



Africa's leading think tank providing policy-relevant research and analysis, knowledge and solutions in development policy, security, governance and strategic issues.

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**REMARKS MADE BY DENNIS MUNENE MWANIKI (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHINA – AFRICA CENTER) AT THE GLOBAL SOUTH MEDIA AND THINK TANK SUMMIT IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL ON THE THEME DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION: A NEW JOURNEY FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH.**

**TOPIC: “OPENNESS AND INCLUSIVENESS: UNVEILING A NEW CHAPTER OF CIVILIZATIONAL EXCHANGE.”**

**NOVEMBER 11-12, 2024.**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Scholars,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to thank Xinhua News Agency and the organizers for inviting me to participate at this apt Global South Media and Think Tank Summit, at a time when the world is facing unprecedented challenges emanating from the changing international governance system perpetuated by politics of anti-globalization trends.

This summit serves as a vital platform for fostering friendship, deepening cooperation, and facilitating mutual learning, while amplifying the collective voice of the Global South. It provides an opportunity for these nations to build consensus, and promote a more balanced form of globalization.

**Distinguished Friends,**

The existing relations between the North and the South has been characterized by lack of openness and inclusivity. Narratives such as clash of civilizations, end of history, the coming anarchy, the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human governance, and the divisive classification of societies as Orient and Occident, Center and Periphery, Rich and Poor, Developed and Underdeveloped have all posed a threat on the quest for a just, open and inclusive multicivilizational world.

These retrogressive politics of violence and divisiveness among civilizations have been redirected towards countries in the Global South. The aim is to keep the nations of the Global South in a prolonged state of instability, where humiliation and the exploitation of natural resources prevail.



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Today, countries in the Global South have refuted the politics of divisiveness and hegemonic tendencies among civilizations. The rise of multilateral platforms such as the **BRICS plus**, the **South-South cooperation**, the **Group of 77 (G-77)**, and the **Forum on China – Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)** among others have restructured their relations and embraced openness and inclusiveness in promoting development, governance and equality of civilizations.

Initiatives such as the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) unveiled by China – a leading member of the Global South has replaced the post-colonial forms of modernity imposed by the West to create the continuation of the old hegemonic world order.

Anchored on four pillars, the GCI advocates for Openness and inclusiveness. These allows civilizations to:

**Promote the respect of the diversity of civilizations** through upholding the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness. All civilizations are equal, and none is greater than the other. They all require an opportunity to experience rapid and sustainable economic, social, and cultural growth without any discrimination.

**Advocate for the common values of humanity by** genuinely committing to equal recognition of human values and make them explicit in all social systems and institutions.

**Supports the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations** by embracing technology and innovation as a way of life. The rural revitalization process in China is a clear example of the importance of promoting innovation. This has enabled China to lift more than 800 million people out of absolute poverty, and expand its middle-income population to pass the 500 million mark.

**Advocate for robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation** through building a global network for inter-civilizational dialogue and cooperation to enhance friendly exchanges among civilizations.

### **Distinguished friends**

African countries are key members of the Global South. The GCI encompasses the spirit of Ubuntu philosophy. "I am because you are". The pan-Africanist notion recognizes we live in an interconnected society where inclusiveness is paramount. The notion of a superiority complex over other civilizations must be rejected. Thus, with openness and inclusiveness in place, different civilizations will co-exist, and support each other to enhance homegrown forms of modernization, and call for a new world order where peace and development prevails.



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Inclusiveness and openness are not a monopoly of a few countries or specific classes or segments of society. It is a shared prosperity.

***THANK YOU!!***