

Mutual support

By **HE HU JINTAO**

PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



HU JINTAO

received his degree from Tsinghua University in 1964. He was attached to the Communist Youth League in Gansu in 1994, and became First Secretary of the League nationally. He began his career as governor with his appointment as Secretary in Guizhou in 1985 and in Xizang in 1998. He was selected to join the Politburo Standing Committee in 1992. In 1993 he took charge of the CPC Central Committee and by 1998 was Vice-President of China. He was appointed General Secretary of the Communist Party and Chairman of the Politburo Standing Committee in 2002, then became President of the People's Republic in 2003 and Chairman of the Central Military Commission and Paramount Leader in 2004.

Though vast oceans keep China and Africa far apart, the friendship between the two peoples has a long history and, having been tested at times, is strong and vigorous. In the long course of history, the Chinese and African peoples, with an unyielding and tenacious spirit, created splendid and distinctive ancient civilisations. In the modern era, our peoples launched unremitting and heroic struggles against subjugation, and have written a glorious chapter in the course of pursuing freedom and liberation, upholding human dignity, and striving for economic development and national rejuvenation.

During the past five decades, the Chinese and African peoples have forged close unity, and the friendship between the two peoples has flourished at many different levels. China-Africa exchanges and cooperation have grown in all fields and yielded fruitful results.

In international affairs, China and Africa enjoy trust and cooperate closely to uphold the legitimate rights and interests of all people's throughout the developing world. China has firmly supported Africa in winning liberation and pursuing development, and it has also received great support from African countries.

China has trained technical personnel and other professionals in various fields for Africa. It has built the Tanzara Railway and other infrastructure projects and sent medical teams and peacekeepers to Africa. All this testifies to the friendship cherished by the Chinese people towards the African people.

We in China will not forget Africa's support for restoring the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. Nor will we forget the sincere and ardent wish of African countries and people for China to realise complete and peaceful reunification and achieve the goal of building a modern nation.

China-Africa friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of our two peoples, and our friendship has endured the test of time and changes in the world.

We have never strayed from the principle of enhancing friendship, treating each other as equals, extending mutual support and promoting common development in building our ties.

We both respect the development path

independently embarked upon by the other side. We are both serious in addressing each other's concerns and are eager to benefit from each other's practice in development.

Mutual support is the driving force behind ever growing China-Africa cooperation, and common development is the shared aspiration of the Chinese and African peoples.

We both wish to see progress in the development of the other side and sincerely support such endeavour. And we are fully engaged in comprehensive cooperation to secure these objectives.

The world today is undergoing profound and complex changes, but peace, development and cooperation remain the calling of the times. There is a growing trend towards multipolarity and economic globalisation. Science and technology are making daily advances, regional cooperation is deepening and there is increasing interdependence among nations. All this has created rare development opportunities for the international community.

On the other hand, imbalances in global development, a widening gap between North and South, the combination of traditional and non-traditional security threats as well as increasing instability and uncertainty standing in the way of peace and development, all pose a daunting challenge to developing countries in their pursuit of sustainable development.

China is the largest developing country, and Africa is home to the largest number of developing countries. The combined population of the two sides accounts for over a third of the world total. Without peace and development in China and Africa, there will be no global peace and development.

In the new era, China and Africa share increasing common interests and have a growing mutual need. The forging of a new type of China-Africa strategic partnership is determined by the dynamics of China-Africa cooperation, and it represents our wish to promote global peace and development. Building strong ties between China and Africa will not only promote development of each side, but will also help cement unity and cooperation among developing countries and contribute to establishing a just and equitable new international political and economic order.