

**Address by Head of the Chinese Delegation at 2016 Development
Cooperation Forum**

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21st Jul. 2016, New York, USA

Mr. Chairman,

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great honour to join you in New York at the 5th meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum for a global dialogue on development cooperation. Last year, marking the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, world leaders forged consensus and adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. In addition, the international community also endorsed the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. With development goals identified and more ambitious targets set, these major steps have charted the course of future international development cooperation.

In today's world, development remains a strenuous task before us, as 800 million people go hungry; 16,000 children die every day; and the gap

between the North and the South keeps widening. Developing countries, especially LDCs, are still plagued by poverty. In this sense, the 2030 Agenda is as much a solemn commitment as a forwarding-looking blueprint.

It is often said that the worth of any plan is in its implementation. This year marks the beginning of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We echo the call of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon that no one will be left behind. Towards this end, all the countries should work closely together. The Sustainable Development Agenda offers a fresh starting point for us to find an equitable, open, all-round and innovative path to development shared by all. In this connection, I would like to make the following observations.

First, focus on development to address the central goal of poverty eradication. Development is the fundamental way to survival and hope, and the symbol of dignity and rights. The primary goal of the Sustainable Development Agenda is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”, a commitment shared by all. All parties of development cooperation should give priority to poverty eradication as it remains the biggest challenge of the world today.

Second, increase resources input and strengthen partnerships.

Increasing the resources of development cooperation is the guarantee of meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Developed countries should deliver their ODA commitment on schedule. The international community should uphold North-South cooperation as the main channel while deepening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to improve and diversify partnerships on development.

Third, take a needs-oriented approach underpinned by capacity

building. At the end of the day, one has to rely on oneself for development. The international community should respect developing countries' choice of their own development path and strategy, and provide targeted support in light of their actual needs to help them enhance the capacity for independent development. Capacity building is an essential way to achieving sustainable development.

Fourth, give priority to coordination to ensure mutual benefit and

win-win outcomes. Cooperation is the key to development and mutual benefit the basis of win-win outcomes. Bearing in mind the same goal, development partners should strengthen coordination, improve coordination mechanisms and governance of the development system, raise the representation and voice of developing countries, and ensure

countries' participation in rulemaking on an equal basis. All parties should work in tandem and seek win-win outcomes to create synergies for implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

China is the largest developing country in the world. It has become one of the world's largest economies, but its per capita income remains at a low level. It ranks the 90th in the UN Human Development Index (HDI). China still faces the daunting challenge of lifting over 55 million people out of poverty and the tremendous pressure of realizing sustainable development goals in the next five year.

The Chinese government attaches great importance to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and has been working to implement it comprehensively. The 13th Five Year Plan deliberated and passed by the National People's Congress last March has effectively aligned China's mid- to long-term development program with the 2030 Agenda. China will step up the education and publicity campaign for the 2030 Agenda, actively mobilize all walks of life to partake in its implementation and raise public awareness of the cause. With a view to promoting and serving sustainable development, China will strengthen cross-sector policy coordination as well as adjust and improve relevant laws and

regulations so as to provide policy and legal guarantee for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, we have put in place a domestic coordination mechanism with 43 government departments performing their own duty to ensure smooth implementation in all aspects. China will formulate its own country-specific programme for implementing the 2030 Agenda which will be made public when appropriate.

In September this year, China will host the 2016 G20 Summit in Hangzhou. Capitalizing on this opportunity, China will focus the discussions on, among others, the delivery of the 2030 Agenda. For the first time, development will feature fully and prominently on the agenda of a summit meeting. Along with other G20 members, China will incorporate the execution of the 2030 Agenda into the annual plans of various working mechanisms, set out G20 action plan for the implementation, and encourage G20 members to combine domestic efforts with the global process. We will include supporting the industrialization of Africa and other LDCs in the agenda to push the G20 to proactively respond to the needs of developing countries, especially those in Africa. We will stay in close contact with the United Nations, and integrate the G20 implementing efforts with UN-led processes. We look to the major economies in the world to take collective actions to provide political momentum and powerful safeguard for the delivery of the 2030

Agenda, as well as support for the implementing efforts of other developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

China is an active participant, beneficiary and constructive contributor of the international development system. For more than 60 years, China has provided assistance worth more than 400 billion RMB to 166 countries and organizations, built more than 2,700 complete sets of projects, dispatched more than 600,000 aid workers and trained about 12 million talents of all kinds and professionals from recipient countries. In recent years, South-South cooperation is playing a growingly important role in international development cooperation. Enriching the resources of international development cooperation and constantly adopting new methods, South-South cooperation has become a useful supplement to North-South cooperation. South-South cooperation has its unique advantages and follows principles such as respect for sovereignty, non-attachment of political strings, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, which creates favorable conditions for exploring and implementing cooperation projects.

In September 2015, President Xi Jinping announced a series of pragmatic

measures for South-South cooperation, including the Assistance Fund for South-South Cooperation, the “Six 100s” initiative, the Institute for South-South Cooperation and Development, 120,000 traineeships and 150,000 scholarships for developing countries, and training 500,000 professionals for developing countries. China is conscientiously following through on the assistance measures designed to back up the efforts of other developing countries with funds, technology and capacity building to meet the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we speak, the Assistance Fund is under preparation and aimed for an early launch. The Institute is up and running, with doors open to PhD and Master’s candidates from developing countries. At the same time, China is advancing steadily the “Six 100s” initiative, the “100 health projects for women and children” and the “100 happy school projects”. Bearing in mind the needs of recipient countries, China assumes an enthusiastic role in South-South cooperation projects ranging from poverty reduction, agriculture, Aid for Trade, ecological preservation to climate change mitigation, healthcare and education. In addition, China has partnered with international organizations such as the UNDP, the WBG, and developed donors including the US and New Zealand for experience sharing and piloting. China also joined forces with UN development agencies in battling the Ebola epidemic, the food crisis in Africa and the refugee crisis.

Mr. Chairman,

In retrospect, we have shared not only the dividends of peace and development, but also the blows of economic crises. We bear witness to not only the rise of developing countries, but also the stark imbalances between the South and the North. We are as much encouraged by 1.1 billion people breaking away from poverty as we are concerned that 800 million people are still starving. According to a Chinese axiom, the interests to be considered should be the interests of all. We uphold this spirit by being a sincere and trustworthy friend and partner in the international community. China will continue to take a right approach to justice and interests by putting justice before interests. With this principle in mind, we will continue to deepen South-South cooperation by living up to our assistance commitments and sharing our development experience, so as to help other developing countries deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In closing, I wish this forum a complete success.

Thank you.