



Event Name: South-South Cooperation for Climate Action

Date/Time: 15 November (COP23 Event)

Location: China Pavilion, Bonn Zone

Expectation: Opening Remarks (7 minutes)

Proposed Narrative:

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you to China, Fiji, and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for organizing this important event while the eyes of the world are on Bonn.

And thank you to everyone here for lifting the profile of South-South Cooperation in the climate change process.

It's needed. Because what you are creating is more than a process or a dialogue: you're creating *opportunity*.

Specifically, the opportunity to build ambition and support climate action; crucial to the success of the Paris Agreement.

Never have we needed this action like we do now.



Extreme weather events have touched every corner of the globe, leaving heartbreak and devastation in their wake. The global south has seen incredible amounts of suffering.

Quite simply, we must change the path we're on.

The Paris Agreement and the Agenda for Sustainable Development offer such a path.

Both can reduce risk by reducing the emissions that drive climate change.

And both can help us build more resilient societies that better withstand climate impacts.

We must urgently implement both agreements.

When we talk about implementation, we're talking about a complete, transformational change—that's how countries will truly move towards a low-emission, climate resistant, future.

Some of the largest gaps of capacity for implementation exist in the developing world.



This is especially true for those living in the global south, where the costs of building resilience are often too much to bear without support and the *right kind* of support.

This makes strong partnerships, and close cooperation with other nations in the global south, crucial.

Before I go forward, let me be perfectly clear: *developed countries need to provide adequate support to developing countries.*

But the Paris Agreement also encourages other avenues of support, such as South-South Cooperation.

Today I'm here to tell you that UN Climate Change—indeed, the entire UN system—stands ready to support and facilitate the work of all Parties interested in enhanced South-South Cooperation on climate change.

We support this work because “southern solutions” do more than just provide practical solutions for addressing climate change.

As we know from the UN's overall mission in its Sustainable Development Agenda, addressing climate change can also help



countries overcome some of their most pressing development challenges.

South-South Cooperation is effective because members are equal partners—many of whom share similar challenges. It simply makes sense that practical solutions are shared as well.

It's a unique, non-traditional structure that is about developing new ways of working while, at the same time, avoiding some of the constraints and conditions that delayed progress in the past. ¹

South-South cooperation provides a path forward in many parts of the world.

I'd like to acknowledge the leadership role that China plays on this front, especially with respect to building international cooperation—a role that can't be understated.

¹Programs provided this language, which I've tried to put in more listener-friendly terms. This is the original:

“Southern solutions” often provide diversified and practical solutions for addressing climate change and multiple development challenges

SSC is a cooperation form between equal partners – this is an opportunity to jointly develop pragmatic solutions/approaches without the “politics/constrains/conditions (try to find a better wording/softer language)” involved that often come together with traditional cooperation approaches



For example, China has pledged to support its "One Belt and One Road" initiative with a fund of \$40 billion.

This is primarily directed at building and improving infrastructure in countries who sign on to this program.

China has also established the \$3.1-billion (USD) “China South-South Climate Fund” which assists countries address climate change in a variety of ways.

We see cooperative efforts towards climate action in other parts of the global south as well.

We see it throughout Africa where electrification rates are low and energy demands are high. Countries there are working together on the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative.

It harnesses the continent’s huge renewable energy potential and meeting growing energy needs with clean, renewable power.

We see it in the Caribbean Agrometeorological Initiative that is seeing several countries in the region jointly developing and implementing ways to deliver climate services to farmers.²

² http://unfccc.int/files/resource_materials/application/pdf/ssc_ndc_report.pdf



And we see it in waste reduction programs in Cambodia and Thailand.

These are only a few examples of many.

Ladies and gentlemen, we know south-south cooperation works because we're already seeing the results.

We want to do even more.

That's why it's the intention of the UN and China to have this high-level event on south-south cooperation become a regular event at every COP going forward. And we will continue to raise awareness throughout the year as well.

Addressing climate change and meeting our sustainable development goals are urgent tasks that require new ways of thinking and unique approaches.

But, as they say, necessity is the mother of invention.

With the eyes of the world on Bonn, and with the urgent nature of our work both clear and evident, we can point to South-South Cooperation as a very positive way forward.



Finding pragmatic solutions to regional challenges in a spirit of cooperation and partnership is going to get us there...

...further, faster and together.

I look forward to the results of this forum and to working with you as we continue to address climate change.

Thank you.