

(Translation)

**Keynote Remarks by Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China
At the Special Consultation
In Support of the IGAD-led South Sudan Peace Process**

Khartoum, 12 January 2015

Your Excellency Ali Ahmed Karti, Foreign Minister of Sudan,
Your Excellency Tewodros Adhanom, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia,
Your Excellency Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Foreign Minister of South
Sudan,
Your Excellency Taban Deng Gai,
Your Excellency Seyoum Mesfin, Ambassador and Chairperson of the
IGAD Special Envoys for South Sudan,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

First of all, I wish to thank Ambassador Seyoum for chairing this consultation. I want to thank the Sudanese government for the thoughtful arrangements and a great deal of preparation it has made to make this event possible. My thanks will also go to all the friends present here who actively attend the consultation in response to China's initiative.

We have come here today to secure peace in South Sudan. As the world's youngest country, South Sudan has been given great expectations from the international community. As a newborn, it needs the sunshine of peace and meticulous care and protection. To our deep dismay, however, the armed conflict that has gone on for a year has caused the loss of so many innocent lives and left millions more drifting and homeless. Farmland were deserted and livestock unattended. And the humanitarian crisis there has become increasingly severe. The conflict has not only inflicted deep sufferings on the South Sudanese people and deprived them of peace and tranquility, but also undermined the security, stability and development of the region. To end the conflict at an early date and bring about peace, stability and development in South Sudan is therefore both the keen aspiration of the South Sudanese people and the common desire of countries in this region and the international community at large.

We have come here today to give support and encouragement to

IGAD. Thanks to the vigorous mediation of IGAD, the conflicting parties in South Sudan have engaged in several rounds of dialogue and negotiations and signed some agreements on cessation of hostilities. They are now negotiating on the establishment of a transitional government and the peace process has indeed made heartening progress. We appreciate the readiness the parties have indicated for reconciliation and applaud the tremendous efforts IGAD and Ambassador Seyoum have made to this end. We are holding this consultation with a clear aim: that is to give a strong support to IGAD's mediation efforts, lend a fresh impetus to the South Sudan peace process and make further preparations for the upcoming IGAD summit.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As a friend of South Sudan and a responsible major country, China has all along followed closely the developments in that country and worked actively to promote the peace process.

China is an active promoter of peace in South Sudan. Since the outbreak of the conflict, China has worked hard to promote peace talks. I myself have met with representatives of both sides twice and this is our third meeting today. China's Special Representative Zhong Jianhua, who is present today, has made several rounds of shuttle diplomacy in South Sudan and other countries in this region. As a firm supporter to IGAD's mediation efforts, China will provide another US\$1.2 million this year in support of IGAD's mediation and ceasefire monitoring mechanism while sending personnel over as part of its stepped-up efforts to promote peace in South Sudan.

China is a steadfast defender of peace in South Sudan. At the UN Security Council and on other international occasions, China has always stood for an early and peaceful solution to the South Sudan issue while calling for greater international solidarity and cooperation with the IGAD-led mediation efforts. At the same time, China has actively supported and participated in the UN peacekeeping operations in South Sudan. The peacekeeping infantry battalion China has sent to UNMISS will soon be fully deployed. This is China's first organizational combat unit dispatched overseas. It will strictly follow the Security Council mandate, perform its duties well under the UNMISS command, help maintain security and stability in South Sudan, and protect civilians and support humanitarian relief efforts there.

China is a sincere participant in the cause of peace and development

of South Sudan. On the issue of South Sudan, China always bears in mind the country's long-term development and the fundamental interests of its people. Instead of abandoning their posts after the outbreak of the conflict, the Chinese medical team and other Chinese personnel in South Sudan stayed put to help with the country's nation building and economic development. What is more, China has provided South Sudan with multiple humanitarian assistance to help build shelters for civilians. Once peace is restored in South Sudan, China will work even more actively to cooperate with the country in all areas of endeavor and help it gain its due respect and status in the international community.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The situation in South Sudan has come to a critical juncture. With the survival of the country and the fundamental interests of the people at stake, this conflict cannot be allowed to drag on. All the parties must have a greater sense of urgency, bear in mind the larger picture and take concrete actions so as to properly solve the South Sudan issue as soon as possible. Standing ready to play a positive and constructive role to this end, China hereby wishes to propose as follows:

First, renounce use of force and earnestly honor ceasefire. Both history and reality show that force will lead nowhere, as conflict and confrontation can only beget more hatred and aggravate people's sufferings in South Sudan. The conflicting parties should act in the immediate and long-term interests of the people in South Sudan and of peace and stability in the region, reject any attempt to use force, earnestly implement the agreements they have signed, immediately realize an unconditional and complete ceasefire, and create conditions for continued negotiations.

Second, form a transitional government without delay. An early establishment of a transitional government in South Sudan will help advance the peace process, strengthen the people's confidence in ethnic unity and national development and encourage greater international support for peace, stability and development in that country. The parties, building on the existing outcomes of negotiations, should waste no time in demonstrating sincerity and, working in line with the principle of tackling the easier tasks first and seeking common ground while shelving differences, negotiate without further delay on the establishment of a transitional government in South Sudan. It is hoped that such a transitional government will start operating in the first quarter of 2015. After that, the parties may continue to work in a reasonable and

pragmatic manner on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual accommodation to address such specific issues as power sharing in a step-by-step manner through careful communication and meeting each other's concerns.

Third, firmly support IGAD in playing its role as the main channel of mediation. Given Africa's unique history, culture and wisdom, it is necessary and crucial for African hotspot issues including the South Sudan conflict to be resolved independently by African countries and in African ways. This is the clear and consistent position of the Chinese government. Ideas from other African countries to this end are also important. It is also necessary, in the meantime, for the international community to give its continued support and vigorous coordination to IGAD's mediation and ceasefire monitoring efforts so as to help restore peace and stability in South Sudan at an early date.

Fourth, expeditiously ease the humanitarian situation in South Sudan. The parties should take effective steps to ease the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the affected areas and provide facilities necessary for international humanitarian access. China calls for greater international assistance to speedily ease the humanitarian situation in South Sudan and effectively alleviate the sufferings of the people there. China is ready to continue providing humanitarian assistance to the people in South Sudan through various channels.

Achieving peace, stability and development in South Sudan would require support and assistance of the international community and the relevant quarters. I hope the conflicting parties will do everything they can to ensure the safety of foreign nationals and institutions inside South Sudan, protect the key infrastructure critical to the country's economy and people's livelihood, and create necessary conditions for the country's reconstruction and economic development in the future.

Here I want to quote two old Chinese sayings that are steeped in Chinese wisdom of thousands of years, hoping they will be of some reference to the parties. **The first one is: take a step back and you will find the sea is vast and the sky boundless.** Political solution is the only way out for the South Sudan issue. But it will not come by easily as difficulties and even setbacks might lie along the way. It is all the more necessary, therefore, for the parties to show mutual understanding, take a long view and make reasonable compromise to each other. Intransigence can only lead to a dead end. Only mutual understanding and mutual accommodation will open a new horizon.

The second one is: if brothers are of the same mind, they can even cut through metals. There is no problem in the world that is unresolvable, let alone family disputes between brothers. South Sudan has good natural conditions and abundant resources. As long as the two parties are sincere for a solution and take concrete actions accordingly, they will be able to remove their misunderstanding and differences, pool their energy for nation building, and create a bright future for their country. This will serve the interests of all parties in South Sudan.

On the South Sudan issue, the various parties concerned may differ in their positions but all share the same goal. That is to restore peace and stability in South Sudan as quickly as possible. China will always stand by the South Sudanese people, by IGAD and the African friends. We are ready to join the various parties at this meeting and the wider international community in taking effective actions to restore peace and stability in South Sudan at an early date, so as to free all the families in South Sudan from the threat of war and let all the children in South Sudan grow up in the sunshine of peace.

Thank you.