

Remarks by H.E. Lyu Jian
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
to the Kingdom of Thailand
at the Commemoration of the United Nations Day for
South-South Cooperation

UNCC Bangkok, 12 September 2018

H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Advisor to Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand,

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP,

Ms Deidre Boyd, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Thailand,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to thank the government of Thailand and ESCAP for organizing this event.

The United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation this year is dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action adopted in the year 1978. The Plan of Action had set a milestone framework and basic principles for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and greatly advanced the cause of developing countries for seeking greater voices and alternative solutions to the prevailing economic and political order. Since then, wide range of

exchanges on political dialogue, economic cooperation and financial assistance among developing countries have been arousing, and the role of developing countries has been translating into an increasingly multi-polar world. It is specially inspiring that South-South cooperation has not only helped the collective rising of emerging economies, but also ensued new development pattern and doctrine, including the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as advocated by the late king Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Dear Colleagues,

The world we live in is undergoing profound changes. Economic globalization is deepening in an increasingly multi-polar world. The future of the people of the world has never been so closely linked. Meanwhile, the world is facing unprecedented challenges as uncertainties and destabilizing factors continue to mount. Implementation of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals is encountered with unilateralism and protectionism. Against this backdrop, I wish to share my points of view with distinguished colleagues:

First, it is essential for developing countries to strive and support each other by continuously deepening South-South cooperation, which serves as an important driving force for global development. We must synergize development strategies among countries, strengthen macroeconomic coordination, advance regional economic integration through infrastructure inter-connectivity and trade facilitation, and seize the important opportunities brought about by the new industrial revolution and relevant development initiatives.

Second, North-South cooperation remains the main channel for international development cooperation. South-South cooperation is an important complement rather than a substitute. We should continue to

urge developed countries to fulfill their official development assistance commitments, eliminate trade barriers, and provide more resources for developing countries in terms of capital, technology, and capacity building. We should also explore innovative trilateral cooperation.

Third, the global governance must be improved to expand space for developing countries. Whether it is to maintain financial stability, to promote trade and investment, or to protect intellectual property rights, there should be full participation of developing countries to reflect their needs and concerns. We should firmly uphold the spirit of multilateralism, stand against unilateralism and protectionism.

Dear Colleagues,

China has actively advocated and participated in international development cooperation in the past 60 years, providing more than 400 billion RMB in aid to 166 countries and international organizations, and dispatching over 600,000 experts and workers around the world for various aid projects in fields of engineering, health care, education, agriculture and others. China attaches no political strings to international assistance and is sincere in helping developing countries to improve self-reliance.

In recent years, China has been even more active in advocating global or regional initiatives and institutions including the Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, China-UN Peace and Development Trust-Fund, China South-South Cooperation Fund, China-ASEAN Fund, Lancang-Mekong Special Fund etc.

Last week in Beijing, Chinese President Xi Jinping declared another US\$60 billion assistance to Africa countries in China-Africa Cooperation

Forum. In addition, new debt exemption scheme for least developed and heavily indebted countries in Africa is announced.

All above mentioned public products and goodwill gestures have demonstrated the strong commitment of China on international development. They also injected new impetus to South-South cooperation.

Dear colleagues,

China embarked on the journey of Reform and Opening up also started in 1978, coincided with the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. From a country with large population in extreme poverty to a country with near reach to the comprehensive well-off, from a country with focus on economic growth to a country with modern development strategy featured with innovation, coordination, green, open and shared prosperity, from a country outside the WTO to a defender of free trade and multilateralism, China's development and changes attribute first to the valiant and industrious Chinese People. Various forms of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation has also played crucial role, which China will never forget.

China is still a developing country and will forever be a staunch member of the developing world. We will continue to enhance our cooperation with the other developing countries at the UN and other platforms, support greater representation and voice of the developing countries in international affairs, and actively participate in the South-South cooperation cause.

Thank you all for your attention.