

ID-CPC seminar on “Poverty Eradication and the Responsibility of Political Parties”
**Ambassador’s remarks on “Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Human
Development”**

(Fuzhou, Fujian Province, 13 October 2020)

Excellencies,

Distinguished leaders of political parties from around the world,

Ladies and gentlemen, friends!

It is an honour to speak at this sub-forum’s conversation on poverty eradication and sustainable human development. I felicitate to the ID CPC and the CPC Committee of Fujian for bringing us all together at this timely forum on a highly relevant subject. The choice of the venue is also relevant. Fujian province is one of those Chinese regions, which are central to China’s economic reforms and poverty alleviation programmes.

Today we visited ‘Three Lanes and Seven Alleys’, where we saw a beautiful fusion of traditional and modernity. It is a classic example of sustainable preservation of history. It is not merely a restoration project, but a blueprint for creating opportunities for promoting cottage industry, local art & crafts and tourism.

The august gathering today is taking place on the cusp of China’s victory in the Critical Battle against extreme poverty and the Chinese People’s ongoing war against the COVID-19 pandemic. China’s remarkable progress on both fronts has validated the strength of its unique system. It has also demonstrated that, whether pursuing economic development or countering unexpected Black Swan events, the overriding priority for leadership is to place the People’s well-being at the heart of all efforts and initiatives.

As representatives of the people, political parties and state institutions have a leading role to play in realizing the aspirations of our peoples. It is not important what governance structures we follow in our countries, what is important is how much responsive we are to our people and their needs. I look forward to hearing from the distinguished speakers today and as well as visit Ningde tomorrow where, under President Xi’s visionary leadership in the late 1980s, the local public began their journey towards a brighter and shared future.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we enter the final stretch leading up to 2030, there is an increasing sense of urgency to consolidate our gains and forge ahead to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. The eradication of poverty, and investments in health care, education, economic empowerment, equality of opportunity and social mobility, are central to the onward march of human progress. A priority on which we can certainly all agree and work collectively.

Our combined actions will also serve as an effective response to narrow-minded efforts aimed at the politicization of the pandemic, stigmatization of certain peoples and unilateral pursuit of self-interest. We must reject unilateralism and strengthen UN. Along with China, Pakistan stands for international cooperation and solidarity for addressing challenges confronted by the humanity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over decades of close cooperation, Pakistan and China have forged a unique all-weather partnership featuring unparalleled mutual trust and respect. The ironclad roots of the friendship rest in the hearts of our two peoples. In recent years, China has also become amongst the foremost partners in Pakistan's development.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC, has been a flagship project of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative. It has laid a sound foundation for modernization of Pakistan's economy.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan had underlined that CPEC's transformative potential rests in adapting lessons and experiences from China's miraculous feat of lifting 800 million people out of poverty. As our economic partnership with China has continued to broaden in line with the Pakistan's own priorities for socioeconomic development, CPEC too has expanded. It is now a mature mechanism for providing direct benefits to the people in the areas of health care, education, drinking water, technical and vocational training, and agriculture.

Along this momentous journey, the political parties of Pakistan and China have continued to provide guidance and support. The consensus of our top leaders has been upheld and translated at the party-to-party level; anchoring the functional aspects of our efforts in unbreakable political will.

Ladies and gentlemen,

One key lesson to learn from the Chinese historic achievement of eradicating extreme poverty, is the centrality of healthy and stable employment and ensuring the right of our peoples to work with dignity and equal opportunity. So as the world moves towards industrialization, integration into global value chains and increasing urbanization, the interplay of party and state institutions with big enterprises will be important to address the root causes of poverty.

Enterprises needed to be guided and encouraged on taking the well-being of the local people as one of their core mission. Their business plan to integrate poor. Chairman Mao "the road ahead may be long and winding, but we must stay the course and persevere. The world has still a long way to go in its fight against poverty.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We must not be deterred by temporary headwinds nor by the criticism of our detractors who pursue their own agenda and vested interests. We must adhere to the long-term mission of serving our peoples. Surely, one day the constant dripping will wear away the shore of poverty.

Pakistan looks forward to working with China and friends from the international community, enhancing our exchanges and sharing our experiences for the common benefit of our peoples. In doing so, we will be living up to the expectations of our peoples and perhaps helping many weak hatchings to take the first flight, high and high.

Thank you!