Remarks at the opening ceremony of international conference on “Transformative Global Conference: China and the United Nations”

Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles

UN Assistant Secretary-General, Acting Head and Executive Director of United Nations Institute for Training and Research

**Introduction**

UNITAR is very honored to have been asked to co-organise this important conference with the UN Association of China and Fudan University.

And I am personally thrilled to be here. This is my first visit to China, although I have wanted to come here ever since I read Gunnar Myrdal’s book on bare foot doctors when I was a student over 40 years ago. It has been so fascinating to watch China’s progress. During that period China has moved from a country that was considered in need of UN technical and financial support, to a country from whom the UN will need financial and political support if the UN is to continue to be relevant in the 21st century.

China is already one of the most important member states in the working of the UN, both as a member of the P5, and as a very active player through out the various UN bodies. And this importance will only increase as we move forwards.

The **topic of this conference** is very timely.

Firstly, there is wide acceptance that many of the challenges facing the world require global solutions, which highlights the **current shortcomings of the global governance system.**

Secondly, the member states of the UN are currently thinking together about a new Post 2015 development agenda, and have recognised the **need for a new Global Partnership** that would promote and support the implementation of that agenda.

And thirdly, one year ago the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, together with UNDP, hosted a High Level Policy Forum on Global Governance in Beijing. That forum concluded that ‘China, with its growing weight grounded in strong economic and development performance, is poised to increase its footprint within the global order, and to help address some of the most pressing global challenges. ……. there is an emerging concensus within academic and policy circles in China and abroad that **China should play a greater role in Global Governance.’**

The next two days offer us an opportunity to think together about more effective global governance, (including a more effective UN), about what a new Global Partnership might look like, and about the role that China could, should, indeed must play within the global order.

**Need new model of partnership**

When I started working on development issues in 1980, the prevailing understanding was very different. We worked in terms of donor countries and recipients, with the assumption that the donors would provide both the funds and the knowledge, and the recipient countries would be passively grateful.

Thankfully, the world has changed a great deal. We know that development has to come from within each community and each country, and that while partners can be helpful, the partnership has to be based on a spirit of mutual respect and understanding; recognising shared interests, different needs and common but differentiated responsibilities.

Emerging economies like China rightly have no desire to take on this traditional donor role. However, while we know that the old model of development assistance needs to be changed, we do not yet have a clear vision of what a new model would look like.

China, as an emerging world power, has the opportunity to play a key leadership role in shaping a new model of partnership.

**Questions that need answers**

We hope that we can build on the outcome of the High Level Policy Forum, and make some progress together over the next two days in addressing some key questions:

* How does the UN need to change, to better facilitate effective global governance?
* What is the link between Global Governance and a new Global Partnership?
* What could be the model for a New Global partnership?
* And what role could China play in leading the thinking and action on these very important questions?

I look forward very much to the discussion of the next two days.

The list of senior Chinese officials and academics is very impressive. And I am delighted that so many very senior colleagues from across the United Nations have joined us here, reflecting the high level of awareness in the UN that without very strong leadership and support from China for all of the various areas where the UN is engaged, the UN cannot hope to remain relevant in this 21st Century.

Thank you