

**Statement by Mr. Li Baodong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, China,
at the General Debate of the Ministerial Meeting of High-Level Political
Forum on Sustainable Development**

July 19, 2016, New York

Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to attend the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and exchange views with you on how to promote global development and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Development is crucial to national economy and people's livelihood and is therefore the common responsibility of all states. All issues we are facing today -- from old problems such as economic growth, poverty alleviation, people's livelihood, health care and education to new challenges such as climate change, terrorism and refugee crisis -- can be traced back to the "root cause" of inadequate development and can only be tackled fundamentally through development. Last September the world leaders adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, outlining the blueprint for the development of every country and global development cooperation in the upcoming 15 years. Full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the solemn commitment of the world leaders as well as the strong aspiration of the general public. The international community shall spare no efforts and seize every opportunity to translate objectives into outcomes and guidelines into action, in order to usher in a new chapter for global development, inject new incentives into world economic growth and bring global development to a higher level. China believes that joint efforts must be made in the following areas:

First, to build a strong sense of Community of Common Destiny and create a sound international environment for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Without peace and stability, there will be little chance for development or prosperity, nor will there be any chance to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Although the overall situation worldwide is peaceful, local conflicts and turbulences break out one after another. States should follow the desire of their peoples, seek peaceful coexistence, follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, build a new pattern of international relations featuring win-win cooperation and create a peaceful, stable and harmonious environment at regional and international level. The international community should also strengthen macro policy coordination at global level, jointly promote an open and inclusive world economy, improve global economic governance and effectively strengthen the representation and voice of developing countries in international economic governance. Further input must be injected into improving the external environment facing the development of all

states, developing countries in particular. Root causes threatening peace and stability shall be removed through development so that peace and development -- the trend of our times -- can take center stage.

Second, to uphold the principle of people-centered approach and facilitate the participation of all individuals in sustainable development. "The primary task of governance is to enrich the people". To realize, safeguard and promote the fundamental interests of the people is both the starting point and the ultimate goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. All states shall uphold the principle of people-centered approach, strengthen the mechanism for mutual consultation, joint participation and sharing so as to enable each and every individual to participate in the implementation of the Agenda and enhance each individual's sense of self-benefit as a result of such participation. If that can be done, the Agenda would represent tangible benefits for the people rather than a political declaration that stays on the paper. Inclusive economic growth and inclusive society are the way to go, with particular focus on the needs and concerns of vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, women and persons with disabilities. By so doing, the outcome of development will benefit more people and in a more equitable manner and will ultimately ensure that no one is left behind.

Third, to adopt an integrated approach in planning and implementation to push for coordinated progress in economic, social and environmental arenas. The development agenda covers three major areas of economy, society and environment and includes 17 goals and 169 objectives. Based on their own national circumstances and phases of development, countries must identify their priorities in those three areas, make coordinated efforts so as to form synergy. Poverty eradication should be at the top of the agenda in order to lay a solid foundation for sustainable development. Great efforts must be made to optimize economic structure and implement innovative strategies for development with the aim to achieve sustained, sound and steady economic growth. Social and public service systems for employment, education, social security and public health must be improved to ensure a life with dignity for all. We must establish the concept of ecological civilization that is based on respect for nature, adaption to nature and protection of nature to strive for harmonious coexistence between men, men and society and men and nature so that sustainable development will be placed in a virtuous cycle.

Fourth, to deepen global development partnerships to help countries implement the process. National governments shoulder the primary responsibility for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and should place the implementation as the priority in national policies. While taking their own responsibility and strengthening the internal drivers for growth, governments should also encourage the private sector, civil society and charitable organizations to participate in the cause of sustainable development that is guided by the government, embraced by the whole society and built by all people. The international community should fully respect countries' rights to independently choose their own social systems and development paths, and address the harsh realities such as unbalanced south-north development and lack of drive in international development cooperation by adopting pragmatic measures to narrow the gap between the North

and the South, and between the rich and the poor, in a joint effort to realize common development and prosperity. Developed countries should effectively honor their ODA commitments to help developing countries enhance their own development capability and levels. Developing countries should actively carry out South-South cooperation so as to close ranks and achieve self-empowerment.

Fifth, the central role of the United Nations must be supported to improve the structure of the global development cooperation. At this important juncture with increasing challenges in global development and the launch of the sustainable development agenda, the position and role of the UN should only be strengthened, not undermined. The United Nations should play an effective role to better coordinate work in three major areas including development, security and human rights. The UN should mobilize international organizations in specialized fields such as economy, finance, trade and investment in an effort to unite the entire international community to forge ahead with the sustainable development agenda. The HLPF on sustainable development should play an effective role in monitoring and evaluating the process. It should in particular respond to calls from developing countries and strengthen the monitoring of the implementation at the international level. With the UN remaining as the main conduit, stakeholders including international development organizations, multilateral financial organizations and multinational enterprises should be encouraged to play a bigger role and make greater contributions to the implementation of the sustainable development agenda.

Mr. President,

China is the largest developing country in the world. The government and people of China have made the historic choice of comprehensively advancing sustainable development. Since the UN Development Summit held last year, we have pushed for the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and made positive progress in areas such as guiding principles, master design, strategic planning, institutional making, and early results. All this has laid a solid foundation for our implementation efforts for the next 15 years. In parallel to our domestic initiatives, we've also started to implement various pragmatic measures initiated by President Xi Jinping at the Development Summit to further deepen South-South Cooperation, and to provide support and assistance within our capacity to other developing countries in support of their implementation of the Agenda. China will, in HLPF Voluntary National Review, present a comprehensive picture of what we have done so far. We are here to share experiences and exchange views with all of you and we are open to your valuable opinions and suggestions.

Mr. President,

Without the development of the vast number of developing countries, the growth of the world economy will not find a firm footing. As the president of the G20 for 2016, China has proactively worked within G20 to give prominence to the issue of development for the first time in the global macro policy framework, and has invited unprecedented number of

developing countries to participate in the year-round G20 activities this year so as to fully heed the voices of the developing countries, respond to their concerns, and to bring new impetus to international development cooperation.

One, through formulating a G20 Action Plan on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we tried to strengthen policy coordination and cooperation among working mechanisms within the G20, and incorporate the development perspective into its discussions of such topics as innovation, trade, energy, and anti-corruption, so that the comparative advantage and added value of the G20 will be fully tapped to help advance the work of the UN which acts as a main conduit in this process.

Two, with African countries and the LDCs in sight, we galvanized G20 in formulating the G20 Initiative in Support of Industrialization of Africa and Other Least Developed Countries, in order to provide political support and policy recommendations for the industrialization of these countries and to facilitate their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Three, we've hosted discussions within the G20 on topics concerning employment, agriculture and inclusive business and helped to bring about the G20 Entrepreneurship Action Plan and to establish the G20 inclusive global business platform in an effort to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive development of the world economy.

Four, we've maintained openness, inclusiveness and transparency in hosting the G20 meetings, and have engaged the UN, the G77, and the African Union in a series of sideline dialogues. At the same time, we turned to platforms such as the UN ESCAP, Bo'ao Forum for Asia, the World Economic Forum, and APEC to seek opinions and suggestions from all sides, so as to make the discussions within the G20 more representative.

China is confident that, with the concerted efforts of all the members of the G20, the G20 Hangzhou Summit will make a positive contribution to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promoting international development cooperation, hence leaving an indelible mark in the annals of development in the world.

Mr. President,

Countries in the world coexist on the same planet. We are of one family. Together with others, China will take to the agenda for sustainable development with a sense of mission and start the journey hand in hand with other countries in order to achieve a future of shared development where everyone is free from want and to make 2030 more prosperous for our future generations.