## 7<sup>TH</sup> DRONE WORLD CONGRESS (2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 Shenzhen)

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Honourable Mr. Jincai Yang, Chairman World UAV Federation, Founding President of Shenzhen UAV Industry Association,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning & Da Jia Hao!

I would like to convey my gratitude to the Chairman and the organizers for inviting me to speak at the Opening Ceremony of 7<sup>th</sup> Drone World Congress being held in the beautiful city of Shenzhen on the theme of "Smart Skyway to Win-win Future".

I apologise that due to my engagements in Beijing, I could not attend the Congress in person. However, our Counsellor in-charge of Scientific and IT matters is attending the event on my behalf. I also fondly recall my meeting with Chairman Jincai Yang in February this year in Shenzhen. I take this opportunity to congratulate him and his team for organizing this important event for 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive time.

Dear fiends,

China is a global leader in the field of drone technology and manufacturing. While UAVs have become popular around the world for combat, and other military purposes, however, at the same time their application in the non-military fields has also assumed greater importance. As we face challenges of food security, climate change and crowded cities, UAV technology can be employed to address these problems. In the field of agriculture, drones are used for planting seeds, fertilizer spray and crop monitoring; in the field of disaster management they are used for humanitarian assistance, weather forecast and infrastructure inspection. They are also an essential surveillance tool for better policing and keeping our cities safe.

We truly value our partnership with the World UAV Federation and Chinese drone companies and are keen to further strengthen our cooperation in these areas. Our Consulate General in Guangzhou would be the focal point in this regard.

In the end, I once again convey my appreciation to the World UAV Federation for its key role in developing UAVs for win-win cooperation and I wish this event a great success.

Thank you.