

Message for 70th Anniversary Seminar Organised by Islamabad Council of World Affairs and Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

25 May 2021

Mr. Wang Chao,

President, Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs,

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood,

President, Islamabad Council of World Affairs,

H.E. Ambassador Nong Rong,

Distinguished Guests,

A great pleasure to participate in the today's seminar organised by Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA) and Islamabad Council of World Affairs (ICWA) at the auspicious occasion of 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China.

I thank CPIFA and ICWA for organising the today's event to mark this important milestone, which is not only a celebration of seven decades of Pakistan-China friendship and to recount what we have achieved in the past but also an opportunity to reaffirm our resolve to take our cooperation to a new pinnacle of bilateral trust, mutual understanding and win-win cooperation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan and China are indeed iron brothers, most reliable friends and all-weather strategic cooperative partners, which finds no precedence in the annals of modern history of international relations. Such is the depth and scope of our diverse engagements that Pakistan-China ties have gone beyond the traditional parameters of bilateral relationship and have evolved to become the cornerstone of foreign policies of our two countries.

Our friendship is a force of good for regional peace and security, and for prosperity of our peoples.

Distinguished Guests,

In past seven decades, our two countries always stayed together, shared each other weal and woe and progressively developed our ties into its present form and substance. There is no relationship which touches our people so deeply as our ties with China; there is no tale of brotherly affection, sacrifice and selflessness which arouses such strong sentiments as Pakistan-China friendship.

During the tumult of Cold War, Pakistan played a leading role in breaking China's diplomatic isolation. We became the vocal supporter for the restoration of China's rights in the U.N system. Pakistan facilitated the visit of Dr. Henry Kissinger to Beijing which transformed the dynamics of international politics and proved to be a harbinger of great changes at global level. We have steadfastly supported China on

issues of Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Tibet, Taiwan and South China Sea and continue it resolutely in future.

On its part, China has wholeheartedly supported Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, its political sovereignty and territorial integrity. As iron brother and Pakistan's foremost well-wisher, China brought to global attention our sacrifices in war against terror and our endeavours for peace and reconciliation in war-torn Afghanistan.

Distinguished Guests,

Our world is at the threshold of a new era. The existing global order is undergoing profound transformations. Multilateral diplomacy, at a critical stage of its evolution, is strained by the weight of new challenges. We are witnessing the rise of new alignments which could pose a serious threat to the onward march of globalisation or could even undo the gains made so far. The ravages wrought by the pandemic have only accelerated the pace of the change happening all around.

My dear Friends,

The ordeals of present times may be new but our will and capacity to jointly counter them remain strong. Pakistan and China have been through such epochal changes in past and jointly weathered the challenges of myriad geopolitical upheavals.

While the diplomatic institutions of our two countries would continue their collaboration for safeguarding of our respective interests, it is the think tanks and academia we turn to for their guidance and wisdom to help us understand the complexities of today's political trends.

I am pleased to note that the think tanks of our two countries have a very sound understanding of the prevailing international situation and they fully grasp the essence of Pakistan-China bilateral friendship. I would therefore call upon them to continue their good work and highlight the moral and historical underpinnings of our friendship.

I would like to once again congratulate the CPIFA and ICWA for the successful organisation of today's seminar and their valuable contribution towards strengthening of our strategic partnership.

Thank You!