**Video Message by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi at the**

**Opening Ceremony of the Seminar on Building an Upgraded Version of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from 17-30 December 2024**

**(Beijing, 17 December 2024)**

**Honourable Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan,**

**Distinguished Vice Chairman of China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC),**

**Dear Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good afternoon and Dajia Hao,**

I would like to start by thanking the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) for hosting this very important seminar*.* Let me also convey my heartfelt thanks to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its solid support towards this important activity.

The two weeks study and field visit provides a great learning opportunity to our senior civil servants from Pakistan about China’s governance system, its development philosophy and strategy and its rapid social and economic progress.

The convening of this seminar is a timely undertaking. It represents implementation of the consensus among our leadership; it is also the practical manifestation of the guiding principles of our unique friendship i.e. mutual trust, respect, support and benefit. It signifies how the two countries closely coordinate, consult and collaborate on a range of bilateral relations, especially when it comes to CPEC 1 and CPEC 2.0.

This seminar also serves as an excellent platform to hold in-depth discussions and communications to align our shared goals of promoting connectivity, mutual economic integration and sustainable development. It underscores the commitment of our leaders to advance regional prosperity through innovation, inclusivity and knowledge sharing.

Last year, CPEC successfully entered into its next phase of high-quality development. As we coordinate and consult on its upgraded version, the guiding framework as espoused by President Xi Jinping at 3rd BRI Forum last year remains clear i.e. harnessing the eight major steps of Belt and Road cooperation while forging the “upgraded version” of CPEC and by jointly setting up corridors of growth, livelihood-enhancing, innovation, green development and inclusivity.

CPEC 2.0 also aligns with Pakistan’s long-term economic goals, as enshrined in our 5Es Framework, i.e. exports, e-Pakistan, environment, energy and equity.

**Dear participants,**

Apart from discussions in rooms, participants would have the opportunity for field trips to two leading cities in South China, each one of which has so much to offer in terms of experiential learning, best practices and success stories in governance, efficiency and leadership.

A visit to Haikou Integrated Free Trade Zone would offer useful opportunity to learn about Chinese experience of crafting and implementing preferential policies and development of high-tech industrial clusters in the Zone.

Shenzhen High-Tech Industrial Park would present a firsthand view of China's remarkable success in leveraging ‘reforms and opening-up’ policies to drive innovation and economic transformation. As one of the early symbols of China’s reform era, Shenzhen represents an inspiring example of transformation from a small fishing village into a global technology and manufacturing powerhouse within a generation.

The field tour to BYD electric vehicles giant in Shenzhen showcases China's leadership in the development of New Energy Vehicles (NEV) industry, projecting innovative technologies and sustainable practices that are shaping the future of clean mobility worldwide.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you benefit from this opportunity to observe first hand China’s governance, its massive industrialization, the functioning of SEZs, industrial parks and innovative practices, I wish to advise colleagues to participate actively in lectures and discussions.

This seminar provides yet another valuable opportunity to forge friendships in China. These would come in handy for you as you design and implement policies and projects of CPEC into its next phase. I strongly recommend drawing the right inspiration from Chinese system’s good practices of high-quality coordination and cooperation.

I would also advise closer coordination within Ministries and Departments in Pakistan ahead of CPEC’s meetings of its nearly a dozen Joint Working Groups. This timely coordination would also instill greater predictability into convening of these meetings in a timely fashion. Doing so would also help turn your meetings with Chinese counterparts more productive and result-oriented

Finally, I urge you to fully leverage the opportunities this seminar offers, hone your professional knowledge, skills and competencies by observing and interacting with Chinese experts. And we will more importantly bring the experience, knowledge and insights that we gained from your trip to China and from this Seminar to bear on our friendship and partnership with China in ways that we build an even closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

Thank you and I extend my best wishes to all of you!

Long Live China Pakistan Friendship. Xie Xie!