

Excellencies Ministers of People Republic of China,
Distinguished Governor of Hunan Province
Excellencies Ministers of the African Brother Countries
Distinguished Members of the Business Community, Sponsors e Partners
Distinguished Media Partners
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Ricardo Viegas D'Abreu, I am the Minister of Transports of the Republic of Angola.

It is my great pleasure and honor to address you all in the strategic and relevant event, particularly in a time the most of our countries are setting out the strategies and plans for the post Covid era. For that allow me to congratulate the organizers, sponsors and partners that made this strategic conference possible.

People Republic of China, has always played an important and relevant role in the cooperation with Angola, supporting the liberation process for independence, and more recently, since 2002, with a much stronger focus in the social and economic areas, supporting the reconstruction phase of our country after more than 40 years of civil war, that destroyed most of the country and its infrastructures.

The impact of this new phase of the cooperation between our countries, allowed Angola, to perform significantly well during the period between 2005 to 2012, reaching outstanding levels of economic growth.

China partnership with Angola, evolved in such a way that today, China is the first destination of our country exports, and the second importing partner. China is also of our main international creditor, due to the support of the public investment program of Angola partially financed by credit lines from the Chinese government and financial institutions. Not less relevant is the fact that, Chinese community in Angola, raised to more the 250.000 (two hundred and fifty thousand people) during the fast-growing period, becoming the second largest international community in our country. Although, these numbers have decreased in the recent years but the Chinese community in Angola is still very relevant and significant. The statistics do not hide the strategic importance and tights of this partnership.

The value of this event in our perspective, is associated with the need to establish the new grounds for the future relationship and cooperation with China and all its potential, allowing African continent to respond effectively to at least three main challenges ahead: the first one is the demographic growth that is happening in the continent, which will pleasure our countries and governments political decisions for the need of accelerated

job creation mechanisms and increasing the quality of life of our population; Second is the need for continuous investment in infrastructures to achieve the objectives set out by the African Union Charter in regards to the Continental Free trade. Thirdly and not less important, is related to the environmental challenges the continent still faces, and how we will address the preservation of biodiversity, allowing an orderly and sustainable process of exploiting the natural resources that this continent has been blessed, as well as responding firmly to the 17 SDG's agreed.

It is time now to look, for a much integrated and coordinated approach, based in a more risk sharing perspective, allowing the private sector and business community to support the governmental efforts to achieved sustainable economic growth. We need to look for mutual benefits, to respond to our countries challenges but at same time increase the contribution for the global GDP of our continent alongside our partner, China.

Therefore, I hereby invite the business community members attending this meeting, to Invest in Angola. The recent structural reforms in Angola, were focused in the facilitation of trade and protection of investments. A new Private Investment Law has been approved, fiscal incentives for private investment have been introduced, visa facilitation mechanism has been agreed, double taxation agreement is finalized, new regulation of Free Trade Zones, and a special and dedicated Agency is now in place to facilitate coordinate the administrative process for investing in Angola.

We need to accelerate the diversification of our economy and Angola has full potential and conditions to so. This process can only be achieved through empowerment of our human capital, leveraging knowledge, creativity, innovation to the technological and digital frontier, and People Republic of China, is already striving in the global arena in this regard.

Finally, I would like to thank the Government of PRC and the business community members of China residents in Angola, for their support to the Angola Government and People contributing for the successful implementation of the Plan to Preventing and Fight against Covid-19 pandemic. Your support was paramount and allowed Angola to swiftly respond this major challenge.

I sincerely hope that this conference will outline the new approach and framework for our countries to deliver a much stronger impact to our people and economies, as well as a consistent contribution to the Global economic sustainable goals, now that we look forward to post Covid-19.

Muito obrigado, and I wish all success for this conference.

Ricardo Viegas D'Abreu