

CHINA TELECOM CORP LTD

Form 6-K

August 23, 2017

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

**Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

For the Month of August 2017

Commission File Number 1-31517

China Telecom Corporation Limited

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

31 Jinrong Street, Xicheng District

Beijing 100033, China

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.)

Form 20-F

Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):)

(Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):)

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.)

Yes

No

(If Yes is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):82-_____.)

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EXHIBITS

<u>Exhibit Number</u>		<u>Page Number</u>
1.1	<u>Announcement of interim results for the six months ended June 30, 2017, dated August 23, 2017.</u>	A-1

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements contained in this Form 6-K may be viewed as forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. These forward-looking statements are, by their nature, subject to significant risks and uncertainties, and include, without limitation, statements relating to:

our business and operating strategies and our ability to successfully execute these strategies;

our network expansion and capital expenditure plans;

our operations and business prospects;

the expected benefit of any acquisitions or other strategic transactions;

our financial condition and results of operations;

the expected impact of new services on our business, financial condition and results of operations;

the future prospects of and our ability to integrate acquired businesses and assets;

the industry regulatory environment as well as the industry outlook generally; and

future developments in the telecommunications industry in the People's Republic of China, or the PRC.

The words anticipate, believe, could, estimate, expect, intend, may, plan, seek, will, would and they relate to us, are intended to identify a number of these forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions, some of which are beyond our control. In addition, these forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are not a guarantee of future performance. We are under no obligation to update these forward-looking statements and do not intend to do so. Actual results may differ materially from the information contained in the forward-looking statements as a result of a number of factors, including, without limitation, the following:

any changes in the regulations or policies of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (prior to March 2008, the Ministry of Information Industry, or the MII), or the MIIT, and other relevant government authorities relating to, among other matters:

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the granting and approval of licenses;

tariff policies;

interconnection and settlement arrangements;

capital investment priorities;

the provision of telephone and other telecommunications services to rural areas in the PRC;

the convergence of television broadcast, telecommunications and Internet access networks, or three-network convergence; and

spectrum and numbering resources allocation;

the effects of competition on the demand for and price of our services;

any potential further restructuring or consolidation of the PRC telecommunications industry;

changes in the PRC telecommunications industry as a result of the issuance of the fourth generation mobile telecommunications, or 4G, licenses by the MIIT;

the development of new technologies and applications or services affecting the PRC telecommunications industry and our current and future business;

changes in political, economic, legal and social conditions in the PRC, including changes in the PRC government's specific policies with respect to foreign investment in and entry by foreign companies into the PRC telecommunications industry, economic growth, inflation, foreign exchange and the availability of credit;

results and effects of any investigation by the relevant PRC regulatory authorities; and

the development of our mobile business is dependent on the Tower Company.

Please also see the "Risk Factors" section of the Company's latest Annual Report on Form 20-F, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LIMITED

Date: August 23, 2017

By: /s/ Yang Jie

Name: Yang Jie

Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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Exhibit 1.1

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited take no responsibility for the contents of this announcement, make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this announcement.

China Telecom Corporation Limited

(A joint stock limited company incorporated in the People's Republic of China with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 728)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTERIM RESULTS

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- Operating revenues amounted to RMB184,118 million, increased by 4.1% over the same period last year. Service revenues amounted to RMB165,847 million, up by 6.8% over the same period last year, outperforming the industry average growth
- EBITDA was RMB52,414 million, increased by 3.7% over the same period last year. EBITDA margin was 31.6%
- Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company was RMB12,537 million, increased by 7.4% over the same period last year. Basic earnings per share were RMB0.15
- Total number of mobile subscribers was 230 million, with a net increase of 14.85 million from the end of last year, of which the number of 4G terminal users reached 152 million, with a net increase of 30.15 million from the end of last year. 4G terminal users accounted for 66% of total mobile subscribers while the aggregate handset Internet data traffic increased by 126% over the same period last year

- Total number of wireline broadband subscribers was 128 million, with a net increase of 4.98 million from the end of last year, of which the number of Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) subscribers reached 117 million, with a net increase of 11.24 million from the end of last year, accounted for 92% of total wireline broadband subscribers

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Table of Contents**CHAIRMAN S STATEMENT**

In the first half of this year, facing increasingly intensified market competition coupled with complicated and changing industry environments, the Company firmly rose to the challenges with a unitary goal cohering as a whole, adopting conscientious and pragmatic approach with excellent execution and marching towards the goal of being a leading integrated intelligent information services operator. With perseverance in integration and innovation, acceleration in scale development together with reinforcement of competitive strengths, the growth momentum in business development remained consistently strong. We firmly adhered to the established development strategy and comprehensively promoted the three initiatives¹ with comprehensive in-depth reforms, initially attaining effective achievement in transformation and upgrades¹.

Corporate operation continued to show solid development

In the first half of the year, the Company firmly seized the favourable opportunity of information consumption upgrade and proactively responded to the market competition. Adopting aggressive marketing strategies and rapidly expanding our scale with continual optimisation in structures, we achieved excellent performance in our operating results.

Financial results showed steady growth

In the first half of the year, operating revenues amounted to RMB184.1 billion, representing an increase of 4.1% over the same period last year. Service revenues² amounted to RMB165.8 billion, representing an increase of 6.8% over the same period last year with revenue growth surpassing the industry average. Mobile service revenues amounted to RMB75.7 billion, increased by 12.2% over the same period last year with industry-leading growth. Revenues from emerging businesses accounted for 45.0% of service revenues, representing an increase of 6.1 percentage points over the same period last year. EBITDA³ was RMB52.4 billion, representing an increase of 3.7% over the same period last year while EBITDA margin³ was 31.6%. Net profit⁴ was RMB12.5 billion, representing an increase of 7.4% over the same period last year. Basic earnings per share were RMB0.15. Capital expenditure was RMB41.1 billion while free cash flow⁵ was RMB7.2 billion with remarkable improvement over last year.

¹ Three initiatives refers to the implementation paths of the transformation and upgrades strategy (Transformation 3.0), namely network intelligentisation, service ecologicalisation and operation intellectualisation.

² Service revenues were calculated based on operating revenues minus sales of mobile terminals, sales of wireline equipment and other non-service revenues.

³ EBITDA was calculated based on operating revenues minus operating expenses plus depreciation and amortisation while EBITDA margin was calculated based on EBITDA divided by service revenues.

⁴ Net profit refers to the profit attributable to the equity holders of the Company.

⁵ Free cash flow was calculated from EBITDA minus capital expenditure and income tax.

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Taking into consideration the Company's profitability, cash flow level and the capital requirements for future development, the Board of Directors has decided not to pay an interim dividend this year in order to maintain adequate funding flexibility. The Board of Directors will proactively consider the expectation of shareholders' return and evaluate the final dividend proposal when reviewing the full year results and will propose to the shareholders' general meeting accordingly.

Accelerated expansion of business scale

In the first half of the year, the net increase of mobile subscribers was 14.85 million, reaching a total of 230 million and accounting for 16.8% market share, representing an increase of 0.6 percentage point from the end of last year. The net increase of 4G users was 30.15 million, reaching a total of 152 million and accounting for 17.2% market share, representing an increase of 1.2 percentage points from the end of last year while the penetration rate of 4G users reached 66%. The aggregate handset Internet data traffic increased by 126% compared to the same period last year while the DOU of 4G users reached 1.4GB, representing an increase of 56% over the same period last year with further enhancement in growth rate. The sales volume of 4G terminals was approximately 65 million, representing an increase of 48% over the same period last year, of which sales of 6-mode handsets accounted for 96%.

The number of wireline broadband subscribers continued to maintain rapid growth. The net increase of wireline broadband subscribers was 4.98 million, reaching a total of 128 million. Of which the net increase of Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) subscribers was 11.24 million, reaching a total of 117 million while the penetration rate reached 92%. The proportion of wireline subscribers of Hundred-Mbps or above increased rapidly and reached 37%. The net increase of e-Surfing HD subscribers was 10.79 million, reaching a total of 72.12 million. The number of Internet of Things (IoT) connected devices nearly doubled as compared to the end of last year, reaching a total of 27.98 million. The number of actively participated merchants of BestPay was close to 400,000 while the number of average monthly active users exceeded 28 million, concurrently increased more than 2 times over the same period last year.

Continual optimisation in revenue structure

In the first half of the year, revenues from Intelligent Connection ecosphere increased by 4.4% over the same period last year, accounting for 84.9% of service revenues. Of which, the mobile handset Internet access revenue, being the top revenue growth driver of the Company, increased by 35.2% over the same period last year and accounted for 26.0% of service revenues, representing an increase of 5.5 percentage points over the same period last year. Voice revenues accounted for 19.2% of service revenues, representing a decrease of 4.3 percentage points over the same period last year with further mitigation of operating risks.

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Revenues from the ecosphere of Smart Family, new ICT applications, IoT and Internet Finance accounted for 15.1% of service revenues, representing an increase of 2.0 percentage points over the same period last year. Revenues from the four ecosphere increased by 22.8% over the same period last year while the proportion of the incremental revenues of the four ecosphere as a percentage to the incremental service revenues of the Company reached 43.5%. New revenue growth engines are being rapidly shaped and formed.

Attained initial effective achievement of Transformation 3.0

In the first half of this year, with our adherence to the established direction and reinforcement of strategic execution, the Company accelerated the promotion of network intelligentisation, service ecologicalisation and operation intellectualisation. The Transformation 3.0 strategy attained initial effective achievement while development capabilities were continuously accumulated.

Strengthening of network advantages

In the first half of the year, the Company endeavoured to construct three superior networks, namely 4G network, IoT network and all-fibre network with further reinforcement of network edges. With full accomplishment of refarming of 800MHz frequency and establishment of excellent full coverage 4G network, we offered superior industry-leading integrated experience to our customers. With simultaneous deployment of VoLTE, network capabilities of commercial trial were shaped and formed, laying a robust foundation for the upgrade of mobile voice business. Leveraging the 800MHz 4G network with full exploitation of low-frequency edges, the Company became the pioneer in building the first NB-IoT network with the widest coverage, largest scale and best quality in the world, which has comprehensively commenced the commercial launch and has gained network advantages of the business development of IoT. With our persistent efforts in promoting the construction of fibre network, the fibre network household coverage rate of cities and towns reached 92% while the overall average bandwidth of wireline broadband subscribers reached 62Mbps. The Company deployed Gbps access capabilities in major cities with reference to demand, expanded the coverage of Data Centre Interconnect (DCI) and effectively promoted the construction of integrated and efficiently-centralised Content Distribution Network (CDN), resulting in further enhancement of high-speed and superior end-to-end network experience.

With a vision looking forward into the future, the Company accelerated the promotion and implementation of network evolution. On the one hand, we are deeply devoted to engaging in 5G standard formulation and technology trial runs while proactively exploring and researching the networking plan for the evolution from 4G to 5G. 5G network field trial will be conducted in 6 cities and the joint research and development of 5G applications and solutions will be launched collaborating with co-operative partners from various industries, laying foundation for 5G development.

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In addition, we steadily promoted the evolution of network intelligentisation, expedited the introduction and deployment of technologies such as Software-Defined Networking (SDN) and Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) and achieved the highly efficient collaboration of network and IT. As a result, a new generation of network with the characteristics of flexibility, swiftness and elasticity with extensible functions is progressively constructed, offering state-of-the-art network experience with embedded self-selective, visible and self-served features.

Prosperity of business ecology

In the first half of the year, the Company consolidated internal resources and enhanced fundamental capabilities. Through creation of platforms, open capabilities, extended influence on industry value chain and cross-platforms integration, ecology synergies was reinforced. With converged efforts on the establishment of five business ecosphere, namely Intelligent Connection, Smart Family, new ICT applications, IoT and Internet Finance, we jointly promoted service ecologicalisation with our co-operative partners surrounding the theme of co-sharing, co-innovation, co-prosperity .

In the area of Intelligent Connection, the Company promoted the certification of 6- mode handset standard by Global Certification Forum (GCF) and Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), which was upgraded as an international standard. Customers choice of terminals was enriched while growth potential of customers was expanded, leading to the prosperous development of terminal markets. Aiming at carrying out deepened data traffic operation, we embarked on extensive cooperation with Internet enterprises. With data traffic as the core, we innovated the form of supply and enhanced product competitiveness, accelerating the release of data demand and endeavouring to achieve a win-win outcome.

In the area of Smart Family, we created an open platform of Smart Family and co- shared capabilities such as home gateway access and integration of cloud and network, participating in the development and sales of smart devices while collaborating with co-operative partners to provide high quality and diversified Smart Family products and services. With the enrichment of premium contents in e-Surfing HD platform and enhancement of video operation, competitive strengths was persistently consolidated. With comprehensive promotion of intelligent WiFi networking services, customers were provided with personalised WiFi networking proposals, broadening new connection portal of household network. With joint efforts to build offline Smart Family experience centres partnering with Internet enterprises and household electrical appliance stores, services such as family cloud and video calls were embedded while experience marketing was commenced so as to promote upgrades of smart homes consumption.

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In the area of new ICT applications, the Company integrated the capabilities including cloud, Big Data and Internet+ and converged co-operative partners in areas of contents, applications and solutions to create cloud platform with open capabilities for government and enterprise customers. With the establishment of platforms in mass entrepreneurship and innovation, we covered millions of innovative and start-up enterprises to provide assistance on technology development, innovation incubation and product operation. Targeting key areas including government administration, education, medical care and industrial Internet, we cooperated with well-known enterprises in the industry and broadened informatisation applications, effectively promoting industrial transformation and upgrades.

In the area of IoT, the Company jointly formulated the IoT module standard together with co-operative partners and assisted terminal manufacturers to expedite product launch. We launched open platform and jointly created platform capabilities featuring global connectivity, safety and reliability and intelligent decision-making. In addition, with the co-establishment of open laboratory, the threshold of research and development was reduced while the launch of new IoT applications was accelerated. With increased deployment of resources, we promoted terminal subsidies policy, took the lead in value chain development and enriched the forms of products, facilitating the stimulation of demand for IoT. Driving the ecological development through e-Surfing IoT Industry Alliance, the Company focused on three types of markets, namely smart city, vertical industry and individual consumption to promote extensive co-operation with local governments and enterprises, striving to create an IoT ecosphere with centripetal force and facilitate ecological prosperity in joint efforts.

In the area of Internet Finance, leveraging rich customers resources and reliable mobile payment capabilities, we innovated sales and marketing model and launched BestPay red packet⁶, deeply promoting the integration of Internet Finance ecosphere and Intelligent Connection ecosphere and achieving the outcome of mutual promotion and mutual driven. We created open platform of BestPay merchants and converged premium merchants to offer service capabilities including sales and marketing, gateway access payment and capital concentration. Serving as channels for each other with platforms participants, we strived to accomplish co-sharing of resources aiming at achieving mutual growth. Through close cooperation with leading enterprises in the areas of financial planning and financial technology, the Company achieved the realisation of resources complementarity, enriching content connotation and expansion path of Internet Finance services of the Company.

⁶ BestPay red packet is an innovative model of contract package launched by China Telecom. Each month a certain amount will be refunded to contract users on proportion, which can be used for airtime topping up as well as online and offline consumption of BestPay.

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Enhancement of operating capability

In the first half of the year, the Company focused on enhancing competitive capabilities in channel sales, network operations and customer services. In the aspect of channel sales, we applied Big Data to optimise the location of sales outlets and strengthened the outlets coverage in key areas. We promoted superior outlet systems to foster the standardised operation of self-operated outlets. The promotion of B2I2C (business to Internet to customer) products on online channels was expanded and new co-operative channels such as chain stores and supermarkets were promoted. In the aspect of network operations, we expedited the response speed of installation and maintenance and optimised the end-to-end operation maintenance process so as to persistently enhance users' experience and strengthen network operations advantages. In the aspect of customer services, we executed our service commitment in fibre broadband to ensure installation within one day, repairs within one day, compensation in the event of delay and took the initiatives to publish *Government and Enterprises Customers Service Standard White Paper* in the industry, symbolising a new benchmark in services. Methods such as customer services robots and new media self-service were applied to launch smart services. The number of usage times of Huango mobile online service application was close to ten billions. The Company continued to rank first in the industry in terms of customer satisfaction⁷ in both handset and wireline Internet access services.

With vigorous promotion of operation intellectualisation, the Company placed great emphasis on the corporate core construction and Big Data applications as the crucial element of intelligent operations. By adopting centralised and open Internet structure to construct enterprise Big Data platform, the Company promoted data central acquisition, data central storage, collective data handling, data mining and data modelling, and has been equipped with data applications capabilities. In opening up our capabilities of data platform and data services towards entire network, we co-shared sales and marketing service models, corporate index systems, etc., and developed tens of Big Data applications. With the promotion of precision management, precision marketing, dedicated service and lean network operations, operating cost was reduced while operational efficiency was improved, injecting intelligence in the operations of the Company.

⁷ Customers' satisfaction survey from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

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In-depth promotion of comprehensive reform

Following the implementation of Transformation 3.0, the Company has commenced comprehensive reconstitution in areas including network, businesses, operations and management. It was imperative for us to promptly expedite the establishment of suitable systems and mechanisms and operation models in alignment with the strategy.

In the first half of the year, the Company grasped the favourable and golden period of reforms and unwaveringly promoted comprehensiveness and depth of reforms. Surrounding stimulation of vitality of employees and organisations, we further reinforced market-oriented reform initiatives, optimised systems and mechanisms and innovated operational management model so as to steadily promote comprehensive transformation and upgrades with comprehensive in-depth reforms as the assurance.

The Company adhered to promote reforms on organisational systems and operational mechanism with market-orientation as the core. Professional operational organisation systems were constructed to promptly respond to the frontline professional needs, forming strong and powerful vertical support. With the deepened promotion of three-dimensional inter-driven forces comprising sub-division of performance evaluation units, top-down support and professional operation, we enabled our frontline employees to have passion, capability and easiness to do. Sub-division of performance evaluation units has become the role model of China's state-owned enterprises reforms. Counting on the incentive mechanism and restriction system as the key, the Company promoted the reforms of human resources. With innovated systems of professional workstation, we emphasised training of professional talents for the enterprise transformation while we proactively strengthened market-oriented staff appointment mechanism so as to stimulate vitality of the talent teams. Insisted on value contributions as the core, we promoted in-depth reforms in resources allocation. With the strengthening of resources allocation in supporting our strategy and operation, we induced resources towards highly profitable business units. We embedded value analysis models into the procedures of business assessment, investment decision-making and cost control and perfected matching relationship of input and output. In addition, we insisted on Internet-oriented means to optimise assets management and enhanced the efficiency of asset utilisation. Internal control management was strengthened so as to enhance the capabilities to prevent and control financial risks.

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Corporate governance and social responsibility

We are committed to maintaining a high level of corporate governance, attaching great importance to risk management and control. We strive to persistently enhance corporate transparency and value to ensure our healthy and orderly growth. Our efforts in corporate governance have been widely recognised by the capital markets. We were awarded Most Honored Company in Asia by *Institutional Investor* for seven consecutive years and No. 1 Overall Best Managed Company in Asia by *FinanceAsia*.

We adhere to operations with integrity, persevere in fulfillment of social responsibility and maintain a fair and orderly environment for market competition to facilitate healthy development for the industry ecology. We further implemented the Speed Upgrade and Tariff Reduction and assisted the entrepreneurship and innovation by the general public to foster the information consumption upgrade and benefit the society and the general public as a whole. We also proactively maintain the security of network and information and rigorously combat telecommunications information fraud. We received high recognition and appreciation from the society through our efforts in successfully accomplishing telecommunications assurance for Boao Forum for Asia and the Belt and Road Summit, as well as combating catastrophic flooding and disaster relief.

Transformation and upgrades leading to the smart future

At present, steady improvement of the national economy and deepened promotion of reforms of state-owned enterprises creates favourable macro-environment for us. With the devoted implementation of national Cyberpower strategy and active promotion of Internet+ action plan, the transformation of traditional industry towards digitalisation, intelligentisation and environmentalisation is accelerated. Hence, the information and telecommunications industry becomes the industry with the highest growth potential among the key and fundamental industries of the national economy, bringing numerous development opportunities for us. Technologies penetration promotes industry upgrades, Internet of everything enters into new era and IoT experiences booming growth. The vast potentials of new emerging businesses such as cloud computing and Big Data coupled with rapid growth in data traffic demand opens up vast market potentials for us. Meanwhile, increasingly fierce industry competition, intensified cross-industry competition and value chain competition has evolved to competition of the entire ecosphere. Establishment of robust competitive strengths of the ecosphere is the crucial key to success.

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People who can observe and analyse the trends well are intelligent. People who can grasp and dominate the trends well are winners. In the second half of the year, directly facing market competition, we will further transform the network strengths and service edges into competitive strengths. We will adhere to adopt aggressive strategy, not only intensely focusing on integration and innovation as well as in-depth data traffic operation but also facilitating persistent enhancement of scale and effectiveness, so as to ensure the achievement of excellent results for the whole year. With our unwavering promotion of Transformation 3.0, the Company will focus on the enhancement of capabilities, expansion of open cooperation and co-building of Ecosystem-Tetris with co-operative partners, resulting in continuous reinforcement of ecological strengths. We will stimulate vitality with in-depth reforms and strengthen market consciousness, breaking up the barrier of systems and mechanisms which impede productivity and cultivating good atmosphere for work and entrepreneurship. With pragmatic implementation and reinforced execution together with the strengthening of process management and control by adopting clear and effective systems, we strive to attain new achievement in corporate transformation and upgrades as well as create more value for shareholders.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all our shareholders and customers for their support. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all our employees for their hard work and contributions. Furthermore, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude towards Mr. Yang Xiaowei for his excellent contributions during his tenure of office as a Director of the Company.

Yang Jie

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Beijing, China

23 August 2017

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China Telecom Corporation Limited (the Company) is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the Group) for the six months ended 30 June 2017 extracted from the unaudited interim financial statements of the Group as set out in its 2017 Interim Report.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**(UNAUDITED)***for the six-month period ended 30 June 2017**(Amounts in millions, except per share data)*

	<i>Notes</i>	Six-month period ended	
		30 June	
		2017	2016
		RMB	RMB
Operating revenues	3	184,118	176,828
Operating expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation		(34,432)	(33,447)
Network operations and support		(48,431)	(43,951)
Selling, general and administrative		(28,738)	(27,319)
Personnel expenses		(30,755)	(28,909)
Other operating expenses		(23,780)	(26,094)
Total operating expenses		(166,136)	(159,720)
Operating profit		17,982	17,108
Net finance costs	4	(1,771)	(1,728)
Investment income		15	9
Share of profits of associates		453	80
Profit before taxation		16,679	15,469
Income tax	5	(4,084)	(3,747)
Profit for the period		12,595	11,722

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	<i>Notes</i>	Six-month period ended	
		30 June	
		2017	2016
		RMB	RMB
Other comprehensive income for the period:			
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:</i>			
Change in fair value of available-for-sale equity securities		(235)	(342)
Deferred tax on change in fair value of available-for-sale equity securities		59	86
Exchange difference on translation of financial statements of subsidiaries outside mainland China		(96)	37
Share of other comprehensive income of associates		6	6
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax		(266)	(213)
Total comprehensive income for the period		12,329	11,509
Profit attributable to:			
Equity holders of the Company		12,537	11,673
Non-controlling interests		58	49
Profit for the period		12,595	11,722
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Equity holders of the Company		12,271	11,460
Non-controlling interests		58	49
Total comprehensive income for the period		12,329	11,509
Basic earnings per share	6	0.15	0.14
Number of shares (in millions)		80,932	80,932

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	<i>Notes</i>	30 June 2017 RMB	31 December 2016 RMB
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment, net		388,444	389,648
Construction in progress		87,136	80,381
Lease prepayments		22,591	22,955
Goodwill		29,921	29,923
Intangible assets		10,771	11,244
Interests in associates		35,324	34,572
Investments		1,296	1,535
Deferred tax assets	8	5,191	5,061
Other assets		2,985	3,077
Total non-current assets		583,659	578,396
Current assets			
Inventories		3,614	5,081
Income tax recoverable		69	50
Accounts receivable, net	9	28,847	21,423
Prepayments and other current assets		23,655	19,470
Short-term bank deposits		3,327	3,331
Cash and cash equivalents		22,320	24,617
Total current assets		81,832	73,972
Total assets		665,491	652,368

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		30 June	31 December
	<i>Notes</i>	2017	2016
		RMB	RMB
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY			
Current liabilities			
Short-term debt		21,511	40,780
Current portion of long-term debt and payable		62,566	62,276
Accounts payable	<i>10</i>	132,482	122,444
Accrued expenses and other payables		107,660	91,087
Income tax payable		865	1,106
Current portion of finance lease obligations		56	52
Current portion of deferred revenues		1,243	1,253
Total current liabilities		326,383	318,998
Net current liabilities		(244,551)	(245,026)
Total assets less current liabilities		339,108	333,370
Non-current liabilities			
Long-term debt		9,019	9,370
Finance lease obligations		32	50
Deferred revenues		2,047	2,305
Deferred tax liabilities	<i>8</i>	6,372	4,770
Other non-current liabilities		548	580
Total non-current liabilities		18,018	17,075
Total liabilities		344,401	336,073
Equity			
Share capital		80,932	80,932
Reserves		239,129	234,392
Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		320,061	315,324
Non-controlling interests		1,029	971
Total equity		321,090	316,295
Total liabilities and equity		665,491	652,368

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Notes:

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

These interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Accounting Standard 34, (IAS 34) Interim Financial Reporting issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and the applicable disclosure requirements of Appendix 16 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. These interim financial statements, which were authorised for issuance by the Board of Directors on 23 August 2017, reflect the unaudited financial position of the Group as at 30 June 2017 and the unaudited results of operations and cash flows of the Group for the six-month period then ended, which are not necessarily indicative of the results of operations and cash flows expected for the year ending 31 December 2017.

These interim financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis as modified by the revaluation of certain available-for-sale equity securities at fair value.

Except as described below, these interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the same accounting policies adopted in the 2016 annual financial statements of the Group.

In the current interim period, the Group has applied, for the first time, the following amendments to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board that are mandatorily effective for the current period:

Amendments to IAS 7, Disclosure Initiative

Amendments to IAS 12, Recognition of Deferred Tax Assets for Unrealised Losses

Amendments to IFRS 12 as part of the Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2014-2016 Cycle

The application of the above amendments to IFRSs has had no material effect on the Group's interim financial statements. Additional disclosures as required by the amendments to IAS 7 will be provided in the Group's consolidated financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2017.

These interim financial statements are unaudited, but have been reviewed by the Audit Committee of the Company. These interim financial statements have also been reviewed by the Company's international independent auditor in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Review Engagements 2410, Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity, issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Table of Contents**2 SEGMENTAL REPORTING**

An operating segment is a component of an entity that engages in business activities from which revenues are earned and expenses are incurred, and is identified on the basis of the internal financial reports that are regularly reviewed by the chief operating decision maker in order to allocate resource and assess performance of the segment. For the periods presented, management has determined that the Group has one operating segment as the Group is only engaged in the integrated telecommunications business. The Group's assets located outside mainland China and operating revenues derived from activities outside mainland China are less than 10% of the Group's assets and operating revenues, respectively. No geographical area information has been presented as such amount is immaterial. No single external customer accounts for 10% or more of the Group's operating revenues.

3 OPERATING REVENUES

Operating revenues represent revenues from the provision of telecommunications services. The components of the Group's operating revenues are as follows:

	<i>Notes</i>	Six-month period ended	
		2017	2016
		<i>RMB millions</i>	<i>RMB millions</i>
Voice	(i)	31,833	36,419
Internet	(ii)	84,755	73,017
Information and application services	(iii)	37,426	34,826
Telecommunications network resource services and lease of network equipment	(iv)	9,636	8,928
Others	(v)	20,468	23,638
		184,118	176,828

Note:

- (i) Represent the aggregate amount of voice usage fees, installation fees and interconnections fees charged to customers for the provision of telephony services.
- (ii) Represent amounts charged to customers for the provision of Internet access services.
- (iii) Represent primarily the aggregate amount of fees charged to customers for the provision of Internet data centre service, system integration services, e-Surfing HD service, caller ID service and short messaging service and etc.
- (iv) Represent primarily the aggregate amount of fees charged to customers for the provision of telecommunications network resource services and lease income from other domestic telecommunications operators and enterprise customers for the usage of the Group's telecommunications networks and equipment.
- (v) Represent primarily revenue from sale, and repair and maintenance of equipment as well as the resale of mobile services (MVNO).

Table of Contents**4 NET FINANCE COSTS**

	Six-month period ended 30 June	
	2017	2016
	<i>RMB millions</i>	<i>RMB millions</i>
Interest expense incurred	2,031	2,110
Less: Interest expense capitalised*	(176)	(211)
Net interest expense	1,855	1,899
Interest income	(137)	(170)
Foreign exchange losses	79	38
Foreign exchange gains	(26)	(39)
	1,771	1,728
* Interest expense was capitalised in construction in progress at the following rates per annum	3.2%-4.9%	3.3%-5.0%

5 INCOME TAX

Income tax in the profit or loss comprises:

	Six-month period ended 30 June	
	2017	2016
	<i>RMB millions</i>	<i>RMB millions</i>
Provision for PRC income tax	2,514	1,967
Provision for income tax in other tax jurisdictions	39	60
Deferred taxation	1,531	1,720
	4,084	3,747

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A reconciliation of the expected tax expense with the actual tax expense is as follows:

	<i>Notes</i>	Six-month period ended	
		2017	2016
		RMB millions	RMB millions
Profit before taxation		16,679	15,469
Expected income tax expense at statutory tax rate of 25%	(i)	4,170	3,867
Differential tax rate on PRC subsidiaries and branches income	(i)	(203)	(211)
Differential tax rate on other subsidiaries income	(ii)	(19)	(20)
Non-deductible expenses	(iii)	180	182
Non-taxable income	(iv)	(42)	(36)
Others	(v)	(2)	(35)
Actual income tax expense		4,084	3,747

Note:

- (i) Except for certain subsidiaries and branches which are mainly taxed at preferential rate of 15%, the provision for mainland China income tax is based on a statutory rate of 25% of the assessable income of the Company, its mainland China subsidiaries and branches as determined in accordance with the relevant income tax rules and regulations of the PRC.
- (ii) Income tax provisions of the Company's subsidiaries in Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions of the PRC, and in other countries are based on the subsidiaries' assessable income and income tax rates applicable in the respective tax jurisdictions which range from 12% to 35%.
- (iii) Amounts represent miscellaneous expenses in excess of statutory deductible limits for tax purposes.
- (iv) Amounts represent miscellaneous income which are not subject to income tax.
- (v) Amounts primarily represent tax deduction on prior year research and development expenses approved by tax authorities and other tax benefits.

6 BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of basic earnings per share for the six-month period ended 30 June 2017 and 2016 is based on the profit attributable to equity holders of the Company of RMB12,537 million and RMB11,673 million, respectively, divided by 80,932,368,321 shares.

The amount of diluted earnings per share is not presented as there were no dilutive potential ordinary shares in existence for the periods presented.

Table of Contents**7 DIVIDENDS**

Pursuant to the shareholders' approval at the Annual General Meeting held on 23 May 2017, a final dividend of RMB0.093043 (equivalent to HK\$0.105) per share totaling RMB7,530 million in respect of the year ended 31 December 2016 was declared and paid on 21 July 2017.

Pursuant to the shareholders' approval at the Annual General Meeting held on 25 May 2016, a final dividend of RMB0.080182 (equivalent to HK\$0.095) per share totaling RMB6,489 million in respect of the year ended 31 December 2015 was declared and paid on 15 July 2016.

The Board of Directors has resolved not to pay an interim dividend.

8 DEFERRED TAX ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The components of deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position and the movements are as follows:

	Assets		Liabilities		Net Balance	
	30 June 2017	31 December 2016	30 June 2017	31 December 2016	30 June 2017	31 December 2016
	RMB millions	RMB millions	RMB millions	RMB millions	RMB millions	RMB millions
Provisions and impairment losses, primarily for doubtful debts	1,729	1,531			1,729	1,531
Property, plant and equipment and others	3,367	3,410	(6,095)	(4,416)	(2,728)	(1,006)
Deferred revenues and installation costs	95	120	(67)	(85)	28	35
Available-for-sale equity securities			(210)	(269)	(210)	(269)
Deferred tax assets/(liabilities)	5,191	5,061	(6,372)	(4,770)	(1,181)	291

Balance at 1 January 2017	Recognised in consolidated statement of comprehensive income	Balance at 30 June 2017
RMB millions		RMB millions

RMB
millions

Provisions and impairment losses, primarily for doubtful debts	1,531	198	1,729
Property, plant and equipment and others	(1,006)	(1,722)	(2,728)
Deferred revenues and installation costs	35	(7)	28
Available-for-sale equity securities	(269)	59	(210)
Net deferred tax assets	291	(1,472)	(1,181)

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Table of Contents**9 ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE, NET**

Accounts receivable, net, are analysed as follows:

		30 June	31 December
		2017	2016
	<i>Note</i>	RMB millions	<i>RMB millions</i>
Third parties		31,122	22,932
China Telecom Group	<i>(i)</i>	1,285	949
China Tower Corporation Limited		13	10
Other telecommunications operators in the PRC		967	933
		33,387	24,824
Less: Allowance for doubtful debts		(4,540)	(3,401)
		28,847	21,423

Note:

- (i) China Telecommunications Corporation together with its subsidiaries other than the Group are referred to as China Telecom Group .

Ageing analysis of accounts receivable from telephone and Internet subscribers based on the billing dates is as follows:

		30 June	31 December
		2017	2016
		RMB millions	<i>RMB millions</i>
Current, within 1 month		11,165	9,993
1 to 3 months		3,039	2,179
4 to 12 months		2,147	1,763
More than 12 months		1,497	761
		17,848	14,696
Less: Allowance for doubtful debts		(3,510)	(2,427)
		14,338	12,269

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Ageing analysis of accounts receivable from other telecommunications operators and enterprise customers based on dates of rendering of services is as follows:

	30 June	31 December
	2017	2016
	<i>RMB millions</i>	<i>RMB millions</i>
Current, within 1 month	5,386	3,660
1 to 3 months	4,104	1,887
4 to 12 months	3,512	2,349
More than 12 months	2,537	2,232
	15,539	10,128
Less: Allowance for doubtful debts	(1,030)	(974)
	14,509	9,154
	&n	