

Welcome Remarks by the Ambassador for the event “In Solidarity with Pakistan – GYLD in Action”

29 September 2022

Mr. Henry Huiyao Wang, President of Center for China and Globalization,  
Ms. Mabel Lu Miao, Secretary General of CCG and Founder of Global a young Leaders Dialogue,  
Honorable Vanno Noupech, UNHCR Representative in China  
Ms. Graziella Leite Piccoli, Deputy Head of the Delegation to East Asia  
Ali Mchumo, Director General INBAR  
ZHOU Jinfeng, Secretary-General, China Biodiversity and Green Development Foundation,  
Mr. Qian Guoqiang, Deputy General Manager of SinoCarbon,

Global Youth Leaders Dialogue team,

Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon and Welcome to the Pakistan Embassy

At the onset, I would like to express my appreciation for Mr. Henry Huiyao WANG, President of Center for China and Globalization(CCG) and Ms. Mabel Lu MIAO, Sectary General of Center for China and Globalization(CCG), Founder of Global Young Leaders Dialogue (GYLD) and their team for collaborating with the Pakistan Embassy to organize today’s event.

I would also acknowledge the presence of the distinguished speakers present with us today as well as . Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee and Professor Shahbaz Khan who could not attend in-person but were thoughtful enough to send their video remarks.

I would also acknowledge our young panelists from GYLD for their interest in the climate catastrophe facing my company.

It is my immense pleasure to host you all today.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Forums like today are vital today in inspiring and mobilizing thought leaders on shared contemporary challenges such as climate change and environmental degradation.

Distinguished Guests,

Climate change is upon us. It is not a distant reality. We are living it. The real dangers of climate change have now started unraveling and are overwhelming the ability of both nature and humanity to adapt. We are seeing a harrowing future in which floods, fires and famine could displace millions and cause irreversible damage to the planet.

One of the most recent and living examples of this climate catastrophe is the recent and unprecedented floods in Pakistan.

Pakistan has been hit by one of the worst natural disasters in its history. More than 33 million people have been directly affected. We have lost more than 1,500 precious lives. Our initial estimate of loss and damage is USD 30 billion.

Climate chaos, climate carnage, climate crisis, climate catastrophe, and monsoon on steroids are some of the terminologies used by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to describe the devastating floods in Pakistan.

After visiting the flood hit areas, the UN Secretary General said he had never seen climate related destruction on such a scale.

The unprecedented floods have deluged almost one third of Pakistan-an area equal to the size of the Great Britain, washed away roads and bridges, damaged schools health facilities, and destroyed crops and livestock.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the real manifestation of the loss and destruction that climate change can bring to our lives in future; indeed a strong message to the skeptics, a stark reminder to the world community about our failures, and a clarion call for action.

What is rather unfortunate is the fact that despite being a low carbon emitter, we are among the most vulnerable to climate change. That's why international thought leaders are talking about climate injustice that has to be addressed somehow.

We are grateful to international community for their solidarity and generous support in these difficult times.

We are specially grateful to the Government and people of China for their exceptional support.

Keeping up with the tradition of goodwill and solidarity, China has been one of the leading partners in this difficult time.

President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi all expressed condolences and sympathies to their counterparts, pledging to stand by Pakistan. We are also seeing a continuous outpouring of sympathy and support from different factions of the Chinese society, including by the leadership, provincial governments, enterprises and people. This is very touching and moving.

UN is of course another major partner as also evident by the visit of the Secretary-General to Pakistan.

Speaking to the media during his recent visit to Pakistan, the UN Secretary General said: "I'm not asking for solidarity or generosity, I'm asking for justice. This is a global crisis which demands a global response". The UN has also launched a flash appeal of \$160 Million for fighting the aftermath of the floods in Pakistan.

Pakistan too stands ready to collaborate with the international community in this regard.

Recently in New York, our Foreign Minister proposed a number of actions for addressing the issue of climate change at the global level including in the context of the forthcoming CoP-27 in Egypt

The Foreign Minister called for a "Green Marshal Plan" to assist and support the most climate-vulnerable countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Your views and deliberations would certainly being a new focus to the pressing challenge of climate change, which we need to address collectively.

Today it is Pakistan, tomorrow it could be another country. Let us join hands to save our planet and to save our future generations.

I wish this event a complete success.

I thank you all!