INTRODUCTION

- It is an enormous pleasure for me to once again join you today during this tenth (10th) annual session of the International Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions under the theme: *Reform, Development and Dream* with specific focus on how trade unions can enhance exchanges and cooperation, better safeguard workers’ rights, strengthen their unions’ capacity building and accelerate economic revival in the changing world of work under the context of industrial upgrading and restructuring.

- At the outset, I wish to extend, on behalf of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) that I serve as the President and the Central Organization of Trade Unions, Kenya (COTU-K) that I lead as Secretary General and in my own name, our sincere greetings and best wishes to you and, through you, to all the workers globally who have long endeavored to promote the solidarity that we celebrate here today.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

- I have had the privilege of being here every year over the past ten years and always appreciate the diversity of thoughts and the thirst for new ideas that really characterizes this international forum.
Indeed it is safe to say that for years this forum has always pushed the limits of our thinking as trade union leaders, tried hard to find the new dimensions, and that is really what makes this forum so special and allow me to humbly thank the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) for their invitation and consistency in ensuring that these forums succeed consecutively and tackles global economic issues.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

Against the background of sluggish global economic recovery in recent years, China-Africa trade development has maintained comparatively rapid momentum with the subsequent International Global Economic Forums playing a crucial role in these achievements.

For instance, in the year 2009, China became Africa's number one trade partner and in the following two years, the scale of China-Africa trade has expanded rapidly.

In the year 2012, it took all by surprise when the total volume of China-Africa trade reached 198.49 billion US Dollars, a year-on-year growth of 19.3% and of this, 85.319 billion US Dollars consisted of China's exports to Africa, going up by 16.7%, and 113.171 billion US Dollars was contributed by China's imports from Africa, going up by 21.4%. This is no mean economic partnership between China and Africa.

Brothers and Sisters,
• Amid all these growth, the Chinese products exported to Africa are generally of fine quality and well-priced, and fulfill the consumption demands of all in low social strata in Africa particularly among the laboring poor workers.

• As the consumption capacity of the African market continues to expand, the amount of technical products that China exports to Africa has increased remarkably.

• In the year 2012, for instance the proportion of mechanical and electrical products as a part of China's total commodity exports to Africa reached 45.9% and in order to guarantee the quality of products exported to Africa, from December 2010 to March 2011, the Chinese government took special steps to crack down on the potential export to Africa of counterfeit and shoddy products and commodities that violated intellectual property rights. We applaud and thank the Chinese government for this important crucial move.

• Over the past three years, China's import volume from Africa has increased notably, as the trade volume and quantity of bulk commodities, like crude oil and agricultural products, continue rising.

• Through China-Africa trade, Africa exporters have obtained access to a stable market, higher pricing and greater benefits to both employers and workers and more so creating huge employment for the unemployed Africans.
• In the meantime, we as workers are all glad that China has vigorously expanded its imports from Africa through the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) lobbying the government and employers for tariff exemptions and setting up exhibition centers for African products.

• Notably, since January 2012, the 30 least developed African countries that have established diplomatic relations with China have been granted zero-tariff treatment for 60% of their exported items. This is a wonderful gesture.

GLOBALIZATION AND PROTECTING WORKERS RIGHTS

• The key challenge for workers and employers across Africa and beyond has been how to make a success of globalization and we take this opportunity to very highly thank the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) for bringing all the trade union leaders from across the globe to this important Global Economic Forum to exchange ideas on globalization and strategize for their future engagement on this important subject.

• I thank you all.