Speech by Mr. Yousif Ali Abdel Karim Yousif, President of the
Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation (SWTUF)

Distinguished ACFTU Chairman,

Distinguished ACFTU Vice Chairman, First Secretary,

Leaders of international and regional trade unions from Africa, Asia,
Europe and America,

All the guests,

It is a great pleasure for me to have a chance to communicate with the
trade union leaders from all over the world on the 10th International
Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade unions. Taking advantage
of this forum held once a year in Beijing, please allow me, on behalf of
Sudan Workers Trade Union Federation (SWTUF), to extend our highest
respect to the leaders, government and people of the People’s Republic of
China, and appreciation to the chairman and leaders of All China
Federation of Trade Unions for the good organization, firm determination,
warm reception and utmost cordiality.

My dear brothers and sisters,

On the first forum held in 2004, there were only 4 organizations attending
the forum, namely, All China Federation of Trade Unions, World
Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), Organization of Africa Trade Union Unity (OATUU), and International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. Under the leadership of All China Federation of Trade Unions, the forum is continuously expanding and has covered all powerful trade unions from the five continents in the world. Undoubtedly, the forum realizes a balanced and fair international trade union movement, and becomes the most inclusive and important dialogue platform for leaders of international trade unions to cooperate and exchange with each other and discuss major issues. Through the forum, we have learned how to face the issues and challenges and specific measures to solve these issues.

My dear brothers and sisters,

The forum of each year has a theme. The theme for this year is “Reform, Development, and Dream”. Under such a theme, we will discuss a series of issues, including protecting workers’ interest, strengthening unionization capability, promoting economic cooperation and industrial upgrade, etc. Employment is regarded as the foundation for reform and development, and a way to remove unemployment and poverty and increase incomes. Only by correcting planning and proper strategy can we expand employment. At the same time, we should cherish and appropriately develop natural resources, promote human resource development, improve training quality, strengthen the protection for
workers, create an appropriate contribution-encouraging environment and respect the workers’ rights, includes all kinds of medical care and pension insurance, etc. Only healthy labors can bring in development, and disease is the first enemy of human progress and happiness. Africa is suffering many diseases, including AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. These diseases have deprived the workers’ opportunity to make contributions. We are making great efforts to prevent these diseases from spreading. However, Africa is still being attacked by acute diseases, which hinders its progress and development. Particularly, many activities and plans are cancelled due to the spread of Ebola in Africa, including the Social Partner Forum to be held in Burkina Faso earlier this month. The Social Partner Forum is an important event held on the call for poverty and unemployment removal put forward by the Africa Summit and will make effective plans to remove poverty, increase employment and realize development. We now need the joint efforts of the national society to take actions immediately to support the development, innovation and production growth of Africa with rich resources and labors. The unity and cooperation of trade unions is an important guarantee to protect workers’ rights, support reform and represent the theme “Reform, Development, Dream”.

My dear brothers and sisters,
SWTUF has been aware of our duties in the various sectors of reform and development. We should face the economic, political and social changes, promote the transformation of our values and ideals in public life accordingly, so as to change our life and promote the development. Our development should depend on the development experience of all human beings. We should make and implement plans and measures which are beneficial to the establishment of social organizations and the stability of society. Our country is a multi-culture country, which is a good factor for reform and rejuvenation. SWTUF has made great efforts to promote the social dialogue in a wide range. We believe that, the current economic reform shall be aimed at fully exploring our country’s potential, creating a good investment environment, eliminating all the barriers hinder the growth of production and quality. For such purposes, we have cooperated with OATUU and launched a series of training programs. These programs have received great support and finance from All China Federation of Trade Unions. Next we plan to have a comprehensive review on the Constitutional Law of Sudan because the law has hindered national development. All parties concerned are now communicating with each other to discuss this issue. We plan to review many laws related to the participation of trade unions in legislative authorities. At present, these laws limit the relevant dialogues to be within certain political parties. It is our emphasis that the trade union organizations are the most effective
My dear brothers and sisters,

Last but not least, I would extend my appreciation to China for the support to the third world countries, especially Africa, in development, reform, and infrastructure construction. At the same time, we really appreciate All China Federation of Trade Unions for its active role in providing trainings for the leaders of African trade unions in the form of exchange visits or training courses held in various Chinese cities or training schools. SWTUF has provided many opportunities for the leaders of trade unions in Sudan to visit China and attend the seminars and training courses in China.

Again, we would like to extend our greetings to the leaders of Chinese, regional and international trade unions attending this forum. We expect to turn the discussion and suggestions into actual achievements and establish a really effective mechanism which can promote the cooperation between and unity of the trade unions, so as to promote the reform and development.

Thank You!