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Thank you, Marie-Roger, for giving me the floor. Before I come to your question, I need to make three brief points. Firstly, Africa is rising, which is good news. The rise of Africa is part of the rise of quite a few developing countries. The rise of a large number of developing countries is one of the most important changes in the world today, which will change the global landscape. Look at Asia, look at Africa, look at Latin America; there are quite a few developing countries which are rising, and this is very good news.

Last year, according to IMF statistics, developing world GDP in PPP terms overtook the developed world for the first time. I believe this is a quite significant turning point and, against this backdrop, Africa's GDP in monetary terms exceeded USD 2 trillion last year. The rise of Africa is good news for everybody, and it does not occur in isolation; it is part of a changing world. This is my first point.

My second point is that Afro-Asian solidarity is playing an important role in Africa's rise. Looking back through the last half-century, we realise that Afro-Asian solidarity played a very important role in giving a strong push to the movement for national independence and national liberation. We all remember that in 1955, in Bandung, Indonesia, we had the first ever Afro-Asian conference, the Bandung Conference. This conference was very successful, and gave a strong push to the movement for national independence and liberation. The membership of the UN in 1955 amounted to only 76; today it is 193, and a lot of these countries gained independence in the aftermath.

Today, we see a very interesting phenomenon: Asia is rising, and it has been rising in five waves. The first wave was Japan after the Second World War. The second was in the early 1960s, where four Asian tigers started to rise - Hong-Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Korea. The third wave was in the 1970s, when ASEAN countries followed suit. The fourth wave was in 1978, when China followed suit. The fifth wave was in 1991, when India started its economic reform. When China and India joined this rising Asian tide, the momentum and the scope of Asia's rise increased tremendously.

Look at Africa today. Last year, of 10 fastest-growing countries in the world, seven were African countries. Asia is rising, and Africa is rising; let us help each other. You mentioned some quite interesting figures a few minutes ago. Asian countries have been very active in Africa's rise, and in the 21st century, Afro-Asian solidarity will play a very important role.

Coming to the last point, China-Africa cooperation, if you look at the past 50 years, at the start the trade volume between China and Africa was very small. China-Africa trade in 1960 amounted to USD 100 million. It took us 18 years, until 1980, to reach USD 1 billion, and from 1980 it took us 20 years, until 2000, to reach USD 10 billion. However, in the new century there has been very strong development; last year the trade volume between China and Africa amounted to USD 210 billion. Why has China-Africa cooperation been growing so rapidly?

There are three factors. Firstly, Chinese and Africans treat each other on an equal footing. Secondly, we trust each other. China, Tanzania and Zambia built a railway in 1970, spending GBP 115 million, because at that time we refused to use the dollar and used the British pound. What does this mean? This accounted for more than a third of Chinese foreign currency reserves. We believe that China and Africa have to help each other. China had her lawful rights restored at the UN in 1971, thanks to the support of African and other countries. We were deeply moved by African solidarity.

Today, I believe that China-Africa cooperation is on the eve of major development. My Prime Minister went to Africa last May and said that in 2020, trade volume between China and Africa would reach USD 400 billion. Chinese



investment in Africa at this stage is about USD 25 billion, and we believe that in 2020 the number will reach USD 100 billion. Why so fast? It is because China-Africa cooperation is based on mutual benefit. The Chinese and African economies are highly complementary; we need each other.

You mentioned that when the Chinese go to Africa they do not use African labour. This is a problem, and we know it; we are changing. Three years ago, the chief economist of The World Bank, Mr Justin Lin, went to Ethiopia and talked to the Prime Minister, telling him that what was needed in Ethiopia was not high-tech but labour-intensive projects, and he agreed. Later on he went to China, to Guangdong Province, and met with the Party Secretary, Wang Yang, who today is the Vice Premier. He asked whether he could recommend a labour-intensive company. Wang Yang recommended a shoe-making factory, which is a very dynamic private company. The chairman and CEO of this company went to Ethiopia in October 2011, and brought back 80 Ethiopians for training. Two factories started operating in January 2012, now employ 3,500 people, and export shoes to the US. This is one of the largest exporting companies based in Ethiopia. China and Africa really need each other.

Finally, China-Africa cooperation is not exclusive but inclusive. Africa needs everybody. I was the Chinese Ambassador to France, and received explicit instructions from my government to attempt three-way cooperation between China, France and Africa. We succeeded in some respects, but we can do more. Africa needs infrastructure, and my Prime Minister suggests three things: connectivity in terms of high-speed rail, highways and air. It is very difficult to travel by air between African countries; you have to go back to Paris or London, and if Africa can develop connectivity by air, it would be wonderful for everybody.