

## **Address by H.E. Ambassador Du Qiwen at the Third Summit of the Pacific Islands Development Forum**

2015/09/04

Suva, Fiji, 2 September, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

I am truly delighted to have come to Suva for the Third Summit of the Islands Development Forum (PIDF3). I'd like to start by extending my cordial congratulations on the successful opening of the summit, and expressing heartfelt thanks to the Fijian government and the PIDF Secretariat for the thoughtful arrangement made for my delegation.

In our view, it is highly relevant and timely that the Third Summit of the PIDF has chosen Building Climate Resilient Green Blue Economies as its theme. And I'm sure PIDF3 will leave an impact on the preparation of the Paris Climate Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change and sustainable development have very much been at the center of China's development efforts. They are both regarded as issues essential to our own development and part of our international obligations and responsibilities as the biggest developing country. China was the first in the developing world to formulate a *National Program on Climate Change* that focuses on green and low-carbon growth, and circular economy. As a result of years of conscientious and strenuous efforts, remarkable progress has been noted. In 2014, China's energy consumption per unit GDP and CO2 emission were lowered by 29.9% and 33.8% respectively from 2005 level. China now leads the world in energy conservation and the use of new and renewable energy.

In the past June, China proposed its INDCs to the United Nation. By 2030, we plan to lower CO2 emission per unit GDP by 60% to 65% from 2005 levels, and increase the share of non-fossil fuel in primary energy consumption to 20%. CO2 emission is expected to peak in 2030 and we will work hard for that to happen earlier.

Mr. Chairman,

The Paris Climate Conference to be held late this year will be a milestone for global climate governance. The Chinese government is of the position that the international community should uphold the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities", work together to make sure the multilateral process on climate change move forward in the right direction consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, build early consensus, and endeavor to achieve a comprehensive, balanced and ambitious agreement, so as to provide better guidance for international cooperation on this paramountly important issue.

China is happy to note the active contribution made by the Alliance of Small Island States, and ready to work more closely with them for the success of the Paris Conference.

Mr.Chairman,

China attaches great importance to South-South cooperation on climate change. Up to now, China has allocated around 400 million RMB in material assistance and human resources training for small island states and other developing countries. Furthermore, at the meeting with Pacific leaders in Fiji last November, President Xi Jinping announced that, China will establish a Fund for South-South Cooperation on Climate Change, and donate 6 million USD to the UN secretary General for strengthening the UN's work in this regard.

Building on past successes, China is ready to work more closely and expand cooperation with pacific island states on climate change. We will try to raise assistance levels in the energy conservation and environmental protection fields with projects such as mini hydro-power stations, eco-farms and biogas utilization. And we will increase our efforts on personnel training for disaster prevention and alleviation in the Pacific.

Mr. Chairman,

Last year in Fiji, a new package of assistance was announced by China which includes one billion USD preferential loans, one billion USD special loan for infrastructure development, 2.5 billion RMB of grant assistance in the coming four years as well as 2,000 scholarships and 5,000 training opportunities in the coming five years. We have been working hard with partners in the region for its implementation.

Our pacific friends must have taken note of the progress made on the initiative of building a 21<sup>st</sup> century maritime silk road. The 21<sup>st</sup> century maritime silk road initiative is intended as a major step to promote balanced growth in the global economy, and to assist sustainable development efforts of our partners along its route. No doubt, this initiative will bring about new opportunities and resources for China-Pacific cooperation. We are ready to work with our partners on this.

Specifically, we wish to strengthen cooperation in the fishery by developing processing facilities and training personnel. At the same time, we'll work to boost cooperation in marine protection and conservation. We will support the efforts of island countries to curb excessive fishing. And we are ready to explore with our partners possibilities for future cooperation in marine biodiversity studies, oceanographic observation, earthquake and tsunami early warning and more.

Mr. Chairman,

As eloquently pointed out by many speakers at this summit, climate change and sustainable development are not only issues vital to the survival and prosperity of island countries but also bear on the shared future of mankind. We are happy to see that consensus has been reached on the final draft of post-2015 Development Agenda, a document, in many ways, reflects the positions and interests of island states and other developing countries.

We agree with other participants at this summit that partnership is the keyword on climate change and green blue economies. We hope the developed countries will honor their commitment to provide Official Development Assistance in a full and timely manner. We wish to see South-South cooperation further strengthened. And we want to commend PIDF on its efforts to mobilize the initiatives of stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chinese delegation is enormously inspired by the spirit of solidarity and cooperation that emerged at this summit. Let me conclude by adding our voice to the call for genuine partnership and resolute action on these vitally important issues.

Thank you.