**Remarks by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi at 10th China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electric Products (CCCME) New Year Reception**

 **(Beijing: 19 December 2024)**

Dear Mr. Zhang Yujing, President of CCCME

It is a great privilege to join you today at the 10th CCCME New Year Reception. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to CCCME for hosting this remarkable event and for the honor of addressing such an esteemed audience. This is my first interaction with CCCME, and I am deeply impressed by its extraordinary legacy as a nationwide organization representing over 10,000 member enterprises across diverse industries and supply chains. You truly embody the strength, innovation, and excellence of China’s machinery and electronics sectors.

As a Chinese proverb says, A single spark can start a prairie fire. I am confident that today’s engagement will ignite new opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and shared prosperity between Pakistan and CCCME.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan and China enjoy a truly unique and enduring strategic partnership, often described as being “iron brothers.” Over the years, this relationship has evolved from its foundations in politics and culture to become a robust and dynamic economic partnership. Initiatives such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) underscore our shared commitment to progress and mutual growth.

We are now entering an exciting phase of CPEC—Phase II—centered on fostering business-to-business partnerships, strengthening investment opportunities for Chinese companies in Pakistan, and advancing our mutual prosperity.

Our Embassy has already taken significant steps to deepen B2B collaboration:

- In June 2024, we organized the Pakistan-China Business Conference, which brought together 105 Pakistani and 250 Chinese companies. Over 1,000 business meetings were held, resulting in 30 MOUs, two-thirds of which have already been executed. This successful event set the foundation for a series of sector-specific B2B initiatives.

- We conducted matchmaking events in fisheries, textiles, fruits and vegetables processing, animal fodder, leather and footwear, which led to over 600 productive meetings, the signing of over 37 MOUs and investments worth over $400 million.

- A landmark MOU was signed with the China National Textile and Apparel Council to establish textile industrial parks in Pakistan, fostering trade and joint ventures.

Looking ahead, we are eager to build on these successes and deepen our collaboration with CCCME. Starting with the Surgical Instruments and Medical Devices event in January 2025, we envision partnering with CCCME to organize B2B events across key sectors, including electronics manufacturing, chemicals, ICT, semiconductors, and petrochemicals.

We also propose that the Board of Investment (BOI), Government of Pakistan, and CCCME enter into a framework agreement to establish a long-term structure for cooperation, promoting investment and fostering a win-win partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan offers immense opportunities for Chinese businesses. With a young, dynamic workforce, strategic access to regional and global markets, and investor-friendly policies, Pakistan is an ideal destination for investment and growth. Our preferential trade agreements and incentives under Special Economic Zones are designed to support foreign investors and ensure the success of our economic collaboration with China.

As another Chinese saying reminds us, “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Let today be the beginning of a new chapter of collaboration between the Embassy of Pakistan and CCCME. Together, we can create a brighter future for our businesses, industries, and people.

Thank you, and I look forward to a strong and fruitful partnership with CCCME in 2025. We hope to welcome your delegation to Pakistan in the near future.