

UNITED NATIONS



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**Remarks by**

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**BEIJING INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE  
FRIENDSHIP**

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Respected Madame He Nuli,  
Respected Mr. Romano Prodi  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although I feel sorry for not being able to be with you in person, I am delighted I can still dialogue with you remotely, thanks to the technology, on this occasion of the "Beijing International Forum on People-to-People Friendship" sponsored by the Beijing Municipal Government.

Through its theme - "building a harmonious world together through friendly people-to-people cooperation and development", and with the anticipated participation of more than 90 delegates from 50 organizations in more than 20 countries, I believe this Forum will provide another

excellent platform to facilitate exchanges among citizens and civil societies throughout the world for promoting better cities and better life.

In this connection, I would like to take the opportunity to commend the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (BPAFFC) for its outstanding work in continuously not only forging people-to-people friendship, but also promoting learning and partnership among cities and countries around the world.

Governments are faced with numerous challenges and opportunities in today's globalized and modernized world that is yet becoming increasingly complex and uncertain. We at the United Nations recognize the importance of citizen engagement in the process of policy making, implementation and evaluation, as a catalyst for accelerated and sustainable development in achieving the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In particular, as the custodian of the United Nations Programme for Public Administration, my Division – the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has been providing support to the UN Member States for capacity-building efforts in the area of citizen engagement in managing development programmes, which aim at fostering efficient, effective, transparent, accountable, clean and citizen-centered public governance, administration and services.

In closing, I encourage you to take advantage of this forum for learning, networking, and strategizing on future partnerships and cooperation at international, regional, national and local levels. Let us

now look to fully capitalize our limited resources to provide a better life for all.

Congratulations once again and wish you a productive and successful forum.