

Remarks by Mr. Zhiqiang Sun

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Thank you very much Mrs. Manano,

It is a delight for me to attend this virtual workshop. I also thank the remarks by my previous speakers from OSAA, UNECA and UN-ORLLS.

Dear colleagues and friends,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa on the success of the first session of the workshop, for the Southern and Eastern African subregions. I believe this session for the Central, Northern and Western subregions will be equally fruitful.

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, African countries have taken proactive measures and achieved commendable results. Meanwhile, the pandemic aggravated existing socioeconomic and humanitarian challenges, and thus complicated the political and security situation in Africa. It is clear more than ever that peace, development and human rights are closely-linked.

For countries with weak social-economic foundation, peace efforts and peace-building achievements will not sustain the impacts of one or two crises. The nexus between peace, humanitarian and development should be integrated into the global and national efforts in addressing major challenges.

Dear friends, China attaches great importance to the challenges faced by African countries. During China's Presidency of the UN Security Council for the month of May, We organized a high-level open debate with the theme of "Addressing Root Causes of Conflict while promoting Post-Pandemic Recovery in Africa".

You can see that we formulate the theme with exactly the same objectives of this workshop. As China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi called for in the debate, the international community should work with African countries to combat the virus and rebuild their economy, as well as to eliminate root causes of conflict, and galvanize momentum towards lasting peace and sustainable development in Africa.

He reiterated that more attention should be given to the vital role of economic growth and social development so as to remove the breeding ground of turbulence and promoting peace.

Taking the opportunity of the Security Council open debate, China and African friends also jointly launched the Initiative on Partnership for Africa's Development. This initiative aims to coordinate international cooperation mechanisms for Africa, and pool together resources on areas urgently needed by African countries.

We believe this initiative will give new impetus to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa.

Dear friends, No one knows Africa better than African themselves. International partners should continue to support the African countries in seeking African solutions for African problems and respect their right to take the lead.

With a better understanding of the nexus between peace, humanitarian, and development in their national context, each Africa country will have a better chance to properly integrate the nexus into its national strategy that suits its own conditions.

To support the UN playing its role in international affairs, China launched in 2015 the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund. From day one, China has insisted the Fund should prioritize the needs and concerns of African countries.

We are glad that the Fund had the opportunity to provide financial support for OSAA's project, including its survey on African perspectives on the mutual-relationship of peace and development.

As we feel the need to draw lessons from the pandemic, this survey and related baseline study cannot be more timely. It delivered important findings and identified gaps and capacity-needs to a nexus approach at national level. It also showed that African countries have many best practices and successful stories to share.

The convening of this workshop is highly relevant. It offers a good platform for sharing, exchanging and mutual-learning.

I hope everyone will enjoy and benefit from the presentations and discussion.

I wish the workshop a big success.

Thank you.