

Early Harvest Arrangement for the Agreement on Economic Partnership for Shared Development Between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of the Congo

The Government of the People’s Republic of China (“China”) and the Government of the Republic of the Congo (“Congo”), hereinafter individually referred to as a “Party” or collectively as the “Parties”:

MINDFUL of the enduring friendship between the Parties and their shared commitment to advancing development, strengthening cooperation within the Global South, and jointly fostering an open, equal and inclusive economic globalization;

REAFFIRMING the Parties’ shared willingness to further promote the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment, enhance economic exchanges and cooperation, so as to strengthen economic resilience and promote sustainable development;

BASED on the Framework Agreement on Economic Partnership for Shared Development Between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of the Congo signed on September 6, 2024, by the Parties;

RECOGNIZING that the Early Harvest Arrangement for the Agreement on Economic Partnership for Shared Development preserves the rights and obligations of the Parties under the WTO Agreement, enables benefits for enterprises of the Parties as early as possible, and thereby enhances the confidence of both governments in advancing the Agreement on Economic Partnership for Shared Development (“Module Agreement”);

RESOLVED to reach agreement on the Early Harvest Arrangement for the Module Agreement and to pursue a comprehensive Module

Agreement within a reasonable timeframe, providing long-term, stable, and predictable institutional safeguards for trade and investment between the Parties.

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1 Tariff Reduction

1. Unless otherwise provided in this Arrangement, China shall, from the date of entry into force of the Early Harvest Arrangement, reduce tariffs on products originating from Congo in accordance with the Tariff Schedule set out in Annex 1 to this Arrangement.

2. Unless otherwise provided in this Arrangement, Congo shall, from the date of entry into force of the Early Harvest Arrangement, reduce tariffs on products originating from China in accordance with the Tariff Schedule set out in Annex 2 to this Arrangement.

Article 2 Rules of Origin and Implementation Procedures

The Parties shall, in accordance with Annex 3, implement Rules of Origin and Implementation Procedures.

Article 3 Continuation of Negotiations on the Module Agreement

1. The Early Harvest Arrangement and its Annexes form an integral part of the Module Agreement.

2. After the entry into force of the Early Harvest Arrangement, the Parties shall continue negotiations on modules of “More Facilitated Trade”, “More Inclusive Growth”, “More Resilient Supply Chain”, and “More Modernized Sectors for Development”, and endeavor to complete negotiations on the Module Agreement within five years.

3. Upon completion of the Module Agreement negotiations, this Arrangement shall be incorporated into the Module Agreement in an appropriate form in accordance with its relevant provisions.

Article 4 Early Harvest Arrangement Committee

1. On the date of entry into force of this Arrangement, an Early

Harvest Arrangement Committee is hereby established by the Parties.

2. The Early Harvest Arrangement Committee shall be composed of representatives designated by the governments of the Parties and shall make decisions by consensus on matters such as trade in goods, cooperation on customs administration, monitoring of implementation, dispute settlement and any other issues that may affect the implementation of this Arrangement.

3. The Early Harvest Arrangement Committee shall review the implementation of this Arrangement and the progress of Module Agreement negotiations as mutually agreed. The first review shall take place no later than five years after the entry into force of this Arrangement.

Article 5 Relation to Other Agreements

1. The Parties shall ensure that their respective obligations under any bilateral or regional agreements to which they are parties shall not impede the negotiation, signing, ratification or approval of this Arrangement and its Module Agreement.

2. After the entry into force of this Arrangement, if a Party engages into free trade agreement negotiations or other tariff reduction negotiations with a third party, it shall inform the other Party of the progress and outcomes of such negotiations.

Article 6 Dispute Settlement and Termination

1. Any dispute arising from the implementation or interpretation of this Arrangement shall be settled amicably through consultations between the Parties.

2. After the entry into force of this Arrangement, if a Party fails to perform its obligations hereunder or causes material detriment to the interests of the other Party, the latter may request consultations. If the consultations fail to reach an agreement, a Party may terminate this Arrangement by providing written notice to the other Party through diplomatic channels. Such termination shall take effect 180 days following the date of issue of the notification.

Article 7 Amendments

1. Upon consensus, the Parties may amend this Arrangement in writing and decide the effective date of such amendment.

2. After the entry into force of this Arrangement, if a Party concludes a free trade agreement or other tariff reduction agreements with a third party providing for a higher level of liberalization, the Parties may, within the framework of this Arrangement, enter into amicable negotiations on the possibility of further tariff liberalization.

Article 8 Entry into Force

1. The Parties shall notify each other in writing through diplomatic notes upon the completion of their respective domestic legal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Arrangement. Upon mutual notification, this Arrangement shall enter into force on the date agreed by the Parties. The Parties shall strive for the implementation of this Arrangement as early as possible.

2. This Arrangement shall remain in force for ten years from the date of its entry into force and may be extended upon consensus.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at Shanghai on this 4th day of November in the year 2025, in duplicate in the Chinese, French and English languages, three texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

For the Government of
the People's Republic of China

For the Government of
the Republic of the Congo