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(Translation)

**Strengthening South-South Cooperation and  
Promoting Common Prosperity**

Speech by Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan of China  
at the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Summit  
(Doha, 15 June 2005)

Mr. Chairman,  
The Honorable Heads of State or Government,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. As this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, heads of state or government of the developing countries gather in the beautiful gulf city of Doha to coordinate positions, work out policies and hold important discussions on how to realize the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This will significantly contribute to solidarity, cooperation and common prosperity among countries of the South. Here, please allow me to express, on behalf of the Chinese Government, warm congratulations on the convocation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Summit and sincere appreciation for the firm support to the Chinese Government by the developing countries over the years and for the excellent work and thoughtful arrangement by Qatar for this Summit.

In the world of today, peace, development and cooperation have become the trend of the times, featuring in-depth development of economic globalization, rapid advancement of science and technology and unprecedented spread of information. However, at the same time, the gap between the

North and South is widening as the rich are becoming richer and the poor poorer. The developing countries are still bedeviled by diseases, illiteracy, debts, financial risks, environmental degradation, terrorism, local conflicts and other problems. There is still a long way to go before realizing the MDGs.

Yet, it is gratifying that the developing countries have been enjoying continuous economic growth thanks to their arduous endeavors. Over the past five years since the 1<sup>st</sup> South Summit, the developing countries have enhanced their political and economic cooperation and grown into an important force in the international arena that cannot be overlooked. This year is a year of international cooperation and development. The issue of development will be high on the agenda of a series of important international conferences such as the UN 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summit and the 6<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference. China, as the largest developing country, stands ready to work with all of you for more pragmatic and effective cooperation for mutual benefits and win-win results so as to make bigger strides towards the MDGs. Here, on behalf of the Chinese Government, I wish to put forward the following proposals:

**First, to strengthen solidarity among the countries of the South.** This is an important guarantee for developing countries to safeguard our common interests. Solidarity requires mutual respect and mutual support as well as frequent policy consultations and coordination among developing countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and other universally recognized norms governing international relations, so that we can join our force to meet various challenges. Solidarity also means that we should properly settle our disputes in the spirit of seeking common ground while putting aside differences and actively coordinate positions and take unified actions on major international affairs and issues

bearing on our overall interests. This is the way for us to increase participation and influence and have a greater say in the UN and WTO and other international organizations.

**Second, to deepen South-South economic and technological cooperation.** We developing countries have unique advantages and great market potentials. Our cooperation has broad prospects. We should further strengthen our economic cooperation, open market to one another and push forward trade liberalization and investment facilitation as well as regional economic integration. We should further expand the scope of cooperation, coordinate trans-boundary infrastructure building and vigorously step up our cooperation in science, technology, information, energy, the environment, education and health. We should also further broaden and increase the channels for cooperation, intensify our dialogue on macro-economic policies, share experience in development and explore ways to establish mechanisms for jointly warding off various risks.

**Third, to enhance the capabilities of self-development.** Development is the way for the developing countries to improve the well-being of the people and promote social progress. It is also an important basis for consolidating political independence and maintaining social stability. The developing countries should choose a suitable road to development in line with our own national conditions, widely assimilate results of modern science and technology, and increase our capability and level of self-development.

**Fourth, to promote North-South dialogue and cooperation.** This is an important avenue to developing North-South relations and establishing a new international political and economic order. Dialogue will arouse the attention of the developed countries to the needs of the developing countries and urge them to take more actions to honor their

commitments to increase investment and assistance, reduce trade barriers, speed up technology transfer and reduce or cancel debts. And cooperation will help intensify the economic links between the North and South and enable us to take advantage of each other's strengths for mutual benefits, and to work further for healthy development of the world economy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For 26 years since reform and opening-up, China has enjoyed continued and rapid economic growth and its people's life notably improved. This is mainly because that we have found a development path suitable to our national conditions, which goes with our times and the will of our people. This is the path of building socialism with Chinese characteristics. At the same time, we are fully aware of our problems such as the large population, weak economic foundation, uneven development, heavy pressure on resources and the environment, and all sorts of other difficulties and challenges on our way ahead.

In the first two decades of this century, China will concentrate its efforts on building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way and further raise its people's living standard and quality. Following the requirements of a scientific outlook on development, we will put people first and take development as the primary task in running the country and government. We will promote coordinated development in urban and rural areas and among different regions, facilitate balanced economic and social development and harmonious development of man and nature, and coordinate domestic development and opening-up so as to achieve all-round, coordinated and sustainable development. We will work hard to build a society that is democratic and law-based, fair and just, trustworthy and friendly, full of vigor and vitality, secure and

orderly, and in which man and nature are in harmony.

China will pursue a path of peaceful development. With its vast market, fairly good labor and capital conditions, China has a strong inner strength to develop itself. China will continue to expand its economic and technological cooperation with developing countries. And mutually beneficial cooperation on an equal footing will enable us to take advantage of each other's strength and will both promote continued development in China and bring opportunities to other developing countries. A stable, open and prosperous China will surely make more contribution to world peace and development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

China has always been a strong advocate, firm supporter and active participant of South-South cooperation. Up to now, China has implemented over 2,000 South-South cooperation projects, applied zero tariff to many products from the least developed countries, signed debt cancellation agreements with 41 countries and done what it could to help other countries. In the future, no matter how fast the world changes, China will, as always, support South-South cooperation and with all sincerity, develop friendly ties with the vast number of countries of the South.

In the second half of this year, Beijing will host the first South-South Cooperation and Trade Forum. Leaders and business people of all countries are welcome to China for discussion on cooperation. China appreciates and supports the initiative by the Emir of Qatar on establishing a South Development Fund and is ready to donate US\$ 2 million to the Fund to be used for mutually beneficial cooperation between China and other developing countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Development and cooperation is the hope for the peace-loving peoples of the developing countries in their pursuit of happy life. Our duty and mission are glorious but arduous. Let us join hands to work for promoting South-South cooperation and the dialogue with the North, and together explore ways for faster development and a better future of prosperity for all countries of the South.

Thank you.