

## **Understanding Pakistan-China Relations through the Joint Statement (2021-2022)**

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### **Abstract**

Pakistan-China diplomatic relations span more than seven decades of cordial relations and represent a unique example in the current international political system of the world. Until the turn of the century, the relationship of the neighboring friends was limited mostly to government-to-government, political, defense, and diplomatic cooperation. However, since the start of this century, the relationship has been expanded in economic and socio-economic spheres. The realization that the two countries need each other more in the changed regional and global setting is visible on both sides. Nevertheless, understanding of each other's society and culture still needs to be explored. Currently, bilateral cooperation, under the ambit of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has given this relationship an added impetus by bringing in extraordinary prospects of not only bilateral cooperation but also regional integration and development and securing China's unhindered access to the rest of the world. The thirty-three points statement has been analyzed to fathom the depth of China Pakistan bilateral ties. Both states are continuously struggling to evolve procedures, concepts, and mechanisms to keep augmenting the bond of friendship.

**Key Words:** China, Pakistan, Joint statement, Relations, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

### **Introduction**

In this paper, the recent development in Pakistan-China bilateral relations is discussed, which is termed the Pakistan-China joint statement or 33 points. The two countries issue this current joint statement by signing an MoU during the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister to China at the invitation of the host country on the occasion of the Olympic game show. In February 2022 Prime Minister of Pakistan visited China at their invitation and signed an MoU with his counterpart for the

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betterment of mutual relations between the two friend countries, which is termed the Pakistan-China Joint Statement. Before going into the details of the joint statement of 33 points, a brief description of the mutual ties between the two countries is worth mentioning here. From the very beginning, since the independence of the two neighboring countries, they have had a very sound and cooperative relationship. Undoubtedly, China is the most reliable friend of Pakistan and has never failed Pakistan in its hour of need. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a turning point in making this Pak-China relationship stronger and more stable. This mega and billions project magically increased their strategic coordination and converged on emerging issues in the regional security environments and at multilateral forums. In a way, focusing on CPEC meant that CPEC is central to the Pakistan-China relationship (Faisal, [2020](#)).

**CPEC: Flagship Project of BRI:** CPEC is best seen as the economic peg in the wider strategic relationship between Pakistan and China (Allauddin et al., [2020](#)). The inauguration of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor by the Chinese President is a candid reflection of the shared economic and trade prospects between the two neighbors (Malik, [2017](#); Shabbir, [2017](#)). During his visit to Pakistan on the occasion of signing the CPEC mega project, President Xi Jinping signed 51 agreements to improve trade, commerce, and people-to-people contacts, preservation of heritage, communication, and private sector investments. A large part of the Chinese investment is used for the Gwadar Port facility, the up-gradation of the second phase of the Karakoram Highway, connecting the motorways, the building of various mega infrastructural projects, including the capacity building, and the erection of new energy projects to address the energy crisis in Pakistan (Sayed, [2021](#)). Chinese investment in energy-related projects is estimated to augment the energy generation up to 10,400 MW for which US\$33 billion is expected. Both renewable and non-renewable mega projects include a 1,320 MW coal-fired plant in Sahiwal, a US\$130 million wind power plant near Karachi which would produce 130 million kWh of electricity per annum, and two 1,100 MW nuclear power plants with a US\$6.5 billion investment (Ahmad, [2019](#); Small, [2020](#)). An iconic effort that has enabled easy land access to trade and human movement is the construction of the Karakoram Highway connecting the Chinese Xinjiang Province with the Pakistani Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province (Small, [2015](#)) (Khan & Kasi, [2017](#)). Through this project, not only the relations between the two countries have developed but they have also boosted

their economic, strategic, defense, and military relations. (Malik, [2017](#); Husain, [2016](#); Khan & Nawaz, [2021](#)).

### **33 Points Joint Statement of Pakistan and China (February 2022)**

The current Joint Statement of Pakistan and China is a summary of the whole bilateral relation between the two neighboring states. This statement was issued on the occasion of the Olympic Games opening ceremony in China when Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan was invited by the Chinese government on a special occasion. Both the leadership of the states opined on their views on the long and stable relationship. They also stated that their mutual strong relationship is a unique example in the world. They stated that their relationship is stronger than steel, sweeter than honey, higher than the Himalayas, and deeper than the ocean. The 33 points of the statement are discussed one by one here within;

The Chinese leadership invited the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to visit Beijing from 3 to February 06, 2022, to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games 2022. During the visit, the Prime Minister held talks with H.E. President Xi Jinping and H.E. Premier Li Keqiang (Xinhua, [2022](#)). On the morning of February 06, 2022, at the Great Hall, Chinese President Xi Jinping met the Prime Minister of Pakistan at the opening ceremony of the Olympic games. President Xi Jinping stated that the past year, 2021, has been of great significance for China and Pakistan's good relations. In celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pakistan and China bilateral relationship, the two countries also reviewed the past historical relations and future better relations with great confidence. Chinese counterpart also stated that China is always ready to stand work with Pakistan to boost their mutual relation, provide great momentum to regional cooperation, and contribution the regional and world peace and prosperity (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 2022). Pakistan always has a very cordial relationship with China, which is why China is termed a weather friend of Pakistan. China always invites the leadership of Pakistan on such special occasions that further boost and strengthen our relationship with the most reliable neighbor.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan appreciated the Chinese Government for their outstanding and meticulous arrangements and congratulated the Chinese government for hosting the games in a streamlined, safe, and splendid manner. The authorities of the two sides agreed that the Olympic

Games are a worldwide occasion that fosters mutual understanding, inclusivity, and friendship among the people of the globe. The Chinese leadership acknowledged the participation of the Prime Minister in the Winter Olympic Games as a mark of iron brotherhood and solidarity between Pakistan and China. Authorities of the two sides agreed to establish and maintain a very high-level exchange and strengthen institutional linkages at all levels. China and Pakistan's high authorities also agreed to maintain the tradition of mutual trust relations, cooperation, and strong historical bond, and in-depth strategic assistance.

**The Spectrum of Bilateral Relations:** The interactions of the two counterparts' countries during the meeting on the occasion held an in-depth exchange of views on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations as well as the regional situation and international political landscape. The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, strategic mutual trust, and commonality of the views that characterize the relationship of Pakistan-China All-Weather Partners. Both friends agreed that China and Pakistan should carry the tradition of mutual trust, mutual support, and cooperation. Chinese counterpart narrated that China always supported Pakistan and will always support Pakistan whenever needed and will always safeguard its national independence, dignity, and sovereignty. Xi Jinping noted that China is always ready to work jointly with Pakistan to speed up the building of a closer and shared future for Pakistan for the benefit of the people of the two countries and to maintain peace and prosperity in the region.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan lauded the role of the Communist Party of China for its long-maintained peace and development in China. CPC leadership with President Xi Jinping is the core leader of China's growth and prosperity and appreciates President Xi Jinping for his struggle and contribution to promoting the enduring Pakistan-China partnership. CPC and its leading body no doubt did a lot for the development and prosperity of China. CPC has a very positive role in keeping good relations and maintaining peace in the regional and international environment.

The leaders of the two countries reaffirmed that the close strategic relations and deep-rooted friendship between China and Pakistan are time-tested and undying. The bilateral relationship served the interests of both countries and was the historic preference of the people of both countries. The Pakistani leader underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign ties and that the closest friendship with China enjoys the continued support of the people of Pakistan. Both sides reaffirmed their support on issues concerning each other's basic

interests. The Pakistan counterpart expressed its commitment to the One-China Policy and support for China on Taiwan, the South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang, and Tibet. The Chinese side reiterated its support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence, and security, as well as promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity.

On behalf of Pakistan, the Prime Minister gave his invitation to H.E. President Xi Jinping for a state visit to Pakistan and stated that the people of Pakistan looked forward to welcoming him at an early date. The two counterparts reaffirmed their intention to undertake the visit at a mutually convenient time. Prime Minister of Pakistan also stated that the visits of the officials will enhance our communication and coordination, which will lead to the development of our relations and mutual ties.

The leadership of the two sides was pleased to observe that the 70th anniversary of the establishment of successful diplomatic ties celebrated last year marked an important milestone in the diplomatic history of the two states. They stated that the mutual trust and friendship of the two states have gone through the test of 70 years of international changes, but mutual ties remain rock-solid and have become the most valuable strategic relation (70th anniversary of diplomatic ties: Pak China president, PMs exchange greetings, 2021). Leadership talking about more than 140 celebratory activities organized by the two countries had reshaped the friendship between the peoples of Pakistan and China with ingrained impressions to inspire future generations of the two countries.

**Successful Joint Fight Against COVID:** The leadership of the two states reviewed their satisfaction with the outcome of the three sessions of the Foreign Minister Strategic Dialogue, which were held on July 24, 2021, under the supervision of state Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China and Foreign Minister of Pakistan at Chengdu, Sichuan province of China. In which two sides held in-depth views on economic, strategic, and security cooperation. They also made a consensus on peace-building, the COVID-19 battle, Afghanistan peace process other international and regional issues, and the development and prosperity of the region. On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games Show, the leaders of the two sides reviewed and stated their contentment with the outcome of three sessions of the Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and agreed to hold its next meeting early.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister underscored that CPEC is the core project of BRI. In fact, it has been rightly called a flagship project because it aims for regional connectivity, to connect the neighborhood of East and West Asia, improving infrastructure, trade and commerce, energy supply, peace and development, diverse investment opportunities, industrial, agriculture, and financial cooperation, tourism, human resources development, education linkage, increased livelihood opportunity, good health opportunity and security and stability of the region are the main concern of the mega project. CPEC has completed its many projects very speedily and efficiently. CPEC has significantly contributed to Pakistan's economic and social development, in line with its shift to geo-economics and the economic security agenda of promoting trade, investments, and connectivity at a very great level (Ali, [2018](#); CPEC Gwadar Projects, [2018](#)).

The leadership of both sides acknowledged the major contribution of gigantic CPEC projects, particularly in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure, in strengthening Pakistan's key role in regional connectivity. The leaders reaffirmed their support for CPEC's speedy completion, high-quality development, and commitment to ensuring the smooth operation of completed projects and the timely completion of projects under construction. The authorities of the countries took note of the signing of a Framework Agreement on industrial cooperation. They agreed further to leverage the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both countries to contribute to Pakistan's industrialization in an all-round way. The Chinese leader appreciated the Prime Minister's launch of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum. They applauded the overall struggle of the Pakistani government to strengthen ties and said that it would enhance B2B cooperation between the business sectors of both countries.

**CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee:** The leaders agreed to assign the task to the CPEC's Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to strengthen further cooperation across all areas, including in the fields of trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernization, scientific and technological cooperation, and socio-economic well-being of the regional people. Other than this, the two sides agreed to extend close bilateral cooperation in the areas of health, environment, and information communication technology. The leadership also affirmed to launch of the China-Pakistan health, industry, and trade green and digital corridors.

The leadership of the two sides highlighted the significance of Gwadar as a central pillar of CPEC and an important role in regional connectivity. Gwadar port is strategically and militarily very

significant for both China and Pakistan. It is the focal point of the whole CPEC project. Due to its prime location, Gwadar connects three regions, i.e., Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East. The development of Gwadar under the CPEC will not only involve the building of port facilities but also all sorts of residential and commercial infrastructures. This development also flows the natural resources of Central Asia to the world and creates hundreds and thousands of employment opportunities for local people. Both sides agreed to jointly speed up the construction and operation of Gwadar Port and build Gwadar's low-carbon circular industry zone. They both agreed to build high-quality livelihood projects for the socio-economic development of Gwadar city and its local people (Anwar, [2011](#)).

**Safeguarding CPEC Projects:** Both counterparts expressed their concern over the security threats posed to CPEC. Authorities of the two sides showed their strong determination to safeguard CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda. They further added that they will identify the challenges to the successful completion of CPEC and will take effective steps and measures to tackle these security issues. Taking note of the issue, they elaborated that security issues include propaganda against CPEC, insurgency in Baluchistan, regional hand in security issues, terrorist activities, foreign hand in sabotage activities, and extremism in the country (Umar et al., [2019](#)). Pakistani leadership reaffirmed its commitment to making all efforts for the security of all Chinese personnel, projects, and institutions in Pakistan. The Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the measures taken by Pakistan in this security regard.

CPEC is a win-win enterprise and vital for regional development and prosperity and has enhanced regional connectivity as well. They also added that it is an open and inclusive initiative, so third parties are always welcome to benefit from investment opportunities in CPEC and Special Economic Zones (SEZs). They said that the CPEC project is a game changer for the whole region, facilitating connectivity across central Asia and other continents of the world. CPEC welcomes foreign investment and has eased terms and conditions for starting a business. So many foreign countries have shown interest, and this project will be an international economic project for the development and prosperity of not only Pakistan and China but the whole region and world (Anwar, [2022](#)).

The Prime Minister appreciated and thanked the Chinese leadership for the provision of COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan. Two sides also expressed their satisfaction with the close cooperation and

successful containment of the virus, anti-pandemic supplies, and virus research and development. Chinese authorities promised to continue to support and help Pakistan in strengthening its national health system and tackling the disruptions of COVID-19 economic and social development. Both leaders agreed that their mutual support, cooperation, and solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic were in keeping with the time-honored traditions of Pakistan-China friendship and that both sides would always continue supporting efforts to overcome the pandemic.

The authorities of the two sides firmly agreed to extend and enhance their existing cooperation in developing emergency response systems. China also helped to develop the public health infrastructure and joint ventures for the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan to tackle similar challenges in the future. During the coronavirus pandemic, Chinese authorities extended their generous support. They provided vaccines, masks, and sanitizers. China always provided their cooperation in such emergencies. Pakistan was not only the first country to receive vaccines from China but also a country to receive the largest donation of vaccines from China. Other than this Chinese military also donated a batch of vaccines to the Pakistani military. On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games Show, the Chinese agreed that China would always provide assistance to tackle such emergency challenges.

**Flourishing Bilateral Trade:** Both the leaders of the countries appreciated with great satisfaction to note the record increase in bilateral trade volume in 2021. They agreed to further consolidate and further expand bilateral trade ties and cooperation with full utilization of the 2nd Phase of the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement. The Chinese authority welcomed more of Pakistan's high-quality food and agricultural products to the Chinese market. The Enhanced Economic and trade cooperation between the two traditional friends has become more pragmatic. China is the second largest export country for Pakistan, and the Pakistani government is making efforts to further boost its exports to China by promoting its manufacturing industries (Nazir, [2021](#)). Trade between Pakistan and China is increasing rapidly.

On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Olympics, games show both the authorities welcomed the establishment of Pakistan's pavilions on Chinese e-commerce platforms. Both sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in e-commerce, setting up online payment systems, and cooperating in logistics, warehousing, and customs facilitation. They firmly agreed that China and Pakistan will continue to extend their cooperation in cross-border e-commerce for the prosperity



and development of the two states. They further stated that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the proportion of online transactions would continue to grow rapidly (China will continue to cooperate in cross-border e-commerce, 2022).

Both sides showed satisfaction with the successful holding of the 15th Session of the Pakistan-China Joint Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation on December 08, 2021. Both sides spoke highly of the progress of China-Pakistan bilateral economic trade cooperation. Both the authorities agreed that jointly building a closer community with a shared interests and bilateral economic cooperation will lead practical implantation of the MoU signed by the two countries. They also agreed on the establishment of a working group between China and Pakistan under the framework of economic cooperation to provide cooperation for poverty alleviation in the field of commerce (The 15th Session of the China-Pakistan Joint Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation Was Successfully Held, 2021). They agreed to leverage this important mechanism to further enhance overall bilateral economic engagement between the two countries.

**China: Poverty Alleviation Model:** The Pakistani leadership highly appreciated China's goals of poverty reduction in the new era as scheduled at the end of 2020 and the achievement of lifting 770 million people out of absolute poverty and encouraged the Chinese Government and people greater succeeding in achieving the goals of socialist modernization and national revivalism. The story of China's poverty reduction is the story of persistent growth through economic transformation. The main base of China's poverty alleviation was economic transformation and the role of effective governance (Lifting 800 Million People Out of Poverty- New Report Looks at Lessons from China's Experience, 2022). The Chinese counterpart also appreciated Pakistan's Ehsaas Programme for poverty reduction and restated its support to Pakistan for infrastructure development in several fields, including agriculture, education, health, safe drinking water, and vocational training to reduce poverty.

Pakistan and China both sides took note with great affirmation of strong educational cooperation between the two countries and their strong commitment to further enhance cooperation in the education sector and among the educational institutions in Pakistan and China. Pakistani Prime Minister highlighted that China has become a popular education hub for Pakistani students. Both countries agreed that they would facilitate higher education institutions and research centers in

both countries, focusing on the mutual priority areas of scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, and socio-economic development. They further ensured the safety against COVID-19, that China will make special arrangements for Pakistani students to return to China and prudently resume classes.

The importance of tourism cooperation, people-to-people contacts, and cultural exchanges for strong bilateral cooperation was highlighted. For upgrading tourism cooperation, Pakistan and China signed the MoU of Tourism Exchanges and Cooperation in November last year. The MoU covers all the aspects of tourism cooperation from policy formulation and institutional support for the development of tourism. This will provide assistance and support for Pakistan to upgrade and develop its touristic infrastructure and facilities, which will boost the flow of domestic and international tourists in Pakistan. They also agreed to establish a joint working group to initiate specific projects for the development of tourism with mutual consultation (Pakistan and China sign MoU to deepen tourism cooperation and exchanges, 2021). The two countries agreed to celebrate the Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and to establish strong linkages between the tourism promotion agencies and private enterprises of the two countries.

The leadership of the two sides endorsed making all possible efforts in support of greater civilizational exchanges between Pakistan and China and further expanding cooperation for the conservation and presentation of the heritage and artifacts of the two countries. They also added that China-Pakistan cultural exchange cooperation had made continued headways since the diplomatic relationship between the two countries. They also reaffirmed that the different exchange programs and cooperation of art, literature, education, information, youth affairs, and cultural relics have been arranged in the past. We are also looking for such a strong commitment and cooperation in the fields of art and culture in the future. Because China and Pakistan, due to their neighboring position, have a shared cultural history. We want to strengthen our ties in cultural norms as well. Besides this, the authorities of the two sides warmly welcomed the organizing of a Gandhara Art Exhibition at the Palace Museum in Beijing in 2022.

**Bilateral Defense Cooperation:** During the interaction of authorities of China and Pakistan agreed to continue the momentum in defense cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries at various levels. They underlined that the stronger defense and security cooperation between Pakistan and China is an important factor in peace and stability in the region. Pakistan

and China reaffirmed their strategic partnership and agreed to continue the regular exchange of perspectives on mutual interest. The authorities of the two sides also vowed to enhance their military training, technology, and counterterrorism cooperation. They also agreed that military-to-military cooperation has assumed great significance because of changing development and terrorism (Yousaf, [2022](#)).

**Acknowledgment of the Sacrifices of Pakistan:** The Chinese authority acknowledged the sacrifices and endeavors of the Pakistani authority and its people in the fight against terrorists and terrorism. They appreciated the efforts of Pakistan its military operation and civilian sacrifices against the War on Terror are admired by the Chinese authority. Pakistan's human and financial loss in this fight against terrorism is remarkable. They also stated that no country in the world suffered and made efforts against terrorism as Pakistan and its people have done. The authorities of the two sides reaffirmed their agreement to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

**Peaceful South Asia:** The leadership of the two sides underlined that a peaceful and developed South Asia is the common interest of all the countries of the region. They emphasized the importance of peace talks, dialogue, and resolution of all regional disputes. They stressed on peaceful settlement of all the issues and disputes in the region. They further added that a peaceful region can lead to prosperity, development, and stability. Both the authorities agreed that political and social stability and peace are directly proportional to economic stability and development. They stressed that maintaining peace and stability in South Asia is their utmost goal and aim, which will lead to the development and prosperity of the region.

The Pakistan leadership expressed and briefed the Chinese authority on the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir. They talked about its concerns, position, and pressing issues at the moment. Both sides underlined that a peaceful, stable, and cooperative South Asia is needed for the state and common interest of the whole region. All states must solve their issues of equality and mutual respect through talks and dialogue. This is a democratic era, and every state has the right to decide its own fate; no state can usurp the sovereignty of any state. Such disputes lead to political crises and destabilization of the whole region. The Pakistani authority discussed in detail the deteriorated situation of Kashmir. The response by the Chinese authority gave a very clear statement that the Kashmir dispute should be solved peacefully and properly and based on the UN Charter. The Kashmir issue is left by history, but now, the peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute is the

need of the day. China opposed any unilateral action on the Kashmir issue, which can further complicate the situation of Kashmir and may lead to dire consequences for the whole region (Anwar, [2022](#)). It should be solved according to the UN Charter, Security Council resolution, and bilateral agreement.

**Support for the suffering People of Afghanistan:** Both the state authorities stressed the issue of Afghanistan and its current situation during their conversation. They emphasized that peace and stability in Afghanistan are very crucial for regional political, economic, and social stability. In the situation of Afghanistan, the authorities of the two sides agreed that all concerned parties in Afghanistan should take effective measures, necessary assistance, and comprehensive political settlement through dialogue to maintain eternal peace and stability in Afghanistan. They further added that a stable, peaceful, united, safe, and secure Afghanistan is essential for the development, prosperity, and progress of the region. They both expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of two Foreign Ministers' meetings of the six neighboring countries on the Afghanistan situation and looking forward to its next meeting which will be held in China. Both sides agreed to discuss with Afghanistan the holding of the China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue.

Both sides emphasized the urgent need to accelerate the humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and its people to prevent the largest-ever humanitarian crisis and drew the attention of the international community to provide continued and enhanced help and support to Afghanistan, including through unfreezing of their financial assets. The two sides' authorities also showed their willingness to discuss with Afghanistan the extension of the CPEC project to Afghanistan. The Chinese leadership appraised the Pakistan authorities for hosting the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Organization of Islamic Council (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers in Afghanistan on December 19, 2021. Both sides committed to continue their support and close cooperation in Afghanistan in the future for the well-being of Afghanistan and the whole region.

Both countries showed their satisfaction over the close and committed cooperation at the multilateral forums and deepened strategic coordination, consultation, and communication. The leadership of the two countries expressed their commitment, willingness, and full cooperation on different issues at a regional and international forum such as the United Nations (UN) Shanghai Cooperation Organization and ASEAN. They agreed to extend and deepen cooperation and coordination to safeguard their mutual interests. They reaffirmed their commitment to the goals

and principles of the UN Charter, commitment and support for multilateralism and win-win cooperation.

**The Global Development Initiative:** Prime Minister of Pakistan welcomed and extended his support for the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, which mainly aims to promote international cooperation and accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda to achieve a more just and sustainable world. Chinese President Xi Jinping promised to help the world community recover from the recent setbacks and speed up the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) worldwide. The Chinese authorities ensured that we are always ready and will continue to provide the best possible support and assistance to ensure the Global Development Initiatives (GDI) alignment with the SDGs and recognized international norms and standards. China, as the second largest economy, has and can play a significant role in sharing its experiences, lessons, and resources with other developing countries to assist in making this ambitious development initiative that accelerates the realization of the 2030 agenda (Chatterjee, [2022](#)). At last leaders of the two sides reaffirmed their strong commitment to further strengthening the development partnership under the GDI.

Prime Minister of Pakistan extended his gratification to the authorities and people of China for their warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to him. Imran Khan thanked the Chinese arena. He also stated China always stands side by side with Pakistan in every emergency and needed time. Imran Khan thanked the Chinese leadership for his continued support and deeper cooperation in the political, economic, military, defense, and security arena. At last, Imran Khan praised and expressed his compliments and good wishes for China's continued progress and development (Xinhua, [2022](#)).

The authorities of the two sides concluding the official ceremony signed several agreements / MoUs, covering all bilateral cooperation in areas of economic, technical, industry, investment, infrastructure, space, COVID-19 pandemic vaccine, digitalization, standardization, disaster management, emergency situations, culture, sports, and vocational education. The authorities remarked that these MoUs will bolster the bilateral relationship and iron-clad partnership between China and Pakistan and will enter into a new phase of cooperation and commitment that will further strengthen their bilateral ties (Ahmed, [2022](#); Xinhua, [2022](#)).

**Conclusion:** The analysis of the lengthy statement highlights a few points, which are summarized as follows: Cooperation and connectivity are crucial for sustainable development and prosperity. Nations avoid isolation through diplomacy, and the bilateral friendly relations between Pakistan and China are a solid source of regional peace and stability. The mutual ties between Pakistan and China are based on mutual trust, cooperation, and coordination. The history of these relations, which are spread over several decades, shows that these close bilateral relations between China and Pakistan strengthened with the passage of time. It is a unique example in diplomatic history that the two countries have cooperated with one another in every weal and woe. Economic cooperation has remained one of the main features of this stable relationship between Pakistan and China. China has realized that political stability in a state is not possible without economic stability. China and Pakistan planned CPEC a full-fledged mega project initiated to strengthen regional connectivity and development. This mega and game-changer project turned this mutual bilateral relationship into long-lasting economic ties. In this research paper, Pakistan-China relations are discussed under the 33-point agenda. These 33 points have been analyzed thoroughly which is a summary of the mutual assistance and relations of two neighboring countries. In these 33 points, leaders of the two countries agreed on several MOUs of cooperation in terms of trade, commerce, tourism, the emergency pandemic, the Kashmir issue, the Afghanistan issue, and many common interests cooperation has been highlighted. These points highlight that the relations between the two countries flourished with every passing moment since their establishment and cover almost every aspect of the comprehensive relationship between Pakistan and China. These points also underline that leadership on both sides has a clear vision of global, regional, and bilateral developments.

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