

KEY NOTE REMARKS FOR HER EXCELLENCY DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BEIJING SUMMIT OF THE FORUM ON CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION ON 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2024 IN BEIJING - CHINA

- *Your Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China and Co-Chairperson of the FOCAC;*
- *Your Excellency Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal and Co-Chairperson of the FOCAC;*
- *Your Excellency Mohamed Cheikh Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairperson of the African Union,*
- *Excellencies Heads of State and Government;*
- *Your Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,*
- *Distinguished Delegates;*
- *Ladies and gentlemen,*

Good morning.

On behalf of the Eastern Africa region I wish to commend the excellent arrangement of this meeting, and appreciate the excellent hospitality

extended to us by our host, the Government of the People's Republic of China. We feel honored and welcome. Thank you very much.

We are meeting today with a lot to celebrate about our friendship and partnership that is bringing positive impact on the lives of our people. Despite the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, China has remained committed to fulfil the pledges made during the 8th Ministerial Conference of FOCAC, particularly the **Nine Programs**. This genuine commitment has been instrumental in advancing our common developmental goals.

The impact of this collaboration is present across our economies and China has been a true partner in our fight against poverty and pursuing prosperity. China's imprints are evident and vivid in infrastructure improvements, rapid industrialization, or progress in small enterprises in our countries.

In recent years, we have witnessed a significant increase in trade and investment between China and African countries. In this regard, Tanzania stands ready to be a demonstration plot for China-Tanzania socio-economic innovations.

Excellencies;

As we celebrate the milestone achievements earlier mentioned, it is important to also reflect on the way forward. As President Xi Jinping told the African leaders in Durban on March 28, 2013, *"The development of China-Africa ties can only be in present continuous tense, and never in the present perfect tense"*.

Tanzania and our colleagues in the Eastern Africa region are heartened to note that the FOCAC Beijing Action Plan (2025-2027) intends to respond to the pressing needs of our region. While commending the overall progress so far achieved, we also appreciate the announcement of further areas for partnership actions on modernization to be undertaken by China and African countries. These partnership actions shall underpin China-Africa efforts to deepen cooperation in various fields and advance modernization together. We salute our new characterization of Africa-China relations.

Excellencies;

This year's FOCAC meeting is taking place a **decade** after His Excellency President Xi Jinping announced China's Africa Strategy in Dar es Salaam during his maiden trip to Africa in 2013. He put forward the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith as guiding principles

for China's cooperation with African countries. Our presence here today reflects the solidarity and commitment to building a shared future of progress and prosperity.

Let us work towards fruitful socio-economic innovations and development for our countries.

Thank you for listening.