



## 中 华 人 民 共 和 国 大 使 馆

### PRESS RELEASE

The People's Republic of China has established a relationship with Sierra Leone for more than 40 years. China is an important development partner with Sierra Leone especially in Agriculture and Fisheries sectors. China is ready to make more cooperation with Sierra Leone in the particular areas of the fish harbor construction, fisheries surveys for fish stock assessment, aquaculture development etc.

It should be noted that when China embarked on long distance fishing, Sierra Leone was the first country the Chinese vessels were sent to and currently seventy-five (75%) of the industrialized vessels fishing in Sierra Leone come from China, which is currently 68 vessels and carrier. Thus investing millions of dollars and creating lots of jobs. China is ready to do more in the fisheries sector to further strengthen the cooperation between the two countries. Fishing as it is done now is just the first phase and it is expected that the following is on schedule in the coming year:

1. Construction of fishing harbor with facilities done by Chinese investors
2. Cooperation on fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance.
3. Support for comprehensive stock assessment and data collection.
4. Cooperation in aquaculture
5. Capacity building on official staff and fish farmers.

The general public is therefore informed that the Chinese Government is ready to support the New Direction Agenda of the Government of Sierra Leone, especially in the fisheries sector. The Chinese fishing fleet contributes heavily to the revenue generation drive of the Government of Sierra Leone in the form of license fees around 7 million USD and export fees between 2 to 3 million USD annually. With the cooperation of their local partners in Sierra Leone they are repatriating up to 20 million USD annually from their export sales. The Chinese fleet also provides direct and indirect jobs to Sierra Leoneans.

It is also worth to note that with regards to the food security, the Chinese fishing fleet

