

**Committee of China-Eurasian Commodity and Trade Expo,
Foreign Affairs Office of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region,
Distinguished Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to express my heartiest felicitations to the People's Government of Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Foreign Affairs Office and the Organizing Committee at the occasion of the inauguration of China-Eurasia Trade and Commodity Expo today. It is a matter of immense honour indeed that Pakistan is participating in the Expo as the Guest of Honour this year.

This Expo has become all the more momentous as Pakistan and China are celebrating the 70th years of establishment of diplomatic ties this year. I am confident that the trade expo would synergize our efforts for deepening of economic and trade ties between Pakistan and China in which Xinjiang Region plays a central and important role.

As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, Pakistan and China have deepened and expanded bilateral ties in diverse fields of cooperation especially in the field of trade and commerce. In this regard, the conclusion of Phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement has given a new impetus to our economic relationship and deepening our economic integration.

As the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC occupies a pivotal position in the development agenda of Pakistan. After the success of its first phase, both sides have mutually agreed that Phase-II of CPEC would focus on socio-economic development, industrialization and modernization of agriculture for shared benefit.

Historically, Xinjiang has been an important part of the ancient Silk Route. Today with its unique location on the route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, it has assumed a great importance.

I am convinced that due to geographical proximity, warm fraternal ties and cultural affinity, Xinjiang would play a pivotal role for deepening of trade and economic ties between Pakistan and China.

Few months back, I visited Xinjiang and was deeply impressed by the wide scale of development, diversity of its landscape and its people and social harmony. I was also excited on the existence of many opportunities to explore between our two sides in the fields of trade, investment and people to people exchanges.

I would therefore request enterprises from Xinjiang to explore these numerous trading, tourism and investment opportunities. In this endeavor, the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing would be your staunchest partner to provide full facilitation.

I wish China-Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo fabulous success and look forward to working with the Government of Xinjiang for deepening our bilateral cooperation.

Thank You!