Remarks by Ambassador Zhang Lizhong At the National Day Reception Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

25 September 2024, Kampala
(Sheraton Hotel)

Your Excellency Vice president Jessica Alupo,
Honorables and Representatives from Ugandan Government,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Chinese communities in Uganda,
Friends and Distinguished Guests,

Good evening.

It is a great pleasure to have you here to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China. On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, I would like to extend a warm welcome and heartfelt gratitude to friends from all walks of life who have helped to forge a golden age of China-Uganda friendship.

Recently, Her Excellency Vice president Jessica Alupo along with

leaders from over 50 African Countries and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission gathered in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), which concluded with a big success.

During the Summit, China and Africa took stock of the journey of China-Africa friendship, commended the progress made in implementing the outcomes of FOCAC, and reached a clear political consensus on strengthening cooperation across the board. Significant upgrade in relations and Strong push to practical cooperation in various fields are marked during the summit.

China has established strategic partnership with all African countries having diplomatic ties with China and the Overall characterization of China-Africa relations has been elevated to an all-weather China-Africa community with a shared future for the new era. The new positioning of the China-Africa relationship responds to the evolving global landscape, the realistic need for strengthening China-Africa cooperation, and the common aspirations of their respective leaders and people.

Modernization is one of the most-frequently mentioned words during this Summit. China and Africa affirmed that the two sides should jointly advance modernization characterized by six features, that is just and equitable, that is open and win-win, that puts the people first, that features diversity and inclusiveness, that is eco-friendly, and that is underpinned by peace and security.

To deepen China-Africa cooperation and spearhead the Global South modernization, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of this just-ended summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping unveiled **ten**

partnership actions, which are well-elaborated in our brochures. New avenues of cooperation between China and Africa are opening up, inter alia green development, trade prosperity, healthcare, common security and others, besides the traditional cooperation sectors, like infrastructure and agriculture. Measures to deepen cooperation on e-commerce and to embrace together the latest round of technological revolution and industrial transformation are also included.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

Thanks to decades of efforts from China and Uganda and especially the outstanding leadership of H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.E. President Museveni, China-Uganda bilateral relationship is now at its best time in history. The mutual trust has been enhanced continuously, the pragmatic cooperation between China and Uganda sets a fine example for developing countries to seek development through unity and cooperation. As the Chinese ambassador, it is my privilege to be involved in the progress of the China-Uganda relationship on the foremost frontier. This September at the FOCAC Summit, China and Uganda have jointly confirmed to elevate the China-Uganda relationship to Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership based on the consensus of our two presidents and the will of two peoples.

During the summit, China has decided to give all LDCs having diplomatic relations with China, including 33 countries in Africa, zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent tariff lines. I'm happy to say Uganda can also benefit a lot from this. Furthermore, two Protocols of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Dried Chilies & Wild Aquatic Products from Uganda to China and the framework

agreement on economic partnership for shared development with African countries were signed. These have all demonstrated China's determination to expand market access for Ugandan agricultural products and to provide long-term, stable and predictable institutional guarantee for trade and investment between China and Uganda.

As a developing country itself, China understands Africa's most pressing needs. "To get rich, build roads first." The popular proverb rings true in Uganda, drawing on China's own development experience, China has been dedicated to working with Uganda to build transport facilities crucial for economic development. Since completed, the Kampala-Entebbe Highway has reduced the transit time from nearly two hours to 40 minutes. The Renovation and Expansion of Entebbe International airport has Effectively improved Uganda's connection with the world. The Karuma Hydro-power Plant Project, which helps to address the national power shortage with renewable energy, was successfully handed over in this June and the Presidential commissioning of Karuma Hydro-power Plant will be held shortly. This six-turbine hydro-power plant has brought new opportunities for Uganda to realize leapfrog development.

Chinese enterprises have also helped strengthen Africa's Industrial foundation through the construction of industrial parks, capacity building, technology transfer and etc. China-Uganda Mbale Industrial Park and the Kapeeka Liaoshen Industrial Park created more than ten thousand jobs for the local community.

Besides the efforts to advance signature projects, China is also committed to help Uganda tackle poverty through the "small but beautiful" public welfare projects such as the transfer of Bamboo

technology.

In the economic and trade sector, the bilateral trade of China and Uganda grew by 17% year on year, reaching 1.3 billion US dollar. China has also been Uganda's largest trading partner over the years.

Though oceans apart, exchanges between China and Uganda flourish. As more and more Chinese and Ugandans visit each other's countries, bridges are built that bring our people and hearts closer. Since 1983, China has continuously sent 24 batches of medical teams to Uganda, providing around 270,000 (two hundred and seventy thousand) treatments. Enthusiasm for learning the Chinese language has been steadily growing. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Makerere Confucious Institute, who has brought tangible results in promoting Mandarin and cultural exchanges. During the past decade, 68 Chinese teachers came to Uganda, who trained more than 20,000 Ugandan Mandarin speakers and about 200 local Mandarin teachers.

Friends and Distinguished Guests,

The People's Republic of China is a cordial friend of Uganda. At her 75th birthday, I'm glad to present you some more pictures on real China and her new stories. For the past 75 years, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has united and led the Chinese nation in successfully forging the Chinese path to modernization, and in creating the two major miracles of fast economic development and long-term social stability. China has successfully eradicated absolute poverty. China's contribution to global economic growth has exceeded 30 percent for many consecutive years. These constitute not only China's major achievements, but also great contributions to global development. Recent years, China's innovation-driven

development is full of energy. Chinese-made mobile phones are an instant market success. New energy vehicles, lithium batteries, and photovoltaic products are a new testimony to China's manufacturing prowess.

This year’s FOCAC Summit was held less than two months after China unveiled more than 300 pragmatic reform measures at the third plenary session of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China , which drawn a new blueprint for further deepening reform comprehensively to advance Chinese modernization. All the reform tasks shall be completed by 2029, when the country celebrates its 80th anniversary, which is five years later. This plenum makes a milestone as it offered a sense of continuity and certainty to the turbulent world and, highlighted China's unwavering commitment to reform and opening-up which will bring more opportunities to countries around the world, especially African countries such as Uganda.

I wish China and Uganda will take the implementation of the outcomes of the summit and China’s ongoing reform and opening-up endeavors as an opportunity to embark on the new journey toward modernization, stimulate the potential for practical cooperation, and write a new chapter in building China-Uganda relations and all-weather China-Africa community with shared future for new era.

Now, I would like to propose a toast:
To the long-standing friendship between the peoples of China and Uganda;
To the peace and prosperity of our two countries; and
To the health and happiness of all the brothers and Sisters.
Cheers!

Thank you!