**Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi**

**At the Presentation Ceremony of Photos at World Peace Museum**

Beijing: 29 November 2024

**Honourable Dr. Li Ruohong,**

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

**Colleagues from the Embassy,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good afternoon to you all,**

It is a great pleasure for me today to be here for the presentation ceremony at this prestigious and picturesque Peace Museum, where we take yet another stride to solidify our partnership.

I am also reminded of my first meeting with Dr. Li, when we had a long exchange of views on our economic, cultural and people-to-people ties.

Here we are strengthening our people-to-people ties.

Today we are presenting 10 photos of Pakistan, that have been taken by a group of tour operators whose exploration of Pakistan last year gave birth to some heart-warming photos. Their photographs offer a unique perspective that we are privileged to showcase today.

These photos holds special significance for several reasons:

First and foremost, these offer you a glimpse of Pakistan through Chinese eyes. The perspectives presented here today are captured by Chinese tour operators, reflecting moments that resonated with them during their visit to Pakistan. These images tell a story of connection--of what draws our two nations together, not just diplomatically, but through shared human experiences. The photographs on display today are more than just images; they are a testament to the bond between our peoples, seen through the lens of Chinese visitors.

Secondly, these photos celebrate the flourishing of people-to-people exchanges between our two great nations. As highlighted in the joint statement by our leadership, 2023 was declared the Year of Tourism Exchanges between Pakistan and China. In the wake of the pandemic, as travel restrictions eased, Pakistan was declared among one of countries on the list of approved destinations for outbound group tourism by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The visit by these tour operators stands as a significant milestone in this regard.

Thirdly, the exhibition is a celebration of what we hold dear--our shared heritage, our natural beauty, and our deep-rooted friendship. The picturesque landscapes of Gilgit-Baltistan, connecting our nations through the Khunjerab Pass; the enduring emotions of the China-Pakistan friendship, a bond as strong and precious as gold; the ancient connections through the Gandhara civilization; and the spontaneous moments of joy captured in these photographs—all are central themes of today’s exhibition.

We are very happy that the photos have found a permanent place for display in this beautiful museum, thanks to the generous attempt by Dr. Li.

Thank you, and I hope these photos ignite your curiosity and imagination.