

**Draft Remarks by Ambassador at International Conference to  
Celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic  
Relations between Pakistan and China**

Tsinghua University, 11-12 December 2021

**Mr. Peng Gang,**

Vice President of Tsinghua University

**Mr. Li Xiguang,**

Director, Pakistan Cultural and Communication Centre, Tsinghua University

**Distinguished Guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is indeed a great honour for me to participate today in International Conference organised by the Tsinghua University to celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Tsinghua University is famous for its academic excellence and innovative spirit all around the world. I would like to appreciate its endeavours for continuing research and academic work on Pakistan and making a substantive contribution to our bilateral friendship.

I am especially grateful to the University's International Centre for Communication Studies and Pakistan Cultural and Communication Centre for giving me an opportunity to share thoughts on several facets of Pakistan-China friendship.

**Distinguished Guests,**

The foundation of unique and all-weather friendship between our two countries was laid seventy years ago when they established diplomatic ties on the eventful day of 21 May 1951. The seed of this unparalleled relationship sown seven decades ago has now blossomed into an evergreen tree with deep roots and strong branches.

Despite the vicissitudes of world politics and changing regional landscape, Pakistan and China have always stood together and extended complete support to each other on all important issues. Be it the perils of Cold War or predicaments of hostile neighbourhood, our two countries maintained exemplary trust and understanding and resolutely advanced the cause of peace and stability as the shared goal of both countries.

**Dear Friends,**

Pakistan and China are cognisant of the changing realities of today's world. The enduring inter-states ties now are not solely dependent upon

political relationship, but are instead driven by interplay of economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people interactions.

Mindful of this fact, our two countries have made a rapid progress to expanding our relationship to diverse fields of cooperation.

In recent years, a special focus has been placed on enhancing our bilateral trade and economic ties. Pakistan's multifaceted cooperation with China was revitalized with the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a pilot project of BRI. As a transformational enterprise, CPEC has contributed immensely to Pakistan's national development by upgrading transport and communication network, eliminating energy crisis and developing Gwadar Port.

With the consensus of leadership of the two countries, CPEC is now focusing to deepening our cooperation in industrialization, socio-economic development, poverty alleviation and agriculture revitalization. Looking forward, industrial parks and Special Economic Zones being developed under Phase-II of CPEC represent the next stage of Pakistan's economic development and our bilateral cooperation with China.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

The cultural linkages between Pakistan and China predate the establishment of our diplomatic relations. Many Chinese monks, diplomats and sages braved the treacherous mountains and scorching deserts and arrived at the famous Buddhist seminaries in Pakistan to seek spirituality and wisdom. They brought back to China with them not only the light of faith and knowledge but also the warmth and passion of friendship which underpins our wide-ranging bilateral engagements today.

Drawing strength from our past, we are trying to expand our bilateral cultural exchanges and bringing the people of our two countries together. It is a tribute to our combined efforts that two-way exchanges between Pakistan and China have increased manifold in recent years. We are determined to maintain this healthy momentum and encourage more exchanges between our students, artists, intellectuals and academicians.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In shaping the contours of international relations, diplomacy, no doubt, plays a leading role. It is the force multiplier which galvanises the genesis of bilateral ties, builds upon the commonality of interests and oversees the gradual strengthening of international relations on sound footings.

But diplomacy could not perform such gigantic task alone.

In today's world, when international ties have become more complex, academic and research work has assumed a greater significance. The role

of think tanks and academic circles to make a faithful record of bilateral ties, identify new areas of international cooperation and explore deftly the complex matrix between politics, economics and culture, can never be underestimated.

**My dear Friends,**

Pakistan and China would therefore always need the advice and input of their think tanks and academia to highlight strength of our bilateral ties, its significance for progress and prosperity of our nations, and indeed, its indispensability for peace and stability in our region.

I am confident that they would keep enlightening us with their guidance and wisdom.

I would like to conclude my comments by commending Tsinghua University for holding today's conference and convey my best wishes for its resounding success.

**I thank you all.**