

2021-Imperial Springs International Forum

Theme: Multilateralism 2.0, Global
Cooperation in the Post-Pandemic Era

Speech at Sp. Session on Int. Exchanges & Communications

Sunday, 5 December 2021, 0930 hours

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

- It is indeed a great honour for me to participate today in Imperial Springs International Forum in the beautiful city of Guangzhou. I wish to congratulate the People's Government of Guangdong province and Chinese People's Association for Friendship with the Foreign Countries for organising this important event.

- History is replete with the examples when world's political and economic landscape underwent profound transformation due to technological development, shift in global power centres and ideological fervour.
- Our world today is at the anvil of great changes happening with unprecedented speed and far-reaching implications. The major drivers of this process have been the peaceful rise of China, advent of the Digital Age, emergence of transnational challenges and restoration of Asia as the nucleus of global economics and trade.
- What makes the whole saga more intractable is that many archaic

tendencies such as protectionism, unilateralism and xenophobia which were rejected earlier have resurrected with renewed intensity. Depredations wrought by global pandemic and fast-approaching climate change have rendered policy synergy more elusive and complicated.

- As the world finds itself at the threshold of a new era, there is a stronger desire to stay connected and benefit from humanity's collective wisdom to chart our common future. International cooperation would help the nations to harmonise their respective policies on trade, climate and technology and guarantee that global economic and political architecture reflects

the wisdom and aspirations of all sections of humanity. It would prevent the disruption of global supply chains, heal global economy battered by pandemic and ensure that fruits of prosperity are enjoyed by the entire humankind.

- It is a matter of immense satisfaction that China has emerged as a major beneficiary and proponent of international cooperation and exchanges. Since Reform and opening-up, China's commitment to multilateralism and peaceful economic rise has given a new fillip to the onward march of globalization and stabilized global political, economic and trade landscape.

- Under the broad rubric of BRI, China has deepened its engagement with the developing countries for economic integration and connectivity. By championing the establishment of many institutions/initiatives like Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Silk Road Fund, China-UN Peace and Development Fund, the South-South Cooperation Fund and the Climate Change South-South Cooperation Fund, China has created a precedent for the initiation of multilateral financial institutions for the developing countries.
- Pakistan's unique strategic location, cultural diversity and progressive outlook has enabled

it to spearhead the march of globalization and international cooperation. Pakistan has historically acted as a natural bridge to bring nations together. Fifty years ago, we facilitated the secret visit of Mr. Henry Kissinger to China which opened up a new era of international cooperation and exchanges.

- As an ardent supporter of multilateralism, Pakistan is committed to continue working with China and international fraternity to shun isolationism for good and make joint efforts for a shared and prosperous future for all.