

Address by Head of the Chinese Delegation at the 2014 High-level  
Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

H.E. Mr. Fang Aiqin, Vice Minister of Commerce, PRC

(New York, 10 July 2014)

Mr. Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to attend this Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) and join the discussions on international development cooperation. Since its inception, the DCF has served in the spirit of inclusiveness and common development as a forum for discussing key issues in international development cooperation, receiving broad attention and recognition. Since the inaugural high-level meeting, attaching great importance and sending high-level delegations to the DCF, China has always been an active voice on the whole gamut of DCF issues. Moving forward, China will continue to support the DCF as the main channel in the international development cooperation dialogue.

As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) get implemented step by step, sanitary, health and education conditions has improved significantly. That said, amidst profound global economic restructuring, global recovery comes slow and painfully. In particular, the least developed countries (LDCs) remain in a tight spot, as environmental challenges and climate change loom large, and energy and food security pose new challenges. Given the complexities of the situation, developing countries face a daunting task for growing the economy and improving people's livelihood. Development remains the top priority for the developing countries.

It is highly opportune for this DCF to take on the theme of "Bringing

the future of development cooperation to post-2015". Over the past few years, South-South cooperation has played an increasingly important role in international development cooperation, enriching its ways and means. Emerging as a useful supplement to North-South cooperation, the international community now gives more weight to practices and experience of South-South cooperation. Thanks to its unique advantages and the principles of respecting sovereignty, non-attachment of political strings, non-interference with domestic affairs, and equity and reciprocity, South-South cooperation has been able to create favorable conditions for discussions and implementation of cooperation projects.

Starting from 1950, China has stayed dedicated to internationalism, adhered to international morality and justice, and played a positive role in promoting economic and social development of other developing countries while committed to developing itself. Assistance from China has enriched the contents of South-South cooperation and cemented friendship and win-win cooperation with other developing countries. China has made significant contributions to promoting the cause of human development and served as a model for South-South cooperation. In this connection, I would like to share my observations on the contributions of South-South cooperation to enhancing international development cooperation based on Chinese foreign assistance experience.

First, South-South cooperation contributes enormously to inclusive economic and social growth in the developing world. The key to inclusive economic and social growth is to promote the standards of economic growth in developing countries, improve people's living standards and lift more people out of poverty. Applying itself to people's most pressing and realistic needs, South-South cooperation

substantially enhances people's wellbeing, unleashes the potential of developing countries, and promotes balanced development of the world economy.

In recent years, the principal task of China's foreign assistance is to help other developing countries reduce poverty and improve livelihood, mainly in areas such as agriculture, medical care, education, borehole projects and water supply, capacity building and infrastructure. Moreover, China has stepped up its assistance in environmental protection and flora and fauna conservation to help other developing countries cope with challenges like climate change. From 2010 to 2012, close to 50% of China's assistance funding went to livelihood-related sectors and over 61% went to the LDCs and other low-income countries in support of their economic and social development.

Second, South-South cooperation follows the principle of equality and mutual benefit and helps set developing countries onto the independent development track. South-South cooperation respects the countries' autonomy over their development strategies and goals that allow them to choose development models and paths specific to their national conditions. In the meantime, South-South cooperation emphasizes capacity building to help developing countries foster their own talent pool and technical capacity, empower their pursuit of independent development, and turn their complementarity into synergy for development to achieve win-win results.

In providing foreign assistance, China never attaches any political strings or interferes in the domestic politics of recipient countries. It fully respects the recipient countries' right to choose their own paths and models of development. Mutual respect, equality, honoring commitments and mutual benefit are the basic principles of China's

assistance to other countries.

Third, South-South Cooperation upholds the concept of common development and renews the impetus for developing countries to enjoy the full benefit of globalization opportunities. In the age of economic globalization, no developing countries can achieve development in isolation from each other. Rather, with common development as the precondition, we developing countries should draw upon strength from each other and produce a synergy effect in which “one plus one can make more than two” so as to provide stronger impetus for our respective economic and social progress.

Since the beginning of this century, China’s robust economic growth has brought along massive exports of goods from other developing countries, especially the LDCs, thus providing strong support for the development of the LDCs. China has been the largest export market of the LDCs and one of the most open developing economies to the LDCs since 2008. In 2015 China will grant zero-tariff treatment to 97% tariff lines of exports from the LDCs that has diplomatic ties with China, and thus enable the LDCs to share the development opportunities presented by China’s huge market.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a complement to North-South Cooperation, South-South cooperation plays a positive role in achieving the MDGs. With the MDGs expiring in 500 plus days, a more inclusive post-2015 development agenda will take over the relay baton of history. China believes that the post-2015 development agenda should abide by the principle of consistency and forward-looking. The MDGs are yet to be finished. The post-2015 development agenda should continue to wage war on poverty with poverty elimination and development at its core,

promote economic, social and environmental development in a comprehensive and coordinated way and follow the principle of “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities”. In the meantime, the international community should help developing countries strengthen capacity building, create a fair, equitable, inclusive and orderly international economic and financial climate and allow developing countries to benefit from globalization using their own endowments. The post-2015 development agenda should set up a robust implementation mechanism to ensure development resources. In this connection, developed countries should take on the primary responsibility of development fund raising and take concrete actions to fulfill their commitment of official development assistance, which serves as the basis for exploring new ways of financing and expanding private financial resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China is the largest developing country in the world in terms of population and size. It is true that China is one of the leading economies in the world, but its per capita GDP is only USD 6,800, ranking behind the 80th place in the world. By the World Bank standards, 200 million Chinese people still live below the poverty line. Despite the numerous difficulties and challenges, China will endeavor to address domestic poverty, and advance economic and social progress. At the same time, it will, as always, continue to provide assistance to other developing countries to the extent of its ability, and enable peoples of other countries to benefit more from its development. China will share opportunities and meet challenges with the rest of the world, and make greater contribution to the development course of mankind.

Finally, I wish this forum a complete success.

Thank you.