

**Speech by Ambassador Masood Khalid at Defence Day of
Pakistan Reception on 6 September 2016**

Lt. Gen. Zhang Shuguo, Chief of Political Department of PLA

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my honour to welcome all our friends who have joined us to commemorate Pakistan Defence Day. Today is a special day for us. We commemorate this day to pay tribute to our valiant Armed Forces and their discipline, professionalism and patriotism, and who fought fearlessly and bravely to defend the motherland when Indian Forces crossed the international borders of Pakistan without a formal declaration of War and launched a three pronged attack on the same day in 1965.

The 1965 War was followed by a ceasefire which came into effect on 23 September 1965 under the auspices of the United Nations. We believed it then, and we believe it now that War is not a solution to resolve problems. Pakistan believes in peaceful coexistence with its neighbours and in resolving disputes through dialogue. It is unfortunate that instead of subscribing to UN charter to resolve issues, our eastern neighbor has resorted to state oppression of the Kashmiri people when they raise their voice to claim their inalienable right of self-determination. The international community should take notice of the ongoing serious human rights violations in the Indian occupied Kashmir. On its part, Pakistan will continue to extend full diplomatic, moral and political support to the just cause of the Kashmiri people.

Today, the Armed Forces of Pakistan are successfully engaged in our common fight against terrorism and have rendered enormous sacrifices to make our region and this world peaceful. Pakistan remains committed to stand shoulder to shoulder with the international community in eliminating the menace of terrorism so that the future of our children is made secure.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan and China are close friends and close partners. Both our countries are endeavoring to promote peace and stability in our region. Pakistan and China's Armed Forces enjoy friendly cooperation. We are grateful to the Chinese government and PLA for their friendship and support.

I take this opportunity to bid farewell to our outgoing Defence and Army Attaché Brigadier Hassan who has successfully completed a rewarding tenure here. He has been a great asset to our team and contributed to friendship between the Armed Forces of our two nations. I, on behalf of my team, congratulate him on his promotion and wish him success in professional as well as personal life.

I would also like to welcome our new Defence Attaché Brigadier Ahmad Bilal. I embrace him in the family as a new team member and wish him good luck and hope that he will continue the good work his predecessor is leaving behind to further strengthen the friendship between the armed forces of two countries.

I thank you all.

Zhong-Ba Youyi Wansui

Long Live Pak-China Friendship