

H.E Haillemariam Desalegn, the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,

H.E Tedros Adhanom, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia,

H.E Seyoum Mesfin, the Chairperson of the IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan,

Gen. Lazarus Sumbeiywo, IGAD Special Envoy for South Sudan,

Amb. Gen. Mohamed Ahmed Mustafa El Adbi, IGAD Spcial Envoy for South Sudan,

Excellencies Special Envoys and Ambassadors,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of Chinese side, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our congratulations to all parties here on their concerted efforts to facilitating the South Sudan peace-building and political reconciliation process.

The Chinese government has always been committed to support the efforts led by IGAD in mediating the two parties of South Sudan towards cease-fire and national reconciliation. Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Yi has met with the representatives of the two parties during his visit to Ethiopia in January, when the first round of

negociation is well in process. FM Wang Yi stated our position and sincerely advise the two parties to work towards peaceful solution of the conflict in the interest of South Sudan people. China has also sent Special Envoy for African Affairs, Mr. Zhong Jianhua to visit South Sudan for many times and join with relative stakeholders in pursuit of the cease of hostility between two parties.

We are very happy to see that tangible progress has already been made in the first round of negotiation, in which the two papers of cessation of hostility and status of detainees are signed and the mechanism of JTC as well as MVT are getting established accordingly. And we are more pleased to see that the second round of negotiated is going to be initiated from here today, aiming to solve the underlying and deep-rooted problem of the conflict, which will lay a better foundation for the reconstruction of the South Sudan country in the long run.

China will continue to work closely with IGAD and the international community in promoting more progress in the following round of negotiation. We sincerely wish the negotiation be fruitful and successful. Thank you.