Mr. Liu Qi, President of China Volunteer Service Federation,
Distinguished guests,
Dear friends,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The 2015 UNV-Beijing International Volunteer Service Exchange Conference is opened in October, the golden autumn season when Beijing is filled with the fragrance of orange osmanthus. First of all, I would like to, on behalf of Beijing Volunteer Service Federation, co-organizer of this event, extend our warmest welcome to all the guests, delegates and friends from China and abroad.

Volunteerism is the common cultural wealth of all mankind. Volunteer service is an important symbol of civilized society, and a concrete embodiment of traditional virtues of the Chinese nation. Over the years, we have, based on the strategic positioning of Beijing as the capital city, constantly explored ways to popularize volunteer service among local residents, summarized the successful experience of volunteer service in large events, such as the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, and formed a model of volunteer service work to accommodate urban development and needs of local residents.

First, establish a mechanism to plan and guide volunteer service. Beijing Volunteer Service Federation was established to define the organizational system and leadership structure too pool all volunteer service organizations and resources in Beijing. As a result, a situation featuring the integration of departments at different levels and the joint action between them is shaped to provide powerful organizational assurance for the in-depth development of volunteer service in Beijing.

Second, constantly improve the operating mechanisms of volunteer service programs.
volunteer services are provided to address the needs of the disabled, empty nesters, migrant workers and their children. Moreover, over 50,000 volunteer service programs are incubated and cultivated in 12 categories, including environmental protection, urban operation, community service and poverty relief, thus putting in place a wide network of volunteer service organizations.

Third, further institutionalize volunteer service. Beijing municipal government has introduced several local legislations, set up a volunteer service fund and adopted a volunteer insurance system to provide policy assurance for the progress of volunteer service in Beijing.

Fourth, vigorously foster and propagate a culture of volunteer service. We launched several campaigns to engage local residents in volunteer service, such as “Beijing Civilized and Polite Beijingers” to encourage local residents to learn from Lei Feng and “Getting Volunteer Service into Life”. We also advocate the spirit of “I Participate, I Contribute and I Enjoy” to involve all people, regardless of age, occupation, and location into volunteer service so that they can harvest growth and progress by serving others and contributing to society. We are glad to see that volunteerism is now widely accepted by local residents, and the smile of volunteers has become a striking name card of Beijing. At present, there are 3.07 million registered volunteers and nearly 50,000 registered volunteer organizations in Beijing.

The 2015 UNV-Beijing International Volunteer Service Exchange Conference will greatly fuel international exchange and cooperation on volunteer service, and make volunteer service in Beijing more international and professional. Before the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, Beijing Volunteer Service Federation and UNV kicked off several cooperation programs, making an important step in volunteer training, project management and international exchange. So far, Beijing Volunteer Service Federation has established and maintained close partnership with 43 volunteer organizations from 29 countries and regions. We are actively involved in a number of volunteer service programs and international sports events, such as Chinese medical missions in Africa, London Olympic Games and Sochi Winter Olympics.

We are confident that this conference will provide a precious opportunity for us to further expand our horizon and draw on advanced experience in volunteer service. It will also serve as a communication platform for the international volunteer community. As a result, it will significantly boost
international cooperation, enhance international exchange, promote friendship and facilitate the development of volunteer service around the world.

Currently, Beijing is making great effort to advance the integrated development of Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei, and build a world-class harmonious and livable city. In this process, volunteer service will play an irreplaceable role. We sincerely hope that all the participants here can provide positive suggestions on volunteer service and share their wisdom and experience with us.

In conclusion, I wish the conference a complete success and all of you a happy stay in Beijing!

Thank you!