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Mission Permanente De la République de Djibouti
Auprès de L'office des Nations Unies
Et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève

الدم بعوثية الدانمة لجمهورية جيبوتي
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية الأخرى
سويد سراجنيف

Declaration of the Honorable Sir Mohamed Siad Doualeh pronounced in the name of the African Group on the occasion of a luncheon to follow-up on the last China-Africa Cooperation Forum

At the hotel Intercontinental in Geneva, the 23 of august 2012

Ambassador Liu Zhenmin ,

Distinguished fellow Ambassadors from the African continent, the Ambassador of the AU, Dear colleagues and Friends.

I have the honor to make the following brief remarks on behalf of our colleague and friend Ambassador Melenik Alemu of Ethiopia, in the current Chair of the African Group.

I would also like to seize this opportunity to offer the condolences of the African Group in Geneva to the Government and the people of Ethiopia who mourn the loss of a great leader. We echo the sentiments of our leaders across the continent, who praised M. Meles as a shrewd and pragmatic leader who relentlessly promoted the development of the continent. May I propose that we observe a minute of silence in his memory.

I would like to express on behalf of the Group our appreciation and warm thanks to Ambassador Liu Zhenmin for having invited us to this luncheon to discuss in a friendly atmosphere the outcomes of the very important meeting that took place in Beijing last july, namely the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the China- Africa Cooperation Forum.

As you can see, despite the summer recess, African Ambassadors have responded enthusiastically to your invitation the same way our leaders did when former President Jiang Zemin made the proposal in order 1995 to establish a China- Africa Cooperation Forum.

The decision to move beyond bilateral relations and to engage the continent as a single partner marked an ambitious undertaking. It was based on the shared analysis that globalization posed more challenges than opportunities to the vast number of developing countries. Hence the need for China, the largest developing country and Africa, the Continent

with the largest number of developing countries to collectively develop a strategic framework that helps face the multifaceted challenges.

The subsequent steps taken to further concretize the idea culminated in the elaboration of the Beijing Declaration which according to leaders on both sides, represented a bold, comprehensive initiative inspired by a long-term strategic vision.

This relationship has today gone a long way as illustrated in the assessment of the achievements made thus far as the Chinese Vice-President put it “the China-Africa Forum has become a banner guiding on relations and renowned brand name for our cooperation propelling our trade and economic relations into a period of steady and rapid growth”.

China has become the largest trading partners in Africa and Africa, in turn, the fourth-largest destination of China's overseas investment.

In 2011, even against the economic crisis, the volume of trade between African and China still reached a record high of 166.3 billion US dollars and the Chinese direct investment in Africa exceeded 14.7 Billion US Dollars with more than 2000 Chinese-invested businesses operating in the continent.

In the last ministerial meeting, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the steady growth and two-way investment, especially the fast increase of China's investment in broader areas since the Fourth Ministerial Conference in 2009.

We applaud the adoption of the action plan in order to implement the outcomes of the Conference and to chart the future course of China-Africa cooperation in all fields in the next 3 years under the theme of “build on past achievements and open-up new prospects for the new type of China-Africa strategic partnerships. We further welcome the decision taken by both sides to prioritize infrastructure construction and to support Africa, in achieving connectivity and a more integrated infrastructure to provide a credit line of 20 billion to african countries to mainly support the development of small and medium sized enterprises in Africa.

Finally, we are glad to note the commitment to enhance cooperation with Africa in peace and security issues and very warmly welcome the planning of the initiative on China-Africa cooperative partnerships for peace-security. This is particularly crucial as Africa unfortunately continues to face daunting challenges in peace and security. It has developed enormous expertise, refined its conflict resolution technology, reached some achievements but, limited resources have severely and negatively impacted on its efforts to make Africa, a conflict-free continent. We in Africa remain committed to fostering cooperation, mutual trust and support, with China and we will tirelessly work to ensure that the 2015 Conference to be held in South Africa, in 2011, is a resounding success!

Long live China!

Long live Africa!

Long live the China-Africa relationship!

Thank you for your Attention.