

## **The International Health Industry Forum**

**Distinguished leaders,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me at the outset congratulate our hosts BOAO Forum for Asia and the Beijing Municipal Government for holding the International Health Industry Forum. It is both a pleasure and a privilege to be addressing this august gathering.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

BOAO Forum has emerged as a leading platform committed to promoting cooperation at the regional and international level and advancing goals of development, economic stability, food and energy security and inclusiveness. I would like to congratulate on the successful holding of BOAO Annual Forum last month.

Very rightly, the 2023 Forum had chosen the theme of stability and cooperation in an uncertain world, a world which today faces many challenges. And one such grave challenge which the global community has faced since ages, is health with all its dimensions and implications.

The importance and criticality of health for our countries development and for global peace and economic stability was dawned on us after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. The entire world was plunged into a worst public health crisis exposing the inadequacies of our public health systems and shortcomings in cooperation mechanisms at the international level.

**Dear Friends,**

A healthy and developed society is a prerequisite for our national progress and socio-economic development and as well as for global peace and stability. This is a clear message that came out of the Covid-19 pandemic, which was a clarion call for all of us.

A look back at history shows that many global threats and crises that had challenged diverse communities and groups, had in a unique way somehow brought together partners from all over the world to solve the shared problems. Indeed, it is out of some of the most tragic crises, that the world has found some of the best solutions. Development of Covid-19 Vaccine in a record time is perhaps a good example of such transnational cooperation.

Covid-19 pandemic was a stark reminder that any future health crisis would hardly remain localized and could easily engulf us all. To prepare well for any such health emergency of future, I am reminded of President Xi's 2021 address to Global Health Summit in which he gave five principles: (1) we must put people and their lives first; (2) we must follow science based approach; (3) we should promote international solidarity and cooperation; (4) we should uphold fairness and equity and to ensure that no one is left behind; and (5) that we should address the symptoms and root causes to improve our national and global health governance system.

I believe that these five principles should be the core of any health policy to ensure the prosperity and security of our future generations.

### **Distinguished Guests,**

China-Pakistan cooperation during the Covid-19 pandemic was exemplary and a manifestation of our iron-brotherhood and close friendship. We admire China's effective control of the pandemic and its assistance to the international community in the shape of provision of medical equipment and vaccines. Considering the importance of health, our two countries have also launched China-Pakistan Health Corridor during the visit of our Prime Minister last year and will guide our future cooperation in the health sector.

### **Dear Friends,**

The widening political chasm and geo-political rivalries of today are perhaps becoming graver than the health and economic challenges. We should be watchful of these divisive tendencies which can jeopardize our global unity and solidarity. Faced with any global health challenge, we should not act as competing political entities but as a member of humankind struggling for a common cause.

### **My dear Friends,**

In conclusion I would say that let us re-affirm our commitment to ensure a safer, equitable and effective national and international health systems. Let us invest in health of our people and for development of a community of mankind with a shared future.

Thank You!