

**Speech at the ground breaking and unveiling
ceremony for the China aided Project of African CDC
Headquarters building**

Amb. Liu Yuxi

*Head of the Mission of the People's Republic of China
to the African Union*

Your Excellency Amira Elfadil, African Union Commissioner for
Social Affairs,

Your Excellency Lia Tadesse, Minister of Health of Ethiopia,

Your Excellency Adanech Abiebie, Mayor of Addis Ababa

Your Excellencies and Ambassadors,

Honorable Guests and Friends,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning, I'm very glad to attend this ground breaking
and unveiling ceremony for the China aided Project of African CDC
Headquarters building. H.E. Wang Yi, State Councilor and Foreign
Minister of China, attaches great importance to this project. On his

behalf, I would like to express warm congratulations to today's ceremony.

Ten years ago, in order to facilitate African Union's role of leading Africa to unite for strength, China aided the project of AU new office building which has since become the landmark of Ethiopia and even the whole Africa, as well as the symbol of China-Africa friendship.

Ten years later, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is causing serious impact to the economic and social development of all countries in the world, particularly the Africa countries. Under this circumstance, on June 17th, Chinese President Xi Jinping, together with some African leaders initiated the Extraordinary Summit on China-Africa Solidarity against COVID-19, announcing that China will start ahead of schedule the construction of the Africa CDC headquarters this year and give greater priority to China-Africa cooperation on public health, economic reopening, and people's livelihood. Today's ceremony symbolizes the ground breaking of this project and I believe it will become a new landmark of Addis and the testimony of China-Africa solidarity against COVID-19.

Friends,

Looking back this year, China and Africa supported each other and fight shoulder to shoulder. China got valuable supports from the

African Union and African countries when it faced the hardest period. When the outbreak reached Africa, China sent medical expert teams to 16 African countries, built pair-up hospital cooperation with 42 African countries, offered urgent medical supplies to African Union and almost all African countries, and is committed to implement the G20 Debt Relief Initiative. All of these are the best interpretation of “A friend in need is a friend indeed”.

China and Africa are firm supporters of multilateralism and important forces for world peace and development. China will continue to support the African Union's Africa Joint Continental Strategy for COVID-19 Outbreak and Africa's efforts to build stronger public health prevention and control systems. China will try to make Vaccines a global public good which is accessible and affordable for African countries. China is joining hands with Africa to build an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future.

Wish African people happiness and health! Wish African CDC project a great success!