

Joint Press Release between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the Conclusion of State Councilor and Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi's Visit to Pakistan

State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Wang Yi, paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 7-8 September 2019. During the visit, H.E. Wang Yi called on President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan, held talks with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, and met with Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa. During the meetings, both sides had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Both sides reiterated that the time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between China and Pakistan is an anchor of peace and stability in the region and beyond. This partnership remains unaffected by any adverse regional and international development and continues to move from strength to strength. Both sides reaffirmed that China-Pakistan relationship is a priority in their foreign policies, and committed to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

Both sides agreed to maintain frequent mutual visits and meetings at the leadership level and continue to hold bilateral meetings between their leaders on multilateral occasions. China and Pakistan have enjoyed mutual understanding and support on issues concerning each other's core interests. They reiterated the resolve to implement consensus reached by the leadership of both countries to enhance strategic mutual trust and improve all-round cooperation so as to jointly promote regional peace, stability and prosperity.

The Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national dignity, in choosing its development path in light of its national conditions, in working for a better external security environment, and in playing a more constructive role in regional and international issues.

Pakistan side underscored that Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs. Pakistan believes that all countries should uphold international law and the basic norms of non-interference in internal matters of other countries.

Both sides believed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative, has entered a new phase of high-quality development. The two sides agreed to continue to firmly push forward the construction of CPEC, complete its on-going projects in a timely manner, and realize its full potential by focusing on socio-economic development, job creation and better livelihood and accelerating cooperation in industrial parks and agriculture.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora and resolved to deepen strategic coordination and consultation. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and support for multilateralism, free trade and win-win cooperation. Both sides agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation on regional and international affairs. The two sides underlined that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. Parties need to settle disputes and issues in the region through dialogue on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

Both sides further exchanged views on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir. The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation, including its concerns, position, and urgent humanitarian issues.

The Chinese side responded that it was paying close attention to the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on the Afghanistan issue and support the 'Afghan-led, Afghan-owned' peace and reconciliation process. Both sides welcomed the positive progress achieved in the negotiations between the Afghan Taliban and the US, and called on all Afghan political stakeholders, including the Afghan Taliban, to start intra-Afghan negotiations to form a future political structure acceptable to all parties and achieve peace and stability in Afghanistan at an early date.

State Councilor Wang Yi expressed his appreciation to the government and people of Pakistan for their warm hospitality.

Joint Statement of the 3rd China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue

Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Salahuddin Rabbani, and State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi held the 3rd Session of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in Islamabad on 07 September 2019.

The three sides noted with satisfaction the progress made under the trilateral cooperation since the 2nd Dialogue held in Kabul, on 18 December 2018. The three Foreign Ministers reiterated their resolve to further deepen various strands of trilateral cooperation. They agreed to continue their joint efforts for building political mutual trust and supporting reconciliation, regional peace and stability, development cooperation and connectivity, security cooperation and counter-terrorism as key areas of the trilateral cooperation.

The three sides condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Kabul, Konduz, Baghlan and Farah, which have taken many innocent civilian lives including women and children.

China, Afghanistan and Pakistan, while closely following recent developments in the regional situation, reiterated their support for a politically negotiated settlement of the conflict in Afghanistan. In this regard, they took note of the talks between the U.S. and the Taliban. They expressed hope that intra-Afghan negotiations including direct negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban begin soon and lead to full cessation of violence bringing lasting peace for the people of Afghanistan. They particularly underlined the need for an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process leading to a comprehensive agreement for durable peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Based on respect for the will of the Afghan people, while appreciating the efforts made by the Government of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan expressed their continued support for Afghanistan's peace and reconciliation process as well as for the efforts towards reconstruction and economic development in the country.

The three sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening their relations, exploring new ways of deepening cooperation, including advancing connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) and other regional economic initiatives.

The three sides agreed to explore 'China-Afghanistan-Pakistan plus' cooperation, as well as working towards promoting trade and connectivity projects between Afghanistan and Pakistan, such as Kabul-Peshawar Motorway. The three sides welcomed the progress made on implementation of projects agreed under the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Practical Cooperation Dialogue (CAPPD). They agreed to continue cooperation in the fields of economic development, capacity building, improving livelihood and people-to-people exchanges.

China expressed its readiness to support construction of refrigeration storages, clinic centers, drinking water supply schemes and immigration reception centers at crossing points between

Afghanistan and Pakistan to facilitate the movement of people and trade activities among the two countries. The three sides welcomed the plans to hold a trilateral friendly cricket tournament among junior cricket teams of the three countries in Beijing in October 2019. They also agreed to arrange a capacity building workshop of young diplomats from the three countries under the Junior Diplomats Exchange Program to be held in Pakistan in October 2019.

The three Foreign Ministers agreed to organize an Archaeologists' Exchange Program, explore cooperation among the Red Crescent Societies of the three countries, besides regularly undertaking exchange projects in the areas of media, think-tanks, sports, joint training etc.

China, Afghanistan and Pakistan reiterated their strong resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and without any distinction. They reaffirmed commitment of not letting any terrorist organization, element or individual use their soils against any country. They also decided to work towards effectively implementing the trilateral MoU on Cooperation in Counter-terrorism, signed at the 2nd round of Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue held in Kabul, and agreed on a list of initial projects of enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation in this regard. They recognized the need to continue their joint fight against ETIM and its supporters and facilitators. The three sides committed to promote measures to counter terrorist's logistical capabilities including terror-financing, recruitment and training.

The three sides agreed to take advantage of the trilateral Vice-Ministerial Strategic Dialogue, the Vice-Ministerial Consultation on Counter-Terrorism and Security, and the Director-General Level Practical Cooperation Dialogue to implement the consensus of the 3rd Foreign Ministers' Dialogue.

The Foreign Ministers of China and Afghanistan thanked Pakistan for the successful organization of the 3rd round of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Dialogue and for its warm hospitality. The three countries decided to hold the next round of Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue in Beijing in 2020.

Statement by Foreign Minister Qureshi on Indian Defence Minister's Comments

We have seen the comments made by the Indian Defence Minister today. These are reflective of the predicament that India finds itself in, after its illegal and unilateral actions imperiling peace and security in the region and beyond. Equally condemnable is the completely indefensible lock-down of the entire population in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, that has gone on for two weeks, and continues to deepen the dire humanitarian tragedy as reported by the international human rights organizations and the international media. The world community, including the United Nations Security Council, have taken cognizance of this utterly untenable situation. As for the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, Pakistan's position is based on UN Charter principles and international law and remains unchanged. The Jammu & Kashmir dispute is to be decided on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Joint Statement by the Four-Parties Meeting on Afghan Peace Process held in Beijing

Representatives of China, Russia, and the United States held their third consultation on the Afghan peace process in Beijing. China, Russia, and the United States welcomed Pakistan joining the consultation and believe that Pakistan can play an important role in facilitating peace in Afghanistan. Pakistan appreciated the constructive efforts by the China-Russia-US trilateral consultation on the Afghan peace process.

The four sides exchanged views on the current situation and joint efforts for realizing a political settlement to advance peace, stability, and prosperity of Afghanistan and the region. The four sides emphasized the importance of the trilateral consensus on the Afghan peace process reached in Moscow on April 25, 2019. All sides welcomed recent positive progress as the crucial parties concerned have advanced their talks and increased contacts with each other. All sides also welcomed intra-Afghan meetings held in Moscow and Doha.

The four sides called for relevant parties to grasp the opportunity for peace and immediately start intra-Afghan negotiations between the Taliban, Afghan government, and other Afghans. They re-affirmed negotiations should be "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" and further agreed that these negotiations should produce a peace framework as soon as possible. This framework should guarantee the orderly and responsible transition of the security situation and detail an agreement on a future inclusive political arrangement acceptable to all Afghans. The four sides encouraged all parties to take steps to reduce violence leading to a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire that starts with intra-Afghan negotiations.

The four sides agreed to maintain the momentum of consultation, will invite other important stakeholders to join on the basis of the trilateral consensus agreed on April 25, 2019 in Moscow,

and this broader group will meet when intra-Afghan negotiations start. The date and venue for the next consultation will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Second Belt and Road Forum Address by Prime Minister Imran Khan at Opening Ceremony Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Future

Excellency President Xi Jinping,
Esteemed World Leaders,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to speak at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. I congratulate President Xi Jinping and the Government of People's Republic of China for organizing this important event.

As the Belt and Road transforms from vision into reality, this gathering of partners and friends affords a useful platform for taking stock and setting the agenda. In a world of geopolitical uncertainty, of rising inequality and barriers to trade, the BRI offers a model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

BRI marks a new and distinct phase in the onward march of nations of the world along the path of globalization. The presence of so many world leaders today is proof that we choose hope over despair and cooperation over confrontation. 122 States and 49 International Organizations have signed on to BRI's vision and this is historic and monumental development.

Distinguished Participants,

Pakistan is proud to have partnered and pioneered with China in this transformational endeavour. We have been among BRI's earliest and most enthusiastic proponents. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, one of BRI's major components and one of its earliest manifestations, has made substantial progress. Pakistan's energy supplies have increased massively. Our critical infrastructure gaps are being plugged. Gwadar, once a small fishing village, is transforming rapidly into a commercial hub. The Gwadar Airport will be the largest in the country.

Together, Pakistan and China are entering the next phase of CPEC, with greater emphasis on socioeconomic uplift, poverty alleviation, agricultural cooperation and industrial development.

We are expanding the frontiers of knowledge through closer engagement and deeper cooperation in the fields of education, innovation and technology. Along the length of the Corridor, Special

Economic Zones are set to come up, offering opportunities for investments for Pakistani, Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs. Supplementing the next phase of CPEC, we are signing an expanded Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement.

We are changing Pakistan's economic landscape and Insha-Allah the destiny of our people. I want to thank China and its leadership for their unwavering support for Pakistan. Our deep-rooted friendship, partnership and brotherhood with China remains strong, resilient and unbreakable, standing tall in the face of every challenge. I take this opportunity to invite all of you to avail of our liberal foreign investment regime and participate in our economy, in particular infrastructure, railways, dams, IT and manufacturing.

Distinguished Participants,

As the Belt and Road Initiative takes a further concrete shape, I suggest we direct our efforts and focus on the peoples of our countries, and towards addressing impediments on their way to sustainable growth. Some of these points have already been touched upon by President Xi Jinping in his speech. I suggest the following:

FIRSTLY To undertake joint efforts to mitigate climate change. In our Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, we successfully planted a billion trees. President of Chile has already elaborated on this. We launched a nationwide project to plant 10 billion trees. I suggest we launch a joint project to plant 100 billion trees in the next two years, so that we can mitigate the effects of climate change for our coming generations.

SECONDLY Establish a BRI Tourism Corridor to promote people-to-people contacts and inter-cultural understanding.

THIRDLY Establish an office of Anti-Corruption Cooperation to combat the scourge of white-collar crime. White-collar crimes are devastating the world.

FOURTHLY Create a Poverty Alleviation Fund that supplements national efforts in the fight against poverty and malnourishment. In Pakistan, we have recently launched a targeted poverty alleviation programme called Ehsas, or feeling. The aim should be to emulate China's spectacular success in lifting 800 million people out of poverty within a matter of decades.

FIFTHLY Make concerted efforts to further liberalize trade and investment flows encouraging our private sector and businesses to collaborate in projects.

Distinguished Participants,

China's marvelous civilization has given the world wisdom, harmony and prosperity. It has gifted to humanity, great inventions, art and aesthetics and a culture of compassion and co-existence.

As a famous Chinese proverb says, 'The Ocean is vast because it rejects no rivers.'

Pakistan will continue to work on the basis of mutual respect and equal opportunity, with China and other BRI partners, for a better future of our people. Pakistan will partner with all those who share the vision for a peaceful and prosperous world. We will work together to realize a future of hope and happiness.

Thank You!

Prime Minister's Address as Guest of Honour at the China International Import Expo Shanghai

Excellency President Xi Jinping,
Esteemed Guests of Honour,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure, today, to lead the Pakistan delegation at the first China International Import Expo. I want to especially thank President Xi and the Chinese Government for the Hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Belt and Road Initiative gives shape to a global community of shared interests, this Expo will help spread dividends of freer trade, among more closely integrated economies.

In Pakistan the Karakoram Highway merges into a network of modern highways that are part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. These take you to the deep sea port of Gwadar, the point where the Belt and Road converge. This impacts not only on Pakistan, but has an impact on the economies of the entire region. CPEC shall cut distances and costs, bringing much needed resources to producers, and new products to consumers.

CPEC is a mechanism to forge even closer connectivity between the Middle East and China, and between Central and South Asia. CPEC is opening fresh investment avenues, new markets and new vistas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My party, the Tehreek-e-Insaf or PTI, campaigned during the last elections in Pakistan for change. And now when we are in power, we are initiating deep and meaningful reforms impacting all sectors and every aspect of government. We are committed to improving our framework of transparency and accountability, leveraging technology for seamless, smart solutions for business and governance. We are blessed with an abundant array of resource ranging from mineral riches to fertile lands, to the wealth of renewables and the most diverse landscape with twelve climate zones.

Our Industry is already producing high end textiles, sports goods, engineering goods, IT services and medical technologies including surgical instruments. But by far, our greatest and most promising resource is human. We have 100 million Pakistanis below the age of thirty five—a young vibrant population. The Naya or New Pakistan will be a more conducive and a more competitive place for transacting business.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At a time when the international trade system is under attack, when unilateral commercial benefits are being sought aggressively by some, and when protectionism is on the rise, we take great comfort in President Xi's courageous affirmation: 'The doors of China's Opening Up will never shut; but will only open ever wider'.

I thank you all.

Joint Statement Strengthening China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership - Building Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era

At the invitation of H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Imran Khan, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, paid his first official visit to China on November 2-5, 2018. During his visit, H.E. Imran Khan called on H.E. Xi Jinping, President of China, held talks with H.E. Li Keqiang, Premier, and met with H.E. Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, and H.E. Wang Qishan, Vice President of China respectively. Meetings were marked by traditional warmth, mutual understanding and trust, and the leaders of the two countries had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Imran Khan also delivered speech at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee. Besides Beijing, Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Shanghai to attend the First China International Import Expo.

Reviewing with satisfaction the historical development of China-Pakistan relations and the great strides made, both sides reiterated that the friendship between Pakistan and China has withstood the test of time, notwithstanding the changes in domestic, regional and international environments. The two sides agreed to further strengthen the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, and build closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the new era in line with the principles set forth by the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-neighborly Relations between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed in 2005.

1. Political Relations and Strategic Communication

Both sides stressed that China and Pakistan are good neighbors, close friends, iron brothers and trusted partners. The friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan serve the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, and contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and beyond. Both sides will continue to view China-Pakistan relations from a strategic and long-term perspective.

The Chinese side reiterated that China's relationship with Pakistan is always a matter of highest priority in its foreign policy. China appreciated the consistent and strong support by Pakistan to China's issues of core interest, and reaffirmed its support and solidarity with Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and security. It appreciated Pakistan's important role in promoting regional peace, stability and security and efforts for the peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues with its neighbors.

The Pakistani side stressed that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy, and friendship with China represents national consensus and the common desire of all Pakistani people. Pakistan appreciated the strong support and assistance provided by the government and people of China to Pakistan in its economic development. It unequivocally upholds the one-China policy and supports all efforts made by the Chinese government to realize national reunification.

Both sides agreed to maintain frequent exchange of visits and meetings at the leadership level and continue to hold bilateral meetings between their leaders on the sidelines of major multilateral conferences and events. The two sides agreed to further strengthen links between their legislative bodies. China welcomed the establishment of China-Pakistan Friendship Groups in Pakistani Parliament.

Both sides agreed to establish the mechanism of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and rename the former Strategic Dialogue at Vice Foreign Minister-level to Political Consultations. They also agreed to continue exchange programmes pertaining to training of diplomats.

2. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

Prime Minister Imran Khan commended President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that aims at enhancing regional and international connectivity. The two sides reiterated that BRI represents a win-win model of international cooperation and provides new opportunities for economic rejuvenation and prosperity of all countries. As a signature project of BRI, the fast development of CPEC has played a significant role in the Belt and Road cooperation.

Both sides reviewed the early harvest phase of CPEC and expressed satisfaction that rapid progress has been made in all areas especially in the energy sector. The two sides reaffirmed their complete consensus on the future trajectory of the CPEC, timely completion of its on-going projects and joint efforts for realization of its full potential with a focus on socio-economic development, job creation and livelihoods and accelerating cooperation in industrial development, industrial parks and agriculture.

Both sides agreed to task the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to explore new areas of cooperation. In this regard, it was decided that the eighth session of the JCC will be held in Beijing before the end of the year. To further expand cooperation under CPEC, the two sides announced the setting up of a working group on socio-economic development, to assist with livelihood projects in Pakistan.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to CPEC and agreed that it was a win-win enterprise for entire region and would bring regional prosperity and development through enhanced connectivity. They agreed to discuss the CPEC-related issues including through China-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, political consultations, and JCC.

Recognizing the significance of Gwadar as an important node in cross-regional connectivity and the central pillar of CPEC, both sides agreed to speed up progress on the Port and its auxiliary projects.

Both sides dismissed the growing negative propaganda against CPEC and expressed determination to safeguard the CPEC projects from all threats. Pakistan recognized the immense contribution of the Chinese personnel working on various economic projects in Pakistan. The Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the measures taken for the security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan.

3. Trade, Investment and Financial Cooperation

The two sides agreed to further consolidate and expand bilateral economic relations as a matter of high priority and to strengthen multi-faceted pragmatic cooperation in trade and investment. They agreed to boost Pakistan's industrial capacity including through joint ventures in priority areas, relocation of labor-intensive industry and SMEs collaboration.

The two sides noted the growing volume of bilateral trade and agreed to take concrete measures to address trade imbalance. These would include exchange of trade missions, broadening market access for agricultural and ICT products, and simplifying customs, quarantine and phytosanitary procedures. In this context, the two sides agreed to conclude the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement as early as possible, and continue discussions on the Pakistan-China Agreement on Trade in Services.

The two sides agreed to strengthen economic cooperation by fully leveraging the existing cooperative arrangements such as China-Pakistan Business Council, which is composed of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), and those between Industry and Stock Exchanges of the two countries. The two sides agreed to hold the next round of the Joint Economic Commission early next year.

The two sides attached importance to friendly cooperation between the People's Bank of China and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). They expressed satisfaction at the operationalization of the currency-swap agreement and reaffirmed the need to further strengthen cooperative ties of financial and banking sectors between the two countries. Both sides noted with satisfaction that Chinese and Pakistani banks have operations in both countries. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on tourism promotion.

4. Marine, Science and Technology, Space, Environmental and Agricultural Cooperation

Both sides agreed to further strengthen policy dialogue and strategic communication on maritime issues and expressed satisfaction on the Pakistan-China Maritime Cooperation Dialogue. They agreed to continue their close cooperation on navigation security, marine economy, exploration and utilization of marine resources, marine scientific research and marine environmental protection.

Both sides agreed to further expand and deepen their collaboration including in the areas of new and emerging technologies, nanotechnology, biotechnology, ICT, which can contribute to improved living standards through their applications in the fields of health, agriculture, water, energy and food security.

The two sides agreed to actively promote 2012-2020 Space Cooperation Outline between China National Space Administration (CNSA) and Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO). Expressing satisfaction on the launch of Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS) earlier this year, both sides agreed to further

strengthen bilateral cooperation in space technology applications. The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of manned space, and the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO) and SUPARCO will sign a framework agreement on cooperation.

Both sides agreed to enhance their cooperation in the areas of climate change, desertification control, desalination, water management, afforestation and ecological restoration, wetland protection and restoration, wildlife protection, forestry industry development, disaster management and risk reduction, and other areas of mutual interest.

Pakistan side recognized the great strides made by China in the field of agriculture. Both sides agreed to build on existing cooperation in the area of agriculture and explore new areas of joint collaboration.

5. Social Sector Cooperation

Pakistan expressed a desire to learn from the Chinese poverty alleviation model, which has lifted over 700 million people out of poverty over the last forty years. China is willing to strengthen policy dialogue, experience sharing and capacity building in the field of poverty reduction with Pakistan, and support Pakistan to establish poverty alleviation demonstration projects. The Chinese assistance will also be directed towards agriculture, education, health, poverty alleviation, safe drinking water, and vocational training.

Both sides also agreed to enhance collaboration in the field of health care, medical and surgical treatment. Both sides will share best practices and explore collaboration in the fields of disease surveillance and control, vaccine production as well as traditional medicine.

The Pakistan side recognized China's unremitting efforts to combat corruption and its great achievements, and evinced interest in learning from the Chinese experience and accomplishments in the field of anti-corruption.

6. People-to-People and Cultural Linkages

Both sides reiterated the importance of people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges and agreed to encourage mutual visits of nationals of the two countries. Both sides agreed to improve visa facilitation for mutual visits.

Both sides decided to celebrate Pakistan-China Year of Friendship/Sister Cities in 2019 and to establish friendship city relationships between corresponding Chinese and Pakistani cities and provinces. It was agreed to enhance exchanges and dialogue between leaders at provincial and local levels. The two sides agreed to further enhance cooperation between neighboring regions of the two countries, particularly in the areas of economy, trade, transportation, energy, industry, tourism, education, people-to-people contacts and livelihoods.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation in the field of education and agreed to intensify educational linkages especially between higher education institutions. China is a popular destination for Pakistani students with about 25,000 Pakistanis

enrolled across universities in China. China will offer additional scholarships for Pakistani students.

They agreed to encourage respective universities to develop bilateral linkages including through joint degree and exchange programmes. They further agreed to promote teaching of Pakistan Studies and Urdu language at Chinese Universities and Sinology and Chinese language at Pakistani Universities. Both sides agreed to negotiate agreements on mutual recognition of higher education degrees, diplomas and certificates, as early as possible.

The Chinese side agreed to continue supporting Pakistan in technical and vocational training to develop a skilled manpower for employment in CEPC projects, including through assistance in upgrading vocational training institutes, vocational training exchanges, and capacity building of trainers.

Both sides agreed to further promote exchanges between the think tanks including through conferences, seminars and fellowships. Both sides would encourage cooperation between their media houses and exchange visits and training programmes for journalists/media personnel.

Both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation in culture, arts, broadcasting, films, publication and sports under the Executive Programme of the Cultural Agreement between the two countries. The two sides shall enhance exchanges and cooperation in museums and promote exchanges in the conservation and presentation of heritage and artifacts and exchange of archaeologists between the two countries. The two sides shall discuss the possibility to organize an Ancient Pakistan and Gandhara Artifacts Exhibition in Beijing. They also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of sports. The respective sports authorities will discuss further details. The two sides will actively encourage and support their publishing houses to translate and print literary classics so that the people of the two countries can appreciate each other's rich culture. The two sides also agreed to establish China-Pakistan Youth Communication Committee, which will coordinate the exchange of youth and cooperation on youth affairs.

7. Defence, Security and Counter-terrorism Cooperation

Both sides agreed to further enhance defence cooperation, maintain high-level visits and exchanges at various levels between relevant departments of the two armed forces, make full use of the China-Pakistan Defence and Security Consultation mechanism, deepen cooperation in areas such as military exercises, training cooperation, personnel exchanges, and equipment and technology cooperation.

Both sides agreed to further enhance cooperation against "Three Evils" of extremism, terrorism and separatism. Both sides will continue to regularly utilize their existing mechanisms of Strategic Dialogue and Counter-terrorism and Security Consultations to further promote communication and cooperation in relevant fields.

The Chinese side conveyed its support to Pakistan's commitment and efforts to counter terrorism, assured Pakistan of its support in implementing its counter-terrorism strategy,

and commended the tremendous sacrifices made by the Pakistani nation in fight against terrorism and for Pakistan's immense contribution to regional and international peace and security through its achievements and successes. The Chinese side recognized Pakistan's efforts in actively strengthening financial regulations to combat terrorism financing, and called on all relevant parties to view Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts in an objective and fair manner.

The Pakistani side reaffirmed its support to the Chinese side in safeguarding its sovereignty and security, and combating separatism, terrorism and extremism including East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

8. International and Regional Issues

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, promoting international peace and security, and safeguarding the contemporary world order and the UN-centric international system. They agreed to jointly promote multilateralism, free trade and win-win cooperation. The two sides support a consensus-based reform of the United Nations so that it responds to the interests and concerns of all Member States. Being major contributors to the UN Peacekeeping Operations over the years, the two sides agreed to enhance policy coordination, capacity building and sharing of good practices on peacekeeping.

Both sides believe that peace, development, cooperation and win-win are shared aspirations of the peoples in the region. All nations should promote cooperative and sustainable security, refrain from developing relations targeting any third country, contribute more to the mutual trust between regional countries, and respect sovereign decisions of countries in determining their development paths and respective foreign policies, so as to jointly safeguard the peace and stability of the region.

Both sides believe that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. Both sides emphasized the importance of pursuit of dialogue and resolution of all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation and advance the goals of lasting peace, stability and shared prosperity. China appreciates Pakistan's quest for peace through dialogue, cooperation and negotiation, on the basis of mutual respect and equality, and supports Pakistan's efforts for improvement of Pakistan-India relations and for settlement of outstanding disputes between the two countries. Pakistan supported active participation of China at the platform of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on the Afghan issue and support the 'Afghan-owned and Afghan-led' peace and reconciliation process. China appreciates that Pakistan and Afghanistan are coordinating closely through the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity (APAPPS) to enhance cooperation between the two countries in all areas. Both sides agreed on the importance of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan consultations at the Foreign Ministers level aimed at deepening trilateral cooperation for shared progress, development and security and for strengthening peace and stability in

Afghanistan. Both sides supported Afghanistan to host the second tripartite foreign ministers dialogue within this year.

The two sides underlined the importance of peaceful settlement of all disputes in the Middle East on the basis of mutual respect and in accordance to the precepts of international law.

The two sides agreed that JCPOA is an important outcome of multilateralism and a good model of negotiated settlement of complex issues through dialogue and diplomacy. They called on parties to uphold their respective commitments and to resolve all issues through dialogue. They opposed unilateral measures and long-arm jurisdiction that is inconsistent with the principles of international law.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to multilateral, non-discriminatory arms control and non-proliferation endeavours. They noted with concern the continued pursuit of double standards in the application of non-proliferation norms and procedures and called for policies upholding rule of law and long-standing rules. China appreciates and supports steps taken by Pakistan for strengthening the global non-proliferation regime. In this context, China supports Pakistan's engagement with the Nuclear Suppliers Group and welcomes its adherence of NSG Guidelines.

Recalling the commitments of all states for implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism, both sides underscored the need for all States to avoid politicization of the UN Sanctions regime and the work of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Both sides also reiterated the need to evolve the text of Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism on the basis of consensus.

Both sides agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues of common interest; and maintain close communication and coordination within international and regional organizations and mechanisms such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), SAARC, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). China welcomed Pakistan's membership of SCO and appreciated its active participation in the SCO Summit in Qingdao in June 2018.

During the visit, the two sides also signed fifteen (15) Agreements/MoUs on a range of bilateral issues. Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his appreciation to the leadership and people of China for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation and invited Chinese leaders to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time.

Statement by Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the General Debate of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I begin by felicitating Madam Maria Fernanda Espinosa Graces upon her election as President of the General Assembly.

The stewardship of this session by an accomplished leader of her ranking and stature, would undoubtedly lend to the proceedings of this Assembly greater credence and strength. I also commend Miroslav Lackjack for his able guidance of the previous session. We appreciate Secretary General Antonio Guterres for his exemplary leadership of the organization, and support his efforts to instill a new sense of mission and direction in the United Nations.

Our profound condolences over the passing away of former Secretary General Kofi Anan, who was a leading light and a driving force in taking the UN agenda forward into the twenty first century.

We expressed deep sympathy and condolences to the government and people of Indonesia for the damage caused by the earthquake and subsequent Tsunami.

Madam President,

Two months ago, the people of Pakistan voted for change, for reform and for a fundamental shift in their paradigm of governance. They opted for a Pakistan, confident and compassionate, open and articulate, peaceful and principled. A Pakistan that will engage with its neighbourhood and the world on the basis of equality and respect; a country that will seek resolution of conflicts and convergence of interests; and a state that will build upon common understandings, reciprocal commitments and shared ideals. Pakistan will brook no compromise on the interests of the nation, the sovereignty of the State, or the security of its people. Our Government is keen to pursue a policy of partnerships for peace, security and prosperity in our immediate neighbourhood and beyond. We seek a peaceful environment to promote our development agenda both at the national level and in our region.

Madam President,

I stand before this Assembly as the representative of a quintessential developing country, that has at its heart, the welfare of its people. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, we have begun giving shape to the vision of a new Pakistan through a set of integrated policies and programmes.

Madam President,

The world faces a moment of inflection. The very foundations, the very principles on which the edifice of global order is constructed are under assault.

Inequality within and among nations is on the rise. Forces of protectionism, populism and isolationism are gaining currency. Intolerance is ascendant over acceptance; rhetoric over reason, and power over principle. Where the world needs bridges, we see fortifications; where it needs highways, we see blockades, and where it yearns freedom, we see cages. New forms and manifestations of imperialism are appearing. Multilateralism is on a path of retreat. Unilateralist tendencies are growing. Long standing legal norms are being eroded for strategic and commercial considerations. Dark clouds of trade wars are looming large on the horizon. Challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, pandemics, transnational organized crime and sustainable development are becoming ever more complex. The post-world war idealism is giving way, slowly but surely, to a hardened, militaristic approach. This trend, Madam President, is not only regressive, it is downright dangerous.

Madam President,

We note with concern seismic shifts in the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. As existing conflicts exacerbate, new threats have emerged. Competing interests of regional and extra regional powers are deepening long standing fissures, and widening the fault lines, even as the tragedy of Palestine continues to fester. In these uncertain times, the global community appears to be in desperate quest for leadership, a vision, and an order.

Madam President,

Consider the issue of striking the right balance between freedom of expression and sentiments of a people. Where there ought to be empathy, understanding and compassion, we see caricatured, ill informed, jaundiced judgments. Recently, Muslims across the world, were pained at a planned competition of cartoons of our Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him). This deeply hurt Muslim sentiments and sensibilities. On its part, Pakistan will continue to collaborate with friends and partners, on the UN and OIC platforms to reverse the growing tide of bigotry, build cross-cultural understandings, and promote dialogue amongst civilizations.

Madam President,

The theme of this year's General Assembly session is not only apt but also mirrors the priorities of my Government. As we embark upon our journey of change and reform, Pakistan stands ready to strengthen its partnership with the UN family of institutions. Alongside like-minded States, we will continue Madam President, to be a leading voice for comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, to make it more democratic, representative, transparent and effective. We will continue to oppose the creation of new centres of privilege and prestige, in defiance of principles of democracy, and the Charter's core tenet of sovereign equality of member states.

Madam President,

Since its inception, Pakistan has been an ardent adherent of the UN Charter, and an active participant in the UN processes. Pakistan has served seven terms on the UN Security Council, five Presidencies of the Economic and Social Councils, and four terms at the Human Rights Council. This is reaffirmation of faith of the international community in Pakistan. We have championed the cause of the peoples of Africa and Asia to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination and wrest independence from the yoke of colonial rule. As we pay tribute to the memory of Nelson Mandela Madiba, we are reminded of the high ideals he sacrificed so much for. The best way to honour the legacy of this great leader is to continue to fight the good fight, for freedom, for dignity and for equality.

Madam President,

Pakistan remains one of the oldest, largest and most active contributors to UN Peacekeeping operations the world over. The Pakistani blue helmets have laid lives in the cause of global peace. We are proud of their sacrifices. Pakistan remains also host to one of the oldest peace keeping Missions, the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). We greatly value UNMOGIP's contribution in monitoring ceasefire along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir.

Madam President,

Pakistan desires a relationship with India based on sovereign equality and mutual respect. We seek resolution of disputes through a serious and comprehensive dialogue that covers all issues of concern. We were to meet on the sidelines of this UNGA Session to talk about all issues with India- India called off dialogue the third time for the Modi Government – each time on flimsy grounds. They preferred politics over peace. They used the pretext of stamps issued months ago, of a Kashmiri activist and depicting grave human rights violations, including pellet gun victims, as an excuse to back out from the talks.

Dialogue is the only way to address long standing issues that have long bedeviled South Asia, and prevented the region from realizing its true potential. The unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute hinders the realization of the goal of durable peace between our two countries. For over seventy years now, it has remained on the agenda of the UN Security Council and a blot on the conscience of humanity.

For seventy years the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir have struggled for their rights of self-determination in the face of overwhelming oppression and gross violations of their fundamental human rights by the Indian occupation forces. There can be no lasting peace in South Asia without a just settlement of the Kashmir dispute based on the UN Security Council resolutions and the will of the Kashmiri people.

Pakistan welcomes the recently released report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The report rightly lifts the veil from decades of obfuscation and chronicles the massive ongoing violations of human rights in Indian Occupied Kashmir. It vindicates our

position. No longer the excuse of terrorism can be used to continue to systematically oppress the Kashmiri people. Pakistan endorses the UN Report and calls for early institution of a Commission of Inquiry under UN auspices to investigate and fix responsibility. We will welcome the Commission to Azad Jammu & Kashmir, and hope that India too, will do the same.

To divert the world's attention from its brutalities, India frequently violates the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Kashmir. Despite numerous violations Pakistan has acted with restraint. But if India does venture across the LoC, or acts upon its doctrine of "limited" war against Pakistan, it will evoke a strong and matching response.

Madam President,

Strategic stability in our region has been and continues to be undermined. This is evident in different ways-by introduction of destabilizing weapon systems, pursuit of discriminatory approaches by certain states to supply advanced military hardware and sensitive technologies, and adoption of offensive force postures and doctrines, that imagine conflict beneath a nuclear threshold.

Under the circumstances, Pakistan has no option but to maintain a minimum credible deterrence. We have been advocating for many years now, a Strategic Restraint Regime for South Asia. Pakistan is ready to engage with India for meaningful confidence building, risk reduction and avoidance of arms race.

Madam President,

Let me also reiterate Pakistan's continued support for strengthening of regional organizations as a platform for poverty alleviation and socio-economic uplift. The regional body for South Asia, SAARC has been rendered ineffective due to the intransigence of one country. We remain fully committed to a functioning SAARC that can improve the lives of the people of the region.

Madam President,

Afghanistan and together with it, Pakistan, has suffered heavily at the hands of global power play, strategic miscalculations and cognitive dissonance. That there is no military solution to the war in Afghanistan is now a foregone conclusion. It is time to act upon that conclusion. A negotiated settlement has assumed urgency in the face of the worrisome and growing presence of Daesh in Afghanistan. Pakistan will continue to lend its support to an Afghan owned and Afghan led process of peace and reconciliation. On the bilateral plane, our two countries have operationalized the Afghanistan-Pakistan Action Plan for Peace and Solidarity. It lays down the blueprint for extensive engagements in all areas of common interests. Pakistan has hosted the longest protracted refugee presence of modern times. Our role and sacrifices can perhaps be better appreciated when juxtaposed against the rising tide of anti-immigrant sentiments in nations, more resourceful and developed than ours, that have faced the brunt of fewer immigrants, over a shorter timescale. Because of this protracted situation, Afghanistan's security has a direct spill over impact on our own security and stability. We look forward to the safe, dignified and voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their homeland.

Madam President,

For the past seventeen years, Pakistan at great cost of life and resources, has been combating the fires of terrorism and extremism. By the determined operations of our armed forces, and the full support of our people, Pakistan has turned the tide against terrorism. With the deployment of 200,000 troops, Pakistan has conducted the largest and most effective counter terrorism campaign in the world. Peace and security have returned to our cities and towns. In our own national interest, and in line with our National Action Plan, we will continue to strengthen our counter terrorism frameworks and regimes. Pakistan continues to face terrorism that is financed, facilitated and orchestrated by our eastern neighbour. We wanted to sit with India to discuss all issues, including terrorism, that have created violence in our cities and towns, and have led to tens of thousands of casualties of innocent Pakistanis. Pakistan shall never forget the mass murder of more than 150 children in a Peshawar School, the terrible Mastung attack and many others that have links with terrorists supported by India. And we will never forget the terrorist attack in India against Samjhota Express carrying innocent Pakistanis – and now its confessed perpetrators are being allowed to walk free.

We wanted to share this evidence with India and the international community on who supported these acts of violence and terrorism. We have already shared this evidence with the UN. We have in our custody a serving Indian Naval officer, Commander Kalbhushan Yadav, who has provided us with the most incriminating evidence by accepting that he, on the instructions of his government, financed, planned and executed acts of terrorism and violence in Pakistan. This is but one Indian state sponsored official terrorist. Many more are launched inside Pakistan to create terror and mayhem by our eastern neighbour. And it is India, that in plain sight of the international community, perpetrates state sponsored terrorism in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India. It is the concern of the United Nations, as Jammu and Kashmir remains on the agenda of the UN Security Council. And it is a matter of concern for the international community as humanity is being crushed and human rights being violated all over India, where people have stood up against oppression, occupation and to demand their fundamental rights. It is also a matter of concern of the international community that India has sponsored terrorism and aggression against all its neighbours.

Madam President,

The strongest antidote to the poison of terrorism is development that yields dividends. The vision of Belt and Road is a path-breaking initiative by a world leader of great sagacity and foresight to create a community of common destiny. It is a global common good beneficial to all. Our vision for China Pakistan Economic Corridor is to help translate our geo-strategic potential into geo-economic dividend. Pakistan looks to offer the vital connectivity nodes linking the Middle East with western China, and affording Central Asia the shortest most feasible access to the Sea.

Madam President,

The challenges of our times have enhanced, not diminished, the relevance of the United Nations. The United Nations must remain the central platform for dialogue and diplomacy. For the UN to remain relevant to the needs of the people and respond to the demands of the twenty first century, we believe that:

One: Sustainable development goals must be pursued in order to reduce inequality within and among nations. We hope the Secretary General's high-level event on Financing the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, earlier this week, will serve as a catalyst for rapid progress towards realizing the SDGs.

Two: Corruption is a grave crime. Those who provide safe haven to ill-gotten wealth, are partners in the crime, and equally culpable. Existing international conventions on corruption do not go far enough in addressing this malaise. It is time to return the looted wealth to their rightful owners, the people, and to take to task, both the perpetrators, and their abettors.

Three: Climate change poses serious challenges to all States. The Paris Agreement must not be allowed to become hostage to sectoral interests. Even as Pakistan contributes minimally to global emissions, our country remains among the most vulnerable. Our Government completed the plantation of a billion trees project in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. We have now launched an ambitious project of planting 10 billion trees across Pakistan.

Four: A rules-based global order is vital for promotion of international trade in goods and services as well as global nuclear commerce and governance mechanisms. Carving out exemptions and bending established rules to suit partisan interests must be eschewed.

Five: An objective and transparent criterion must be evolved to facilitate trade in strategic goods and membership of groupings governing it. This is essential for countries pursuing economic growth and development.

Six: Sanctity and integrity of international agreements must be maintained. Strategic stability must be nurtured by policies of restraint and responsibility, not by considerations of profits and politics.

Seven: Technology and innovation are key to reshaping our states and societies. We must strike a prudent balance between guarding against misuse of emerging technologies and facilitating their access to developing countries. It is essential to develop universally agreed legal frameworks in the area of cyber security, lethal autonomous weapons system, Artificial Intelligence and weaponization of outer space.

Eight: Dislocation of people in recent years, primarily because of wars but also due to pervasive poverty, has energized the global debate on refugees and migrants. The deliberations leading to the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migrants represent a step in the right direction. The true litmus test of these compacts lies in the effective implementation of commitments.

Madam President,

Pakistan believes that a new consensus on peace, security and development, can and should be developed. A new paradigm for universal peace and prosperity is both desirable and achievable.

Pakistan will be a willing and able partner of the international community in this worthwhile pursuit.

Madam President,

The challenges ahead are daunting; the road forward, untraveled, the route uncharted. These times call for deliberation and diligence, but also cooperation and concerted action. They call for a truly united, United Nations.

The Kashmiri wife who lost her husband; the Kashmiri school boy who lost his eye sight and his future to pellet gun Injuries; the Syrian father who saw his child drown, the Palestinian girl who suffocates under siege, the African migrant willing to risk all for a better life, continue to look to this, the United Nations for support and succor.

Let us not fail them any longer.

Remarks by Foreign Minister of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the SCO Council of Heads of Governments Dushanbe

Excellency
Mr. QohirRasulzoda, Prime Minister of Tajikistan,
Distinguished SCO Heads of Government,
Secretary General Rashid Alimov
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great privilege to represent Pakistan in this Council of Heads of Government meeting.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Chairman of the Council, Prime Minister Rasulzoda and to the Government and people of Tajikistan for their warm hospitality.

I carry greetings and good wishes from Prime Minister of Pakistan Mr. Imran Khan, who regrettably could not attend on account of pressing commitments, back home. On behalf of the new Government of Pakistan I would like to convey the message of goodwill and partnership to all present here today.

I commend the sterling contribution of the Secretary General His Excellency Alimov for his able stewardship of the Organization. I would also like to thank Director Executive Committee of SCO-RATS Excellency Sysoyev who will also be completing his term by the year end, for his commitment and hard work.

I wish them both success in their future endeavors. We welcome appointment of Excellency Imamovich as the next Secretary General of SCO and Excellency Fayozovich as Director of Executive Committee of SCO-RATS. I assure them our full support. I take this opportunity to appreciate the forward looking outcomes of Qingdao Summit which hold the promise of moving the SCO in meeting the challenges that confront us today and will bind the SCO countries for enhanced technological development.

Tajikistan is Pakistan's close neighbour, a good friend and a dear brother. The bonds of kith and clan & culture and commerce tie the Tajik and Pakistani nations in an abiding relationship. Across the vast Eurasian landmass, nations and peoples have interacted & amalgamated, communicated & collaborated, and progressed & prospered for millennia. Our abiding ties today have happily assumed the shape of SCO.

SCO is not just a regional platform, but a fulcrum representing the hopes, the aspirations, the dreams and the expectations of nearly half of humanity. Animated by the Shanghai Spirit, SCO affords the right template, to reimagine the future in the image of the past.

Mr. Chairman,

The need for conduct of international relations, based on time honoured principles of mutual trust and mutual respect, shared aspirations and acceptance of diversity resonates now, more than ever before. The world today, finds itself in a state of flux. Forces of coercion and unilateralism are on the rise. Terrorism, regional and international conflicts, climate change, inequitable growth and protectionist impulses are imperiling global trade and world peace. This complex and challenging environment calls for a global architecture for peace, security and development that treats all sovereign states on the footings of equality and respect. By subscribing to these principles, SCO presages such an architecture.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan has always been a firm believer and an ardent supporter of the SCO charter. We believe that Pakistan's destiny remains inextricably linked with SCO's. Our formal accession last year, was a landmark development that ushers a fresh chapter in our association with the organization. As the new Pakistan commences its journey with SCO, as a full and equal partner, we will work to play, an even greater role in the realization of shared aspirations.

Allow me to elaborate:

FIRSTLY,

We remain determined to afford Central Asia through our seaports and highways, the shortest, most seamless access to the sea.

We have proposed earlier, and I reiterate once again, establishment of SCO-Pakistan Corridors for trade, transit and energy.

SECONDLY,

Pakistan has made substantial gains in combating terrorism and extremism. In recent years, we have conducted the world's largest and most effective counter terrorism operation.

Through the SCO Regional Anti Terrorist Structure, Pakistan remains ready to share its experience and expertise in the domain of combating terrorism. Pakistan participated in 2018 Peace Mission Exercises held in Russia. We thank Russia for hosting the exercises that underscore the importance of fighting terrorism and working together for peace.

THIRDLY,

Peace and security in Afghanistan, are essential for enduring peace, stability and prosperity in our region. Pakistan supports SCO's Contact Group on Afghanistan and wishes to see this group contribute more effectively to restoration of peace and stability in that country.

Mr. Chairman

I would like to thank the SCO Secretariat for facilitating Pakistan's induction into SCO programmes and processes.

This Council of Heads of Government meeting marks another important milestone in this regard. We are happy to note that in addition to finalising financial arrangements, this meeting will conclude significant understandings on trade, scientific collaboration, environmental protection and food security, among others. We also welcome a Pakistani banking institution's formal association with the Inter Bank Association.

Mr. Chairman,

It is vital that SCO sustains, and further builds upon the momentum already generated. Allow me to venture a few proposals; I suggest that we:

***First:** Evolve a SCO wide mechanism for conducting trade, and investments in local currencies, and through regional and national institutions, including SCO Development Bank and SCO Development Fund.*

***Second:** Take a long term view of developmental projects, that have a beneficial spin off impact on the entire region. The Belt and Road Initiative and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor merit SCO's full support.*

***Third:** Learn from the many laudable examples and lessons from within the SCO community on eradicating poverty and fast tracking development.*

***Fourth:** Promote intra-regional and trans-regional contacts, through evolving SCO wide visa regime, for business people. Besides improved road and rail connectivity, I suggest we examine the feasibility of a Joint SCO Airline.*

***Fifth:** Open up more meaningfully to observers and dialogue partners.*

***Finally:** Focus on optimally utilizing the capabilities of our youth. SCO initiatives on youth interaction and cooperation should be further strengthened.*

Mr. Chairman,

SCO has come a long way since its inception. It is the vital trans-regional link, the essential chain between a glorious past and a promising future. Let us leverage the political will of the nations represented here to harness the SCO's full potential and prospects. Pakistan stands ready to contribute to this noble endeavor.

Thank you.

Joint Press Conference of Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and China

I am honored to welcome State Councilor and Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Yi to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His visit is the first high-level contact from China after the formation of the new government. Mr. Wang Yi is an old friend of Pakistan who has always supported Pakistan. His contributions for promoting friendship between the two countries are commendable. We highly appreciate his visit to Pakistan.

During his visit, State Councilor Wang Yi has a full schedule of meetings with our leadership including the President, Prime Minister, Speaker National Assembly and Chief of Army Staff.

Friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's Foreign Policy. There is political, institutional and popular support for Pakistan-China friendship in both countries. We have the unique honor of being China's "iron brother" and we reciprocate the noble sentiment expressed by President Xi Jinping. Pakistan is eager and willing to collaborate with China on CPEC, which is the fastest evolving project of the Belt and Road Initiative, to date. CPEC is the proof of how seamless and sustainable the Belt and Road Initiative can become, with active engagement of all stakeholders and both public and private sector involvement.

The New Government has been formed after the general elections. We are grateful for the congratulatory messages by the Chinese leadership as well as the congratulatory phone call by Premier Li Keqiang to Prime Minister Imran Khan. We also appreciate the message of support by Premier Li to the new Government. We will continue to further strengthen the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi has also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Imran Khan to visit China in November this year for an official bilateral visit. He will also participate in the International Import Expo in Shanghai as a Chinese guest. We have extended invitations to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to visit Pakistan.

During our meeting today, we held in-depth discussions on many important and pressing issues. We agreed to further strengthening the bilateral ties and to maintain close communication on regional and global issues. China is Pakistan's "all-weather" friend and Pakistan can always rely on China's support at various international fora.

We have made substantive progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). I reassured the Foreign Minister that CPEC is of immense strategic and national importance for Pakistan. We are highly grateful for the personal attention Chinese leadership has accorded to the implementation of CPEC. CPEC will remain a priority for the Government. We will ensure that ongoing projects are implemented at the earliest and at the same time, we will explore new avenues of cooperation under CPEC.

I have discussed with the State Councilor the priorities of our Government including poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, job creation and rooting out corruption, which will be incorporated in our future joint endeavors and industrial development.

Pakistan has made huge strides in combating terrorism and obliteration of terrorist activities from its soil. We strongly condemn all terrorist activities whether perpetrated by individuals, groups or states. Our efforts in this regard have always been supported by China.

The State Councilor highlighted Pakistan's immense contributions in combating terrorism and emphasized that China fully supports our efforts in this regard. He acknowledged Pakistan's sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and urged the international community to appreciate Pakistan's role in countering terrorism which is a global problem.

We agreed to work towards enhancing trade cooperation. We also agreed that Pakistan and China will continue to support each other at multilateral fora. We congratulate China for its successful Chairmanship of SCO in which it had our full support. I express the hope that China will continue to support in multilateral forums.

I now invite State Councilor and Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Yi for his remarks.

Statement by the Foreign Minister of China

My friends from the press, it is my pleasure to visit Pakistan, shortly after the formation of the new government. On behalf of the Government of China, I also want to congratulate Pakistan on the recently held elections. China respects the independent choice made by the Pakistani people. We believe that under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan the new Pakistani government will lead Pakistani people with one heart and one mind to overcome difficulties towards achieving the mission of "New Pakistan". Pakistan as good neighbor, good friend and a good partner. China and Pakistan are all weather strategic and cooperative partners. This relationship is based on mutual understanding, mutual support and mutual trust, forged over the years. It rises above the political parties and the change in the governments. It is unshakable. I am coming to Pakistan to make full contacts with the new government and to promote the bilateral cooperation. We will ensure that it may be a good beginning for the bilateral relationship between the two countries. We applaud the efforts of the new government of Pakistan for underscoring its commitment towards China-Pakistan relationship, the cornerstone of its foreign policy. I want you to note that China will continue to put Pakistan at a priority place in Chinese foreign policy and neighborhood diplomacy. I had fruitful discussion with Foreign Minister Mr. Qureshi. I agree with his comments in our meeting today. I will summarize our discussion today into ten points.

First, China welcome Prime Minister Imran Khan to China on an official visit to attend China International Import expo. We are also ready to invite the Prime Minister for the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation to be held next year.

Second, we have agreed to realize the development of CEPEC. The two sides will see that the complete project will run efficiently and reach completion. In addition, in line with Pakistan's development priorities and its people's needs, the two sides will also talk about the future prospects of the Corridor and the direction of cooperation. The two sides will make particular efforts to strengthen cooperation on industrial capacity and livelihood progress. We want its influence to be felt in less developed areas in western Pakistan.

Third, we have agreed to strive for increasing two-way trade. China will encourage the imports from Pakistan and will send trade commission teams to Pakistan. We will also broaden market access for Pakistan's competitive agriculture products. The two sides will work to complete negotiations on FTA by the end of this year, to further enhance trade liberalization between the two countries.

And fourthly, we have agreed to engage actively in industrial capacity cooperation. China will support Pakistan in developing the local manufacturing sector to enhance the capacity of industrial development, increase job creation and to be integrated into international industrial chain at a faster pace.

Fifthly, we have agreed to have development-oriented cooperation. Chinese assistance will be further directed towards agriculture, sanitation, household, safe drinking water and other livelihood areas, so as to bring tangible benefits to Pakistani people.

Six, we will deepen defence and security cooperation. The two sides will enhance interaction between the militaries and security institutions. We will work together to resolutely combat ETIM terrorist forces. China will continue to support Pakistan in its efforts to fight terrorism and to achieve its national development priorities.

Seventh, our two sides have agreed to increase sharing of information on good governance. China is ready to host seminars on poverty reduction, combating corruption and economic development for Pakistan. China is also ready to organize demonstration projects to reduce poverty in Pakistan.

Eight, we have to agreed to expand people to people exchanges and enhanced cooperation between the armed forces of both the countries and to strengthen cooperation in education. China will take further measures on visa liberalization for Pakistani citizens.

Ninth, we have agreed to strengthen cooperation in international and regional affairs. The two sides will work together as far as Afghan reconciliation process is concerned. The two sides will work together to oppose protectionism, unilateralism, cold war mentality and power politics. Our two sides will build a new type of international relations and a community with shared futures.

Tenth, the two sides have agreed to take Pakistan China strategic partnership to new heights, build upon past achievements and future prospects. This way we will make our contribution towards building a community with shared futures.

Question: You had a very detailed meeting today. What was the agenda of the meeting and what important issues were discussed? (Amjad Ali - PTV).

Answer (Pakistan FM): I had the honor and privilege to meet my good friend State Councilor Wang Yi and his delegation today. We had a very fruitful meeting. Pakistan and China are bilateral strategic cooperative partners. It is time tested relationship which has set a novel precedence for good interstate relations. We had a very comprehensive agenda including bilateral, regional and international issues. We reviewed the whole gamut of our bilateral

relations. We were very satisfied to note that we enjoy unanimity of views on most if issues. Pakistan and China have robust defence relations which form the backbone of our bilateral relations. We also discussed our economic and trade relations including CPEC. CPEC is an important project and it will remain a priority project for our government. We were happy to note that our Government's agenda of socio-economic reforms resonates with the agenda of President Xi Jinping and Chinese leadership's reform process. We agreed to enhance our cooperation in social sector especially in health and education, poverty alleviation, agriculture and anti-corruption.

We also reviewed all important regional and international issues of mutual concern. We are thankful to Chinese leadership for their continued support and recognition of Pakistan's efforts in war against terrorism.

Both countries have always enjoyed a very close cooperation and we reaffirmed our resolve to further strengthen this relationship.

Question: There is a view about CPEC that says the building of this corridor which focuses on infrastructure development has increased the debt burden on Pakistan and is a major reason for Pakistan's debt crisis and financial problems. What is China's response to that? (Zhang Tingfeng - Phoenix TV)

Answer (Chinese State Councilor): The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a major economic cooperation project between the two countries. China is a country, that values and cherishes its friendship with Pakistan. When China was in difficulty Pakistan extended its support to it. Today, China wants to reciprocate in the shape of extending support for socio-economic development. In this context, I would like to share with you some figures under the CPEC framework. There are now 22 cooperation projects, 9 of which have been completed, while 13 are under construction. It is a total investment of US\$ 19 billion and it has boosted Pakistan's economic growth by 1 to 2 percent, creating 17 thousand job opportunities. These are real and tangible outcomes. I also want to stress that the CPEC is not for a particular region or a group; its is meant for Pakistan. It is designed to deliver benefits to all Pakistani people. Many of the early harvest projects of the Corridor are energy and infrastructure development projects. These have met the urgent needs of Pakistan. They also represent natural stage for any country's industrialization, because in the absence of electricity there is no logistical basis to support development of the manufacturing industry and these projects are meant to unlock the development in different areas of Pakistan and have also laid an important foundation for the development of the Corridor. As far as the future of CPEC is concerned, the first thing we addressed was that we respect the wishes of the Pakistan sides. Our two sides have agreed that the CPEC cooperation will gradually shift to industrial cooperation, to help Pakistani local manufacturing industry. This will result in job creation and trade expansion. We will pay greater attention to improve the livelihood of Pakistan people and hence more people will benefit from CPEC. I would like to say that over the years the IMF and the IFIs have provided support to Pakistan. To our knowledge, 47% of the current debt comes from the international financial institutions. When it comes to 22 CPEC projects, 18 of them are financed by direct Chinese investment/assistance; only 4 have received concessional loans. Therefore, to me, shortly CPEC has nothing to do with the debt burden of Pakistan, rather when these projects get completed they will have huge economic benefits. Besides, they will

result in considerable returns for Pakistan. We also said that some people are talking about the conspiracy of CPEC. This actually is false. These projects are based on scientific studies and have passed through all the procedures. As the CPEC projects further proceed, we might consider bringing in third parties, because this will not only bring benefit to Pakistani people, but will also foster regional connectivity. Perhaps, Pakistan is facing some difficulties, but those difficulties are temporary. Pakistan is an important emerging economy of the world. It has a vast market, with a lot potential. China is confident and will remain confident in the future of Pakistan. We believe that with the new Prime Minister's reform program and the support of the international community, Pakistan will realize sound and sustainable economic development.

Question: Mr. Foreign Minister you said there was also a discussion on trade and economic issues in the talks. What was the focus in economic and trade relations? (Liu Chang - China Radio International)

Answer (Pakistan FM): Economic relations are very important component of our bilateral relations. There is a wide range of economic activities like China's investment in Pakistan, CPEC and a very sizeable bilateral trade. Our bilateral trade has increased over the last 10 years or so. The trade deficit for Pakistan has also increased.

We discussed that efforts should be made to enhance our bilateral trade and special focus will be given to increase Pakistan's exports to China. The 2nd phase of FTA is under process and both sides will accommodate each other's' concerns. Pakistan will actively participate in China International Import Expo in Shanghai, so that Pakistani companies can get more access to Chinese markets.

We also discussed to have more purchase missions from China to Pakistan. Most importantly we will strengthen our industrial cooperation. Efforts will be made to start the Special Economic Zones under CPEC at the earliest, so that Pakistan's export capacity can be enhanced. It will also help in more employment in Pakistan.

Question: Mr. State Councilor, you are here in Pakistan just days after Secretary Pompeo's visit. The frequency of these visits tells much about the importance that major countries attach to Pakistan. What is your take on the role of Pakistan in this region? (Hamza - APP)

Answer (Chinese State Councilor): Well, Pakistan is an important developing country. It is a country with particular influence in the Islamic world and international and regional affairs. At the same time, Pakistan is also participating in international fight against terrorism. Over the years, Pakistan has made unlimited efforts to fight against terrorism. Pakistan's sacrifices deserve full recognition by the international community. Pakistan is also a strong force behind regional stability and development. Pakistan has been actively participating in resolving regional hot-spot issues, regional connectivity and economic cooperation. Pakistan has played a positive role in regional cooperation framework like ASEAN, SAARC and SCO etc. China welcomes all countries in engaging in communication and cooperation with Pakistan. China also supports the United States in developing mutually beneficial relationship with Pakistan on the basis of mutual respect. We believe that China and the US along-with international community should support

the new Pakistan government. We shall support Pakistan in its fights against terrorism, socio-economic development and in developing relations with the neighboring countries.