

## **President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Decide to Upgrade China-Pakistan Relations to All-Weather Strategic Partnership of Cooperation**

April 20, 2015

President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met in Islamabad during the first stop of President Jinping's overseas visit in 2015. Both sides unanimously agreed to upgrade the China-Pakistan relations to an all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation, constantly enrich the connotation of China-Pakistan community of common destiny and stay committed to China-Pakistan perpetual friendship from generation to generation.

Xi Jinping emphasised that China highly values developing its relations with Pakistan, and always takes the China-Pakistan relations as a priority in its diplomacy. Xi Jinping raised five proposals on developing the China-Pakistan relations from generation to generation:

**First**, maintain high-level exchanges, keep to the right direction and guide the development of the bilateral relations, and encourage counterpart exchanges between governments, legislatures, political parties and armed forces. China thanks Pakistan for its consistent support to China on issues concerning Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet, the South China Sea and others. China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, firmly support Pakistan's choice of development path according to its own national conditions, firmly support Pakistan in maintaining national stability and promoting economic and social development, and firmly support Pakistan in playing a constructive role in promoting regional peace and stability.

**Second**, center on the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and form a "1+4" cooperation pattern by focusing on cooperation in the Gwadar port, transportation infrastructure, energy and industry to achieve win-win cooperation and common development. Both sides should promote the construction of the Gwadar port for steady progress and promote the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

for a comprehensive, balanced and steady development to benefit the peoples and make it a major project with exemplary significance for the connectivity construction in the region. It is of significant meaning for the energy project in China-Pakistan cooperation to be chosen as the first project supported by the Silk Road Fund. Both sides should make overall plans for the construction of industrial parks along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and finalise negotiations on the China-Pakistan free trade area at an early date to lead the construction of free trade areas between China and the South Asian countries. China welcomes Pakistan to actively participate in the founding of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

**Third,** strengthen China-Pakistan security cooperation. China appreciates Pakistan's contribution to the international counter-terrorism campaign, firmly supports Pakistan in advancing its counter-terrorism strategy in accordance with its own national conditions and is willing to assist Pakistan in enhancing counter-terrorism capacity building. China hopes that Pakistan continues to take effective measures to safeguard the safety of Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan.

**Fourth,** jointly hold activities of the China-Pakistan Year of Friendly Exchanges in 2015 and promote exchanges in fields such as culture, education, local governments, youth, think tanks and media. In order to commend the contribution the relevant persons and groups made in promoting China-Pakistan friendship, China has decided to confer "Friendship Award of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" to the relevant folks and groups of Pakistan.

**Fifth,** make best use of platforms such as the United Nations (UN) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to enhance policy coordination and strategic cooperation in major international and regional issues such as the UN reform, climate change, and food and energy security. China appreciates Pakistan's adherence to good-neighbourly foreign policy, supports Pakistan in improving relations with its neighbours, and welcomes Pakistan to join the SCO as a full member. China values Pakistan's unique role in the Afghan issue, and is willing to

work with Pakistan to jointly promote the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan-China friendship is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, and agrees to strengthen bilateral people-to-people and cultural exchanges and is willing to advance bilateral exchanges in all fields through this year's Pakistan-China Year of Friendly Exchanges. Pakistan supports China's initiative of "Belt and Road" and will actively participate in the building of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Both sides signed and issued the "Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Establishing an All-weather Strategic Partnership of Cooperation", and witnessed the signing of over 50 bilateral cooperative documents related to fields such as transportation infrastructure, energy, agriculture, trade, finance, health care, local governments, media, marine science and education.

**Source:** [http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1256854.shtml](http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1256854.shtml).