

Opening Ceremony of China-South Asian Countries Emergency Supply Reserves

H.E Mr. Wu Jiang Hao,

Assistant Foreign Minister of China

Leader of the People's Government of Sichuan Province,

Leader of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries,

Leader of the Chengdu Municipal People's Government,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour and privilege to participate today in the opening ceremony of establishment of China-South Asian Countries' Emergency Supply Reserves.

First of all, I would like to extend my heartiest felicitations to the Government of the People's Republic of China for this initiative. The leadership role taken by State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in his recent online meeting in April the idea of establishing China-South Asian Countries' Emergency Supply Reserves was proposed by State Councilor in that meeting, which was emphatically supported by Foreign Minister Qureshi stressing that such cooperation was the need of the hour for devising a joint strategy to combat the pandemic. Today we are witnessing the practical implementation of the proposal.

Distinguished Guests,

As we assemble here today, the global community is continuing its struggle to arrest the spread of infection and restore normalcy. COVID-19 has also brought fore the reality that transnational challenges do not originate from one country nor could any single nation muster up resources to overcome them. In the past, humanity had to face many deadly pandemics; but perhaps, it is for the first time in history that a pandemic has been a source of global instability.

We, therefore, need to mount a coordinated international and regional response commensurate with the enormity of task ahead.

Excellencies,

South Asian region, as one of the cradles of human civilization, has a proud history of openness and international cooperation. South Asia and China were linked together by the ancient Silk Route which profoundly shaped the culture and history of our region.

Our region has immense potential for growth but also faces challenges. It is prone to depredations of climate change, environmental hazards and outbreak of diseases. It is therefore imperative that China and South Asian countries, apart from their strong political and economic ties, should deepen their cooperation to confront and mitigate health and environmental emergencies.

I am therefore convinced that establishment of China-South Asian Countries' Emergency Supply Reserves marks a much-desired step in the right direction.

Excellencies

The ongoing pandemic is the most pressing challenge we have faced in our lifetimes. But it would be an affront to human's dignity and resilience to accept surrender. There is no room for accepting defeat!

No challenge, however, daunting can deprive mankind of the historic role destiny has ordained for us.

China offers the most successful and effective template for the entire world in its crusade against the pandemic. Steered by the government, Chinese people put up a heroic fight and won people's war against COVID-19. We draw inspiration from China's success, hail its deft handling of the crisis, and laud its generous support and assistance to international community in global efforts against the pandemic.

Here I would also like to express my gratitude to Government and people of China for standing by Pakistan in this hour of need. After the outbreak of the pandemic, China and Pakistan worked closely to combat the pandemic both for provision of medical relief items and vaccine development and distribution.

Due to China's support and coordination, Pakistan is aggressively continuing its vaccination campaign and looks forward to defeating the pandemic in future.

Distinguished Guests,

COVID-19 pandemic should be a stimulus for us to revisit and review our previous concepts about issues of transnational health, environment, and economics and reform them in the light of emergent realities for benefit of the entire humanity.

Most significantly, it has dawned upon us the reality that our salvation lies in spirit of cooperation and sacrifice, not in conflict and conflagration.

Perhaps this crisis may reaffirms our resolve in multilateralism and unified action, and bestow world leaders with clarity and courage to shun isolationism for good, abstain from politicisation of transnational issues and renew faith in joint efforts for a shared and prosperous future for all.

I thank you all!