thanks to unremitting efforts by all parties, the Plan of Action has achieved remarkable results in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries and advancing South-South cooperation at the global level.

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up, which has enabled China to achieve rapid economic development. Going forward, China will remain committed to reform and opening-up for high-quality economic growth. China will steadfastly implement its new development concept of innovation, coordination, green development, openness and benefit sharing, continue its all-round opening-up, enhance the alignment with international economic and trade rules, substantially broaden market access, further open up its service industry, especially the financial sector, create an attractive domestic investment environment and enable the "spill-over effect" of China's development to fully benefit other countries of the world.

2018 also marks the 40th anniversary of China's cooperation with UN development agencies. This cooperation has accompanied China in its historical journey of reform and opening-up. Over the past 40 years, China has benefited as a program country from the valuable assistance provided by UN development agencies. Such assistance helped China overcome the bottleneck of its development and promoted China's development in multiple areas of agriculture, industry, energy, environmental protection, poverty reduction, health care for women and children and population development. Such assistance also introduced into China advanced development concepts and experience and cultivated a large number of talents with an international perspective. In recent

years, China, while working for its own development, has actively carried out triangular cooperation with the UN in other developing countries with positive results. It can be said that the UN's support has promoted China's development and China's development has attested to the success of the UN's operation of development cooperation. The cooperation between China and the UN has brought into play the advantages of both parties and stands as a successful example of the cooperation between a developing country and the United Nations.

Dear colleagues,

Development, as an eternal theme of all times, requires relentless effort of all countries. I believe that the key to overcome various difficulties and challenges rests in three Cs, namely, cooperation, commitment and change.

First, cooperation. Be it North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation, or triangular cooperation, the essence is invariably cooperation. Without cooperation, any beautiful vision is but wishful thinking. Ten years have passed since the world was buffeted by the 2008 financial crisis, but the global economic recovery is still tottering. We believe that all countries need to uphold the spirit of international cooperation, support multilateralism and multilateral institutions and work together to tackle various challenges.

The excessive gap between the North and the South and between the rich and the poor is the biggest imbalance in the international economy. It is unsustainable and a source of the world's turmoil and instability. Currently, 700 million people in the world still live in absolute poverty. China believes that poverty reduction should remain the core task of development cooperation. We

should join hands to build a partnership of win-win cooperation, establish a community of shared future for mankind and support the cause of poverty eradication.

Second, commitment. Development cooperation is practical and concrete work, not empty talk. At present, North-South cooperation remains the mainstream of development cooperation whereas South-South cooperation is a beneficial supplement to instead of a substitute for North-South cooperation. The principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” represents the consensus of the international community. Both developed and developing countries need to take active actions to fulfill their respective duties. China has noticed that financing remains a big problem for international development cooperation with only 6 developed countries having honored the commitment of allocating 0.7% of GNI as ODA. Developed countries should bear the primary responsibility for financing for development, and effectively implement their ODA commitment, especially increase assistance to the LDCs.

In recent years, South-South cooperation has played an increasingly important role in international development cooperation and received ever greater attention from the international community as an additional channel of financing for international development cooperation. South-South cooperation follows the principles of respect for national sovereignty, no political conditions attached, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. As such, it has a broad prospect for development. However, I wish to reiterate that developing countries can only shoulder responsibilities corresponding to their level of development and actual capacity. The responsibilities, principles and

standards applicable to North-South cooperation should not be imposed on South-South cooperation.

Third, change. Change and innovation are the fundamental force driving the progress of human society. Now that human society has entered a new phase of development, new theories and new wisdom are called for. We believe that: “people don’t need to wear the same shoes but should find what suit their feet.” The international community needs to respect the effort of developing countries to explore their own development path and strategy, provide targeted support in light of the practical need of different countries and help developing countries enhance their own development capacity. We believe that parties to South-South cooperation should be encouraged to enhance experience exchange and result sharing, foster a “nuclear fusion” of wisdom and jointly explore new ideas and new ways for South-South cooperation. We hope that on this basis, the Second United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation(BAPA+40) will produce an outcome document for the promotion of South-South cooperation at the global level.

Dear colleagues,

China has been a firm supporter of, an active participant in and an important contributor to South-South cooperation. As a responsible large developing country, China has been helping other developing countries to the best of its capacity. Up till now, China has provided 166 countries and international organizations with assistance valued at over 400 billion RMB, helped recipient countries implement more than 5,000 assistance projects, provided

training in various fields to over 260,000 trainees from other developing countries, and dispatched over 600,000 aid workers to recipient countries.

Since President Xi Jinping attended the UN Development Summit in 2015, China has set up the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and increased its funding to 3 billion US dollars. We have actively promoted the “Belt and Road” international cooperation, provided 60 billion RMB of grant and 2 billion RMB of emergency food assistance to “Belt and Road” countries, and implemented over 600 assistance projects in such areas as infrastructure, agricultural development, medical care, Aid for Trade, poverty reduction and capacity building. These efforts have effectively increased the capacity for self-development of the recipient countries and enabled the Belt and Road Initiative to better align itself with the 2030 Agenda.

I wish to emphasize that China remains the largest developing country of the world. There are still more than 30 million Chinese people in rural areas trapped in poverty and the imbalance and inadequacy of development remain prominent. Even by 2020, China will at best eradicate absolute poverty, and will still have a long way to go before successfully tackling relative poverty and realizing balanced development. China will continue its effort of opening-up and development and we hope that the international community will have confidence in and cooperate more with us.

Dear colleagues,

China has achieved its development over the past four decades thanks to its opening-up and the help from the international community. In the future, China will open its door even wider and strive for high-quality development. China

will also take concrete actions to promote economic globalization to benefit people throughout the world. In November this year, China will hold the “China International Import Expo” in Shanghai, offering an important platform for countries to conduct international trade, expand export to China and exchange experience of cooperation. We will facilitate the participation of the LDCs by, inter alia, providing them with free exhibition booths. China will continue to maintain an ethical balance between justice and its own interests by putting justice before such interests, keep deepening South-South cooperation, fulfill in earnest its assistance commitments, share with others its development experience, and try various ways to help other developing countries implement the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, let me wish the Development Cooperation Forum a complete success.

Thank you!