

SPEECH BY MR. TIAN YUHONG, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ALL CHINA JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION DURING THE CHINA-AFRICA MEDIA COOPERATION FORUM 2020

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Guided by the FOCAC, China-Africa journalism exchanges and cooperation have been marching firmly with considerable progress and fruitful results since then. With the advancement of science and technology, especially the application of information technology in the media, China-Africa media cooperation has embraced the new digital age. I'd like to put forward three suggestions for the advancement of China-Africa media cooperation in the digital age:

1. Jointly promote the development of media convergence. Media convergence has become an inevitable trend in media development. The Chinese government attaches great importance to and supports the development of media convergence, and has specifically released guiding principles to promote its in-depth development. As Chinese media are determined to forge ahead with innovation, traditional media and new media are speeding up convergence at an unprecedented pace. New technologies and applications are innovating media production and communication. Media convergence in Africa has also started and made continuous development with positive results. Aiming to build a community with a shared future between our two sides, the Chinese and African press should strengthen exchanges and cooperation, learn from each other, and jointly promote the development of media convergence.

2. Jointly resist smear reports of western media. For quite some time, the United States and the western countries have leveraged their advantages in digital media technology

to slander and discredit China and Africa, try to draw a wedge between China and Africa, and demonize China and Africa's development paths, systems and achievements, out of the attempt to safeguard their own interests. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, western media have intensified such campaign and wantonly attacked and smeared other countries by distorting the fact. The Chinese and African press should be more united and jointly advocate objective, rational, and scientific media coverage, enhance mutual understanding between China and Africa, and cement the traditional friendship between our two sides.

3. Jointly step up the training in media convergence. The development of media convergence poses new challenges and requirements on the professional ability of journalists and editors. An important mission of a journalists' organization is to provide professional training for journalists. All-China Journalists Association is ready to work with African journalists' organizations to explore training models, innovate training mechanisms, exchange training experience, and promote mutual learning among journalists of different countries. The Belt and Road Journalists Network will organize study and exchange sessions in China for the heads and key members of the journalists' organizations. The participation of journalists' organizations from African countries is more than welcome.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

China and Africa always have helped and supported each other, fully demonstrating that China and Africa share weal and woe and the friendship between China and Africa is unbreakable. The Chinese and African press should strengthen exchanges and dialogues, and share the stories of China-Africa cooperation and common development from a more comprehensive, balanced and objective perspective, so as to continuously enhance people-to-people connectivity and friendship between China and Africa.

I would like to thank the Kenyan Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, Media Council Kenya and the Chinese Embassy in Kenya for their tremendous efforts in making this forum possible. I wish the forum a complete success, and all of our friends' good luck and health!