

## **NEW CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND SINO-PAK RELATIONS**

Text of the speech delivered by H.E. Mr. Luo Zhaohui, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), at a seminar organized by the ISSI in collaboration with the Embassy of China, Islamabad, on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, on October 1, 2009.

It is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China today. I am pleased to be here to share my views on China's foreign policy. First of all, I thank the Foreign Ministry and the Institute of Strategic Studies to make the seminar possible.

### **I. New China's Foreign Policy**

- (i) Over the past 60 years, China's diplomacy has played an important part in upholding the country's sovereignty, security and development interests as well as in promoting world peace, development and cooperation. We have worked closely with other countries to address various international disputes in a responsible manner. We have vigorously conducted economic, cultural and public diplomacy and achieved fruitful results. The number of countries having diplomatic relations with us has increased from 18 in the early days of the People's Republic to 171 today.
- (ii) Experiencing 60 years' vicissitude internally and externally, China's diplomacy has formed unique character. It is not only equipped with lively features of different times, but also combined with traditional Chinese philosophy and strong practicability.
  - 1) First, adherence to an independent foreign policy of peace. China will, as always, decide its positions and policies on international affairs on the merits of each case, bearing in mind the fundamental interests of the Chinese people and people of the whole world. We will continue to uphold justice in the world and work with others to make our world a better place to live.
  - 2) Second, firm commitment to peaceful development. This is a strategic choice the Chinese government and people have made in light of China's national conditions and the trend of times. It reflects the unity of China's domestic and foreign policies and the unity of

the fundamental interests of the Chinese people and the common interests of the people of the world. We firmly pursue a win-win strategy of opening up. We share development opportunities with other countries and work with them to meet challenges and build a harmonious world of durable peace and common prosperity.

- 3) Third, to take into consideration both domestic and international situations and focus on meeting the priority tasks of the country. There have been closer interactions between the situations at home and abroad and between domestic and foreign policies in the 21st century. We must therefore aim to serve the need of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects in conducting diplomacy and foster a stronger sense of coordination and overall development so that our diplomatic work and work on other fronts will reinforce each other and achieve coordinated progress.
- 4) Fourth, compliance with credibility and promise. As an old Chinese saying goes, “a vehicle cannot move without an engine just as a man cannot base himself on no integrity and promise.” In international affairs, the Chinese side must fulfil as it has promised; it must implement as it has signed. We firmly adhere to credibility and integrity, which has gained us good reputation and recognition globally.
- 5) Fifth, insistence on fairness and justice. China upholds fairness in international affairs and supports just causes. China insists that all the countries; whether they are big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor; are equal. We develop relations with other countries based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. We never interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and never force other countries to succumb to our own wills.

(iii) Currently, China’s foreign policy is focused on four aspects:

- 1) **Ensuring stability and expansion in relations with major developed countries in the interest of greater strategic stability in the world.** China has entered into new types of cooperative relations or constructive partnerships with the world’s major countries. China and Russia have established a strategic partnership of coordination, and relations between the two countries have enjoyed sustained, sound and steady progress at a high level. Sino-U.S. relations have reached an unprecedented level in terms of both depth and breadth over the past 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties. The two countries have

agreed to build a positive, cooperative and comprehensive relationship for the 21st century and have put in place the China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue mechanism. We have established a comprehensive strategic partnership with the E.U., and a strategic relationship of mutual benefit with Japan. We have been actively engaged in the “BRIC” dialogue and the dialogue among the “five developing countries” and enjoyed ever stronger cooperation with the major emerging economies.

- 2) **Dedication to promoting peace, stability and prosperity in Asia.** Since the founding of the People’s Republic, we have given top priority to fostering good relations with neighbouring countries in our overall diplomacy. Though our specific policies toward these countries may have featured differently at different times, the fundamental policy of building good neighbourly relations has remained unchanged. We have been committed to building a harmonious surrounding environment featuring durable peace and common prosperity. Since the beginning of the new century, we have been pursuing the policy of building amicable relations and partnerships with our neighbours. We have jointly established the Shanghai Cooperation Organization with Russia and Central Asian countries, carried out dialogue with ASEAN and participated in the dialogue between ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea. Our trade and economic links with neighbouring countries are getting closer. China is now the largest trading partner of Japan, ROK, India, Vietnam and Mongolia.
- 3) **Strengthening solidarity and cooperation with developing countries as the basic point of departure of China’s diplomacy.** China has been enhancing solidarity and cooperation with other developing countries. After the founding of the People’s Republic, the Chinese government provided firm support to the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America in their just cause to gain and safeguard independence and develop national economy. Since the launch of the reform and opening up programme, China’s relations with developing countries in various parts of the world have made important progress. The Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which China hosted in 2006, was a great success, and eight measures were announced at the Summit to assist Africa’s development. China’s exchanges and cooperation with African countries in the political, economic and cultural fields have now entered a new stage. We have also set up the China-Arab Cooperation Forum, and our practical cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean region has been moving

ahead. Strengthening solidarity and developing mutually beneficial cooperation with the developing world is the foundation of China's diplomacy.

- 4) **Vigorously conducting multilateral diplomacy for closer international cooperation.** Since the founding of the People's Republic, and in particular since reform and opening up, China has played an increasingly important constructive role in seeking the settlement of major international and regional hot-spot issues, addressing global challenges and safeguarding world peace. As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China is committed to the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter and the peaceful resolution of international disputes through dialogue and negotiations, and has carried out international cooperation in various fields. We support reform of the United Nations and its Security Council, vigorously working for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and actively promoting reform of the international financial system. We are working closely with other countries to address climate change, energy security, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and other global challenges.

## **II Sino-Pak Relations**

- (i) China and Pakistan are close neighbours, dear friends, trusted partners and good brothers. The friendship and contacts between our two peoples have a time-honoured history. In the old days, they were linked by the Silk Road. In China's Tang dynasty, Hsuan-tsang, an eminent Chinese monk, studied Buddhism in Taxila on his pilgrimage to the west. His sojourn in Pakistan, recounted in a book entitled *The Great Tang Dynasty Record of the Western Regions*, is a popular account in the history of exchanges between the Chinese and Pakistani people.
- (ii) Pakistan recognized New China in 1950, and established diplomatic relations with China in 1951. Since then, China and Pakistan have maintained close and amicable relations with each other. One of the salient features of the Sino-Pak relationship is that leaders of both the countries attach great importance and give personal care to the relationship. Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai paid four official visits to Pakistan, while late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto visited China three times. Both of them laid the foundation of Sino-Pak friendship. Later on, Chinese leaders like Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao all emphasized the importance of Sino-Pak relationship. From the Pakistani side, late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto initiated some major

projects of cooperation with China. In 2005, the two countries signed the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighbourly Relations, and our strategic partnership of cooperation entered into a new stage. President Asif Ali Zardari has visited China four times over the past one year, and more than 30 cooperation projects have been finalized. The Chinese government and people are ready to work with the Pakistani side to carry on our traditional friendship and further deepen all-round cooperation.

- (iii) China and Pakistan are different in many ways. We have different social systems, different ideologies, and different religions. Our relationship, however, has stood the test of time. No matter what happened in the domestic affairs of the two countries or in international affairs, China and Pakistan have retained mutual trust, mutual support and mutual cooperation. The basic reason is that both the countries observe the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. We respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We never interfere in each other's internal affairs. We always consult each other about major issues on an equal basis. And, we conduct cooperation to mutual benefit. There is no clash of interests between China and Pakistan. The Sino-Pak relationship has become an example of state-to-state relations in the modern world.
- (iv) Another strong bond between China and Pakistan is our mutually beneficial cooperation. In 1953, our two countries inked the first-ever bilateral trade agreement. At that time, our bilateral trade was around U.S. \$ 10 million. In 2008, our bilateral trade reached U.S. \$ 7 billion. China has made efforts to assist in infrastructure development of Pakistan. The Karakoram Highway, the Chashma nuclear power plants and the Gwadar Port are some of the examples. In the defence field, we have Al-Khalid tanks, JF-17 fighter planes and F22P frigates. Pakistan was also affected by the current international financial crisis, and the Chinese government decided to provide U.S. \$ 1 billion as foreign exchange reserves to the State Bank of Pakistan to support the balance of payment. The Chinese government also provided 100 million Renminbi yuan assistance to the IDPs. Pakistan has been generous in helping China too. In 1970s and 80s, Pakistan gave air corridor to China for its external links. When China suffered from natural disasters of snow and earthquake in 2008, the Pakistani government extended valuable assistance to China. Thanks to the arrangements made by the Pakistani government, the Olympic torch relay was successfully held in April 2008. Both China and Pakistan are developing countries, and we have a lot of commonalities in the endeavour of social and economic construction. China will extend all

possible assistance to Pakistan to enhance our win-win cooperation in all fields. In 2006, we signed the Free Trade Agreement. And, in October 2008, both the governments finalized the free trade arrangements of service. China and Pakistan will enter into a real free trade agreement on October 10, 2009, thus trade of goods and services, as also investment will get a further boost.

- (v) For the past almost 60 years, China and Pakistan have shared identical views on major international and regional issues. Both of us advocate regional peace and stability, stand for peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiations, and harmonious coexistence of different civilizations and nations. In 1970s, Pakistan played a very important role in China's resumption of its legal seat in the U.N. Pakistan also helped in communicating between China and the USA at that time, opening a new chapter in Sino-U.S. relations. Recently, Pakistan has been an important country in the campaign against international terrorism, and has made great sacrifices in this battle. China appreciates Pakistan's anti-terrorism efforts. China is grateful to Pakistan's principled support on the issues of Taiwan, Tibet, human rights, fight against East Turkistan elements, etc.
- (vi) To sum up, I think the Sino-Pak relationship is mainly based on four important pillars. The first is political trust and understanding. There is a total consensus between our two leaderships and governments to further promote all-weather friendship and all-round cooperation. The second is national defence cooperation. We develop our national defence capacity for self-defence and for regional peace and stability as well. The third is economic cooperation. While we have achieved a lot in this regard, I think we still have big potentials to explore in trade, investment, and business cooperation. The fourth is people-to-people contacts. The Sino-Pak friendship is deeply rooted in the heart of our two peoples. However, both the governments need to establish more platforms and give more facilities for better understanding and communication between China and Pakistan.

China and Pakistan are great nations and close neighbours bound by common destiny and goals. Faced with the profound changes in the international situation, both of us have to overcome challenges and carry forward our traditional friendship. The Chinese government and people would join the Pakistani government and people in further strengthening Sino-Pak strategic partnership and building a harmonious world of enduring peace and common prosperity.