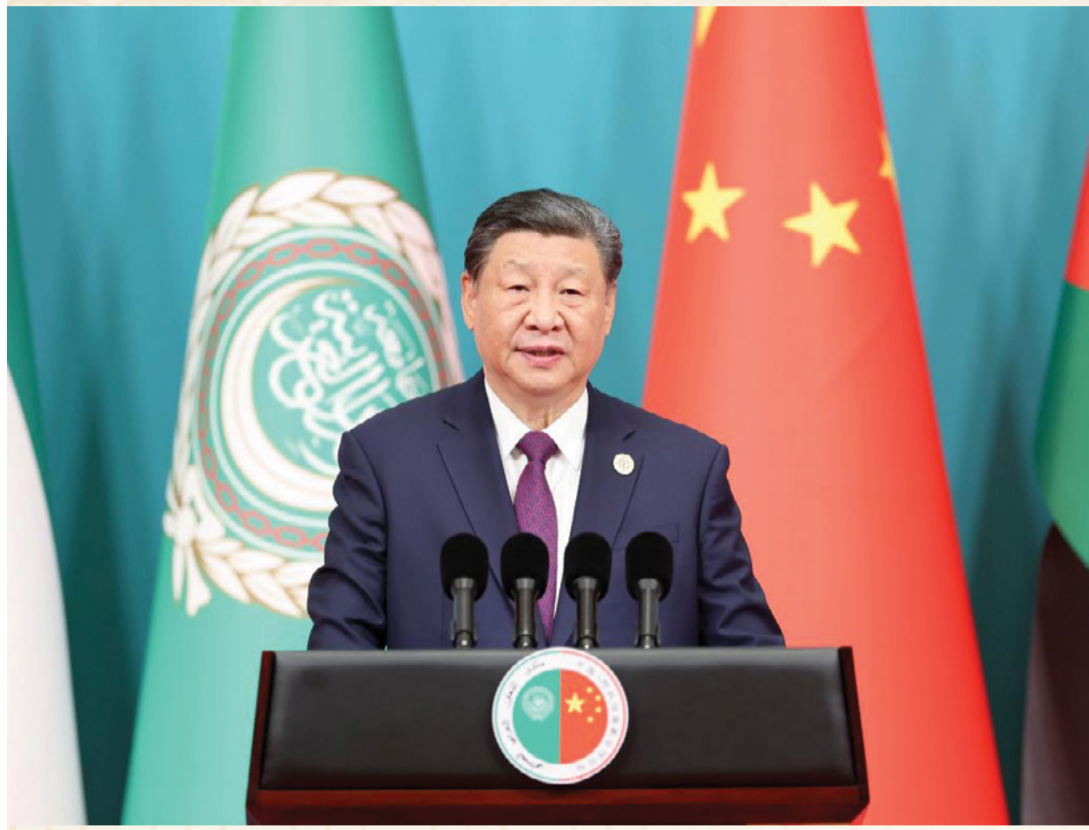


# The 10th Ministerial Conference of the CHINA-ARAB STATES COOPERATION FORUM



INSIDE

Wednesday, July 10, 2024



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the opening ceremony of The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum and delivers a keynote speech at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

## Further Deepening Cooperation and Moving Forward to Step up the Building of a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future

**K**eynote Speech by H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, at the opening ceremony of The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum in Beijing on May 30, 2024.

- Your Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa,
- Your Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi,
- Your Excellency President Kais Saied,
- Your Highness President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan,
- Your Excellency Secretary General Ahmed About Gheit of the League of Arab States,
- Heads of Delegations,
- Distinguished Guests,
- Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to attend the opening ceremony of the Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. I always find it heart-warming to meet Arab friends. The friendship between the Chinese and Arab peoples is deeply rooted in our friendly exchanges along the ancient Silk Road, in our joint struggles for national liberation, and in our win-win cooperation in promoting national development.

China-Arab relations have kept scaling new heights since the beginning of the new century. At the first China-Arab States Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December 2022, my Arab colleagues and I agreed unanimously to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era. China is satisfied with the progress we have made in delivering on the Summit's

outcomes. It will work with the Arab side to enhance the role of the Summit in providing strategic guidance for continued leapfrog growth of China-Arab relations. I am pleased to announce that we will host the second Summit in China in 2026, which will be another milestone in China-Arab relations.

Distinguished Guests,  
Friends,

As changes unseen in a century unfold rapidly across the world, both China and Arab states strive to accomplish their historical missions of national rejuvenation and faster national development. Building a China-Arab community with a shared future is a strong statement of our common desire for a new era of China-Arab relations and a better future for the world.

**China will work with the Arab side as good partners to make our relations a model for maintaining world peace and stability.** In this turbulent world, peaceful relations come from mutual respect, and lasting security is built on fairness and justice. We will, together with the Arab side, respect the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter, the independent choice of every nation and the reality formed in history, and strive together for solutions to hotspot issues that uphold fairness and justice and sustain peace and security.

**China will work with the Arab side in the spirit of equality and mutual benefit to make our relations a fine example of high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.** The Silk Road spirit is passed on from generation to generation. It keeps China-Arab relations abreast with the times to the benefit of the two peoples. In this

interdependent world, we will further synergize development strategies with the Arab side. We will strengthen cooperation in key areas such as oil, gas, trade and infrastructure, step up fostering new growth areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), investment, financing and new energy, and embark together on an innovative and green path to prosperity.

**We are ready to work with the Arab side to jointly champion an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and set a model of South-South cooperation on global governance**

**China will work with the Arab side in the spirit of inclusiveness and mutual learning to make our relations a paradigm of harmonious coexistence between civilizations.** In a world of growing diversity, more dialogue means less confrontation, and more inclusiveness means less estrangement. Peace, truth, integrity and inclusiveness are the common pursuit of Chinese and Arab peoples. We are ready to work with the Arab side to promote people-to-people exchanges, champion the common values of humanity, and create a stellar example of mutual learning among civilizations in the new era.

**China will work closely with the Arab side to make our relations a model for promoting good global governance.** The entire humanity shares one common future, which has become an inevitable trend. But the deficits in governance, trust, peace and development are getting wider. This calls on us to improve global governance under the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together." We are ready to work with the Arab side to jointly champion an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and set a model of South-South cooperation on global governance.

Distinguished Guests,  
Friends,

At the first China-Arab States Summit, I put forward "eight major cooperation initiatives" for our practical cooperation. Since then, the Belt and Road cooperation documents we signed have expanded to cover a full range of areas thanks to our joint efforts over the past one year and more. New progress has been made in scientific R&D and technology transfer. Trade and energy cooperation have scaled new heights. Small and beautiful livelihood projects are advancing in parallel with signature flagship projects. Cooperation in areas such as food security, green innovation and health is deepening and getting more substantial. Platforms for people-to-people exchanges and cooperation are functioning well. Early harvests have been achieved in all the "eight major cooperation initiatives."

### FIVE COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS

Moving forward, China is ready to work with the Arab side on that basis to put in place the following "five cooperation frameworks" to step up the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future.

- 1 The first is a more dynamic framework for innovation.** China will build with the Arab side ten joint laboratories in such areas as life and health, AI, green and low-carbon development, modern agriculture, and space and information technology. We will enhance cooperation on AI to make it empower the real economy and to promote a broad-based global governance system on AI. We also stand ready to build with the Arab side a joint space debris observation center and a Beidou application, cooperation and development center, and step up cooperation in manned space mission and passenger aircraft.
- 2 The second is an expanded framework for investment and finance cooperation.** We are ready to establish with the Arab side an industry and investment cooperation forum, continue to expand the China-Arab states interbank association, and implement at a faster pace the cooperation projects that are financed by the special loans in support of industrialization in the Middle East as well as by the credit line for China-Arab financial cooperation. China supports closer cooperation between financial institutions from the two sides, welcomes Arab states to issue panda bonds in China, and welcomes Arab banks to join the Cross-border Interbank Payment System. China is also ready to deepen exchanges and cooperation on central bank digital currency with the Arab side.
- 3 The third is a more multifaceted framework for energy cooperation.** China will further enhance strategic cooperation with the Arab side on oil and gas, and integrate supply security with market security. China is ready to work with the Arab side on new energy technology R&D and equipment production. We will support Chinese energy companies and financial institutions in participating in renewable energy projects in Arab states with total installed capacity of over 3 million kilowatts.
- 4 The fourth is a more balanced framework for mutually beneficial economic and trade ties.** China will continue to implement vigorously the development cooperation projects with a total worth of RMB5 billion yuan. It stands ready to accelerate the negotiations on bilateral and regional free trade agreements and advance the dialogue mechanism for e-commerce cooperation. It welcomes active participation of the Arab side in the China International Import Expo, and is willing to expand import of non-energy products from the Arab side, especially agricultural products.
- 5 The fifth is a broader framework for people-to-people exchanges.** China is ready to establish with the Arab side the China-Arab Center of Global Civilization Initiative, expand the size and influence of the China-Arab Research Center on Reform and Development, accelerate the establishment of such platforms as the think tank alliance, the youth development forum, the university alliance, and the research center on cultural and tourism cooperation. China will invite 200 leaders of Arab political parties to visit China every year. We plan to work with the Arab side to achieve the goal of 10 million two-way visits of tourists in the next five years.

Distinguished Guests,  
Friends,

The Middle East is a land bestowed with broad prospects for development, but the war is still raging on it. Since last October, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has escalated drastically, throwing the people into tremendous sufferings. War should not continue indefinitely. Justice should not be absent forever. Commitment to the two-state solution should not be wavered at will. China firmly supports the establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. It supports Palestine's full membership in the U.N., and supports a more broad-based, authoritative and effective international peace conference. On top of the previous RMB100 million yuan of emergency humanitarian assistance, China will provide an additional RMB500 million yuan of assistance to help ease the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and support post-conflict reconstruction. We will donate U.S.\$3 million to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in support of its emergency humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

As an Arab saying goes, friends are the sunshine in life. We will continue to work with our Arab friends to carry forward the spirit of China-Arab friendship, build together a better future, and make the road sunny toward a China-Arab community with a shared future!

Thank you!



A group photo taken at the opening ceremony of The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum.

# Let Us Take Real Action to Build a China-Arab Community With a Shared Future



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, and Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Mauritania's minister of foreign affairs, cooperation and Mauritanians abroad, co-chair The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, in Beijing.

**R**emarks by H.E. Wang Yi at The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum.

Your Excellency Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, Arab Co-chair of the Ministerial Conference and Foreign Minister of Mauritania,

Your Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Friends,

I am delighted to meet you all again in Beijing and join you at The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF).

This is the first ministerial conference of the Forum since our leaders met for the first China-Arab States Summit in 2022. The theme of our Conference is Working Toward a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future. We are pleased that significant progress has been made in building a China-Arab community with a shared future under the guidance of Arab leaders and President Xi Jinping since their first summit and that the China-Arab relationship is now at its

best in history. **With our leaders guiding the way forward through head-of-state diplomacy, China and Arab countries have built a stronger strategic mutual trust.** We have had more high-level exchanges. We have firmly supported each other on issues that bear on our respective core interests and are of major concern to us. A total of 14 Arab countries have established comprehensive strategic partnership or strategic partnership with China, making the Arab region one of the biggest clusters of China's strategic partners.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum

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**With tangible progress in delivering on the outcome of the first China-Arab States Summit, China and Arab countries have deepened and substantiated our results-oriented cooperation.** China has listed 30 development cooperation projects involving Arab countries in

station. After the Conference, we will present it to our Arab friends as a memento of the China-Arab friendship that transcends time and space.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Friends,

This morning, President Xi Jinping, King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, President Abdul Fatah Al-Sisi, President Kais Saied and President Mohamed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan attended the opening ceremony and delivered the keynote addresses. A new consensus has been reached. President Xi Jinping announced that the second China-Arab States Summit will be held in China in 2026. The Summit will be another historic milestone in China-Arab relations. In his speech, President Xi Jinping stressed that China will work with the Arab side to make our relations a model for maintaining world peace and stability, a fine example of high-quality Belt and

Road cooperation, a paradigm of harmonious coexistence between civilizations, and a model for promoting good global governance. His remarks point the way forward for building a China-Arab community with a shared future. President Xi has also proposed that we build together "five cooperation frameworks". His proposal, which is built on the "eight major

cooperation initiatives" for results-oriented China-Arab cooperation, will bring our cooperation in the new era to a new height. A blueprint has been drawn, and the key lies in its implementation. Going forward, we need to truly act on the consensus of our leaders and the outcomes of today's Conference. To that end, I wish to propose four priorities:

## Four Priorities for Future Action

**1** First, China and Arab countries should remain committed to greater strategic mutual trust and firmly support each other on issues which bear on our respective core interests. China highly appreciates Arab countries' valuable and long-standing support to us on issues which involve our core interests and are of major concern to us. China will continue to support Arab countries in upholding your sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national dignity, in enhancing solidarity and cooperation and strengthening self-reliance, in promoting political settlement of hotspot issues, and in safeguarding security and stability in the Middle East.

The question of Palestine is at the heart of the Middle East issue. No matter how the international landscape evolves, China will remain steadfast in its support to the Palestinian people in restoring their legitimate national rights, and to the earlier establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. China firmly supports full U.N. membership for Palestine, which is a call echoed by the international community. China is also ready to do more to help achieve Palestinian reconciliation. We support the convocation of an international peace conference that is more broad-based, more authoritative, and more effective. The current situation in Gaza is unsustainable. An unconditional and immediate ceasefire is an international consensus. Improvement of humanitarian conditions on the ground is an urgent imperative. The lives of innocent civilians must no longer be ignored and must not be harmed. China will continue to stand in solidarity with Arab states. We will speak up and stand up for justice, and work for an early solution to the question of Palestine that is comprehensive, just and sustainable.

**2** Second, China and Arab countries should deepen results-oriented and mutually beneficial cooperation and upgrade such cooperation to a higher level. China supports Arab countries in your efforts to accelerate industrialization, build more critical infrastructure projects, and undertake more small and beautiful projects that will bring tangible improvement to people's livelihood. China will remain a long-term partner of Arab countries for strategic cooperation in the energy sector. We will help Arab countries build more flagship energy projects and create a dynamic where cooperation in the traditional and new energy sectors advance in tandem. China will continue to expand trade with Arab countries so that our peoples can all share the benefits that come along with trade liberalization and facilitation. China will work with Arab countries to cultivate new growth drivers in the high and new technology industries, foster synergy of industries, universities, research institutes and end users, leverage the opportunities brought about by digital, Internet-based and smart technologies. China welcomes more investment from Arab countries. This will

be your investment in the future as you will share in the dividends of China's development and rejuvenation. China also hopes for cooperation with Arab countries in areas of governance, public health, youth, and education so that the China-Arab friendship will be carried forward from generation to generation.

**3** Third, China and Arab countries should strengthen cooperation at the international level and work together to maintain the right direction of global governance. China stands ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Arab countries on multilateral platforms, such as the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, BRICS, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. China and Arab countries call for an equal and orderly multipolar world. We will practice true multilateralism, and say no to hegemonism and power politics. China will work with Arab countries to promote mutually beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, boost trade prosperity, easy investment, greater flow of people and technological advancement, and oppose any form of unilateralism and protectionism.

**4** Fourth, China and Arab countries should enhance institution building of our Forum in the interest of a China-Arab community with a shared future. The China-Arab States Cooperation Forum has travelled a journey of 20 years since its establishment. Over the past two decades, the Forum contributed significantly to the development of China-Arab relations while improving itself in step with the times. It has become the signature platform for collective China-Arab cooperation and has written a splendid chapter in South-South cooperation characterized by mutual respect, mutual benefit and mutual learning. On the new journey of building a China-Arab community with a shared future, China is ready to work with Arab states to carry forward the spirit of China-Arab friendship, and strengthen the key roles of the Forum in promoting political dialogue, expanding results-oriented cooperation, deepening cultural exchanges, and providing guidance for good global governance. We should see to it that the Forum continues to serve as a high-quality platform for building a China-Arab community with a shared future, and work together to make the next 20 years of the overall China-Arab cooperation more remarkable.

Distinguished Colleagues,

Friends,

As an Arab saying goes, "Words proved by action are the most powerful." President Xi Jinping said on a number of occasions that what you do is more important than what you say. Let us take real action to translate the blueprint for a China-Arab community with a shared future into reality. Let us take the Ministerial Conference as a new start to create a brighter future for China-Arab relations!

Thank you!

# A signature platform for collective **China-Arab** cooperation

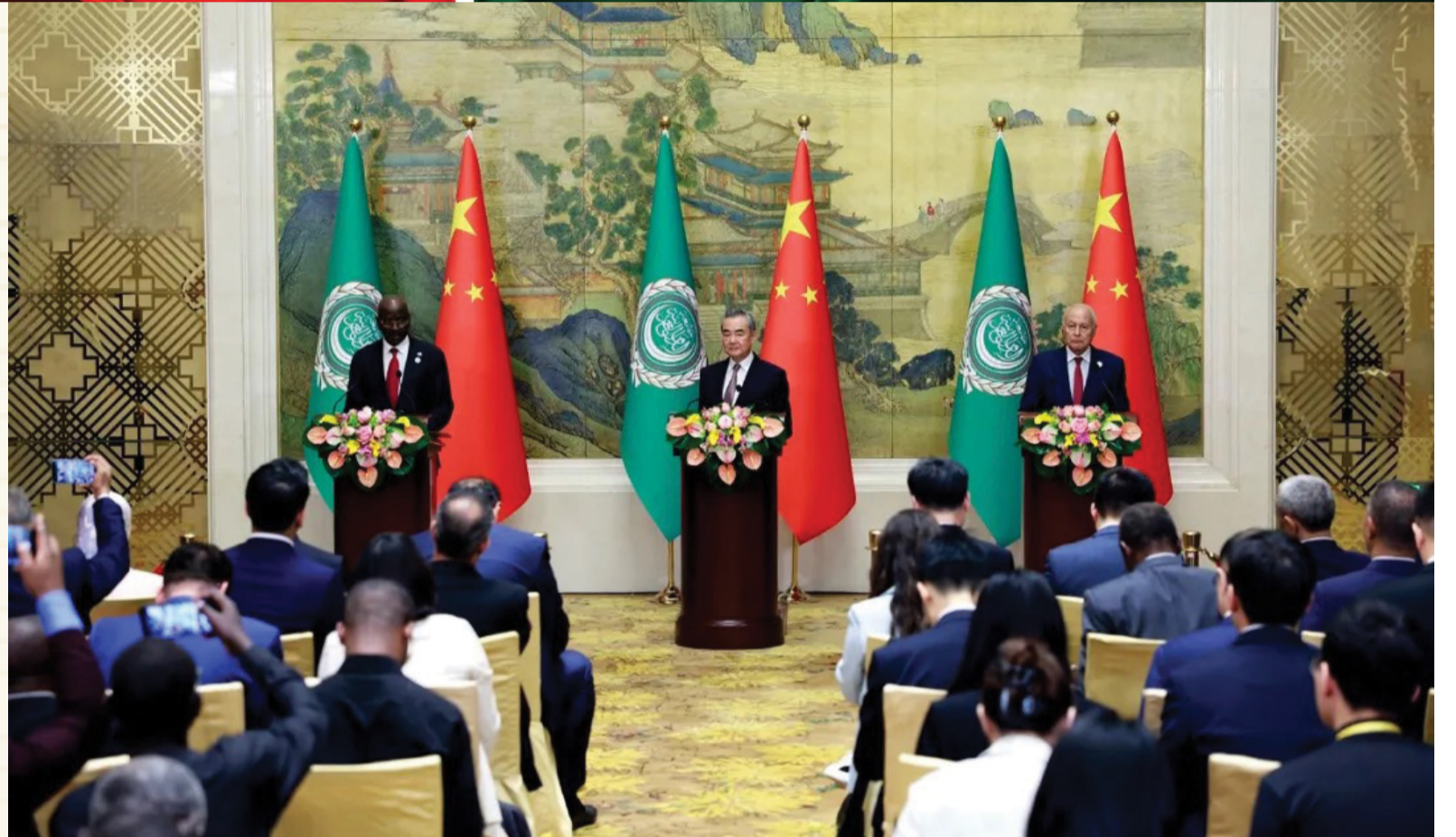


By Cao Xiaolin, ambassador of China to Qatar

**T**his year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of China-Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF). The 10th Ministerial Conference of the CASCF was successfully held on 30th May, 2024 in Beijing. Leaders and foreign ministers from both China and the Arab States attended the Conference.

The theme of the Conference was Working Toward a China-Arab Community with a Shared Future. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening of the Conference. The Conference adopted three important outcome documents, which are the Beijing Declaration, the Forum Action Plan for 2024-2026, and the China-Arab States Joint Statement on the Palestinian Issue. The Conference further built consensus between China and Arab states, planned for cooperation in the next stage, and made a common voice of China and Arab states on the Palestinian question.

The CASCF has made remarkable achievements since its establishment 20 years ago, and has yielded important outcomes in multiple aspects under the care and attention of the leaders from China and the Arab States. China's relationship with many Arab states has developed from a "partnership" to a "strategic cooperative relationship", and further upgraded to a "strategic partnership", achieving leapfrog development.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi holds a joint press conference with Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit and Mauritania's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug after The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum



Cao Xiaolin, ambassador of China to Qatar

With the efforts of both sides, China-Arab strategic mutual trust has been continuously deepened, practical cooperation has brought tangible benefits to both peoples, people-to-people and cultural exchanges have been further enriched, and active progress has been made in building a China-Arab community with a shared future.

Over the past two decades, CASCF contributed significantly to the development of China-Arab relations, and has become the signature platform for collective China-Arab cooperation and written a splendid chapter in South-South cooperation characterized by mutual respect, mutual benefit and mutual learning.

CASCF is a role model for maintaining world peace and stability. China and the Arab countries respect the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the independent choice of every nation and the reality formed in history. Our two sides uphold the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, practice true multilateralism, and defend the legitimate rights and interests of the developing countries.

China is ready to deepen strategic mutual trust with Arab states, and firmly support each other in safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity, and strive together for

solutions to hot-spot issues that uphold fairness and justice and sustain peace and security. China supports the Arab countries in promoting political settlement of hot-spot and challenging issues with Arab wisdom, and building a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture in the Middle East.

**China is ready to work with the Arab countries to increase personnel exchange, deepen people-to-people cooperation, and promote the sharing of governance experience, and create a fine example of mutual learning among civilisations in the new era**

CASCF is a role model of mutually beneficial cooperation between countries. China and the Arab states have strengthened synergy between our development strategies, and promoted high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. As we consolidate cooperation in traditional areas including economy and trade, energy and infrastructure development, we have broadened new sources of growth such as green and low-carbon development, health and medical services, and investment and finance.

Cooperation in science and technology will nurture new highlights in our relationship. China will work with Arab countries to enhance cooperation on AI to make it empower the real economy and to promote a broad-based global governance system on AI.

CASCF is a role model of harmonious coexistence between civilizations. China and the Arab countries respect the diversity of civilizations, uphold the principles of equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness among civilizations. We advocate that cultural exchanges transcend estrangement, mutual learning transcend clashes, and coexistence transcend feelings of superiority.

Peace, truth, integrity and inclusiveness are the common pursuit of both Chinese and Arab peoples. China is ready to work with the Arab countries to increase personnel exchange, deepen people-to-people cooperation, and promote the sharing of governance experience, and create a fine example of mutual learning among civilisations in the new era.

CASCF is a role model for promoting good global governance. The international community is confronted by regional disputes as well as global issues such as climate change, terrorism, cybersecurity and biosecurity, and deficits in governance, trust, peace and development are

getting wider. China and the Arab countries have enhanced cooperation to improve the global governance under the principle of "planning together, building together, and benefiting together", and worked to address the various challenges and global issues facing humanity.

China will work with the Arab countries to champion an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization, and strengthen communication and coordination with Arab countries at the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other multilateral platforms.

The past 20 years has proven that CASCF is a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order, and a provider of public good. China will continue to work with the Arab countries to carry forward the spirit of China-Arab friendship and build a better future.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi with Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit after The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum

## Solidarity and mutual assistance are the distinctive underpinning of the strategic mutual trust between China and Arab countries



# Consolidate Strategic Mutual Trust and Forge a New Chapter of China-Arab Cooperation

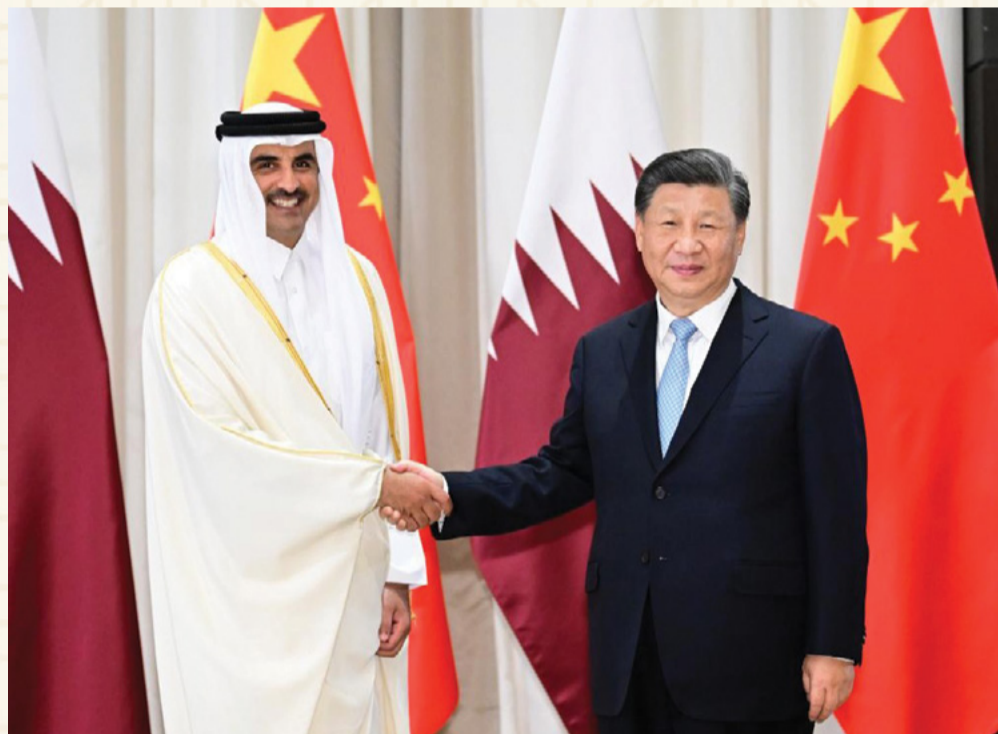
By Cao Xiaolin

The friendship between China and Arab countries is time-honoured and stronger than ever. Over the past 2,000 years, there have been continuous exchanges between the Chinese and Arab peoples through land and sea routes. Our ancestors, merchants and diplomatic envoys alike, traveled back and forth along the overland and maritime Silk Roads. In the modern era, we fought side by side for independence and liberation, and firmly supported each other in national development, creating a splendid chapter of win-win cooperation. At present, China-Arab relationship is at its best in history. Our strategic cooperation is ever deepening, fostering a higher level of mutual trust.

Head-of-state diplomacy is the fundamental guarantee for the strategic mutual trust between China and Arab countries. Over the past decade, HE President Xi Jinping has met with HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani for five times and reached a series of important consensus on deepening the China-Qatar strategic partnership, drawing up a blueprint for the friendly cooperation between our two countries. In recent years, HE President Xi has successfully hosted leaders of Arab countries such as Palestine, Algeria, Syria, and Mauritania during their visits to China.

Under the guidance of head-of-state diplomacy, China-Arab strategic mutual trust has been continuously consolidated, with our relations advancing in a comprehensive, rapid, and profound manner, bringing tangible benefits to both Chinese and Arab peoples.

Achieving common development is the inexhaustible driving force for the strategic



Chinese President Xi Jinping met with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December 2022.

mutual trust between China and Arab countries. A total of 14 Arab countries, including Qatar, and the League of Arab States have established comprehensive strategic partnership or strategic partnership with China, making the Arab region one of the biggest clusters of China's strategic partners. As nations along the ancient Silk Road, Arab countries actively support the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Qatar was among the earliest signatories of the cooperation documents under the framework of the BRI with China, and is a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Arab countries have widely welcomed and supported the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative, and actively participated in the China-League of Arab States Cooperation Initiative on Data Security. Under

the framework of China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, 19 important cooperation mechanisms have been launched to expand and substantiate the cooperation agenda, providing a paradigm for the solidarity and cooperation among developing countries.

Solidarity and mutual assistance are the distinctive underpinning of the strategic mutual trust between China and Arab countries. On the intertwined hot-spot issues in the Middle East, China adheres to an objective and fair position, remains committed to being a builder of peace and a contributor to stability in the Middle East. In 2023, China successfully mediated historic reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which has sparked a wave of reconciliation across the region thereafter.

China consistently supports Arab countries, including Qatar, in safeguarding national sovereignty and dignity, exploring independent development paths, and addressing regional security issues through unity and coordination. Arab countries also firmly support China in safeguarding its core interests and major concerns. The Qatari Government has reaffirmed that its unswerving adherence to the one-China principle will not change.

Since last October, the Gaza conflict has escalated drastically, resulting in a severe humanitarian crisis, and throwing the people into tremendous sufferings.

At The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum recently held in Beijing, HE President Xi stressed in his keynote speech that China firmly supports the establishment of an independent State of Palestine that enjoys full sovereignty based on the 1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. China supports Palestine's full membership in the U.N., and supports a more broad-based, authoritative and effective international peace conference. On top of the previous RMB100 million yuan of emergency humanitarian assistance, China will provide an additional RMB500 million yuan of assistance to help ease the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and support post-conflict reconstruction. China will donate U.S.\$3 million to the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in support of its emergency humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

The resounding consensus of the Conference is to firmly support the Palestinian people in restoring their legitimate national rights. The Conference issued the China-Arab states joint statement on the Palestinian issue. The Joint Statement highlights the significant consensus between China and Arab countries in promoting a comprehensive, just and sustainable solution to the Palestinian issue on the basis of the two-state solution.

History and practice have proven that, whatever changes may take place in the world and whatever obstacles may confront us, China and Arab states have always been good partners sharing mutual benefit and good brothers and sisters going through thick and thin together. China will advance along the path of strategic mutual trust with Arab countries, firmly support each other in defending core interests, contribute constructive efforts in safeguarding world peace and settling regional hot-spot issues, and bring China-Arab relations to a new height in the new era.



The 7th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was held in Doha, Qatar in 2016.

# Win-Win Cooperation for Shared Benefits, Good Partners in Achieving Common Development

By Cao Xiaolin

**O**n May 30th, The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was successfully held in Beijing. HE President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony.

President Xi emphasized that, in this interdependent world, China will further synergize development strategies with the Arab side, strengthen cooperation in key areas such as oil, gas, trade and infrastructure, foster new growth areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), investment, financing and new energy, and embark together on an innovative and green path to prosperity. China and the Arab countries should contribute to the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future, making our relations a fine model of win-win cooperation, mutual learning, and common development.

To this end, China is willing to work with the Arab side to jointly build the "five cooperation frameworks", enriching practical cooperation between China and the Arab side in innovation, investment and finance, energy, mutually beneficial economic and trade ties, and people-to-people exchanges.

These new initiatives and measures under the "five cooperation frameworks" not only align both China and Arab countries' advantageous areas, but also tap into new potential for further China-Arab collaboration, enhancing the depth and breadth of China-Arab cooperation, benefiting both China and Arab people.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Qatar strategic partnership. Over the past decade, the fruitful outcomes achieved in practical cooperation between China and Qatar reflect the spirit of China-Arab friendship and our commitment to building a China-Arab community with a shared future.

Under the strategic guidance of HE President Xi Jinping and HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, China-Qatar practical cooperation, characterized by complementary advantages and win-win cooperation, has formed a new cooperation framework, with energy cooperation as its main axis, infrastructure construction as a focal point, and finance, investment, and high-tech as new growth areas.

The bilateral trade volume between China and Qatar has grown from U.S.\$10.6 billion in 2014 to U.S.\$24.5 billion in 2023, an increase of over 130%. Since 2020, China has consistently been Qatar's largest trading partner and largest export destination. Qatar has become China's second-largest source of liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports globally.

Chinese enterprises have actively participated in the investment and construction of major projects in Qatar, including oil and gas, ports and airports, communication networks, stadiums, strategic reservoirs, clean energy, and green transportation, contributing to Qatar's infrastructure improvement and economic and



The signing ceremony of the long-term charter party agreements for QC Max LNG Vessels, held in Beijing in April 2024.

social development. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) Doha Branch and Bank of China (BOC) Qatar Financial Center Branch are the two financial institutions with the largest total assets in the Qatar Financial Center. They actively integrate into the local economy, providing various financial support and services to local businesses.

At present, China is advancing Chinese path to modernization on all fronts through high-quality development, providing a supersized domestic market and unprecedented development opportunities to countries worldwide. Qatar has launched its national development strategy for 2024-2030, which aims to achieve sustainable growth goals under the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Guided by the spirit of HE President Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the Ministerial Conference, China is willing to strengthen the synergy between both countries' development strategies, promote win-win cooperation with shared benefits to a higher level, and enhance the high-quality Belt and Road Cooperation, making China and Qatar good partners in pursuing our respective national development paths.

First, build a multifaceted framework for energy cooperation. Qatar is a major global producer

and exporter of LNG. Qatar plans to increase LNG production by 85% to 142 million tons per year by 2030, securing a leading position in the clean energy sector worldwide.

China, as the world's largest oil and gas importer, has become Qatar's largest LNG importer. To fulfill its commitments on green development and addressing climate change, China's demand for Qatar's LNG will continue to grow. China-Qatar energy cooperation, characterized by complementary advantages and mutual benefits, serves as a ballast for the bilateral practical cooperation. Since last year, Chinese and Qatari enterprises have successively signed the longest LNG purchase and sales agreement in history and the largest LNG vessel building contracts, vividly demonstrating the longstanding, stable and mutually beneficial energy cooperation between China and Qatar.

China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Qatar, further create a new paradigm of all-dimensional energy cooperation that integrates energy trade and investment, aligns supply security with the market security, and advances both traditional and new energy development.

Second, expand new areas of cooperation on science and technology. Innovation is an important element in Qatar's national

development strategy to achieve sustainable economic growth, serving as a booster for Qatar's goal of building a knowledge-based economy by 2030.

China is redoubling efforts in developing new quality productive forces, which are led by innovative technology and will promote high-quality development by making China's traditional industries higher-end, smarter and greener, as well as fostering new industries such as biomanufacturing, commercial spaceflight, the low-altitude economy and life sciences. New quality productive forces have become a new driving force for the high-quality China-Qatar practical cooperation. New energy buses made in China were shuttling through Doha during the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Chinese electric vehicles recently entered the local market. Chinese and Qatari companies signed the contract for 18 of the largest QC-Max LNG vessels in April this year. These are all vivid examples of new productive forces empowering the practical cooperation between our two countries.

China is willing to enhance coordination with Qatar in expanding cooperation in areas including health, AI, green and low-carbon development, e-commerce, and modern agriculture, creating a more dynamic innovation-driven practical cooperation framework.

Third, promote trade, investment, and financial cooperation. Realizing industrial diversification and creating a top business environment are two other crucial elements in Qatar's national development strategy for achieving sustainable economic growth. China's long-term economic prospect remains on a positive trajectory, and China enjoys multi-faceted advantages, such as possessing great market demand, a full-fledged industrial supply system, and abundant high-caliber labor forces and entrepreneurs. The economic structures of both China and Qatar are highly complementary, creating significant potential for fostering further development of trade, investment, and financial cooperation between the two countries.

Qatar is the current rotating chair of the GCC. China is willing to take this opportunity to enhance exchanges and coordination with Qatar to expedite the early conclusion of the China-GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation, promote trade liberalization and investment facilitation, and facilitate the industrial diversification of GCC countries including Qatar. Additionally, we welcome Qatar to make full use of China International Import Expo (CIIE), which is one of China's high-level opening-up platforms. Qatar is invited to actively participate in the upcoming 7th CIIE, which will be held in Shanghai this November, to showcase Qatar's excellent competitive business environment, open and inclusive national image, and unique and attractive tourism resources to Chinese enterprises and the world. It will attract more Chinese businesses to invest in Qatar and expand Qatar's non-petrochemical products' exports to China.

China welcomes Qatari financial institutions to join the Cross-border Interbank Payment system. China will continue to support Qatar Investment Authority and other Qatar's financial authorities and enterprises to expand investment and financial cooperation in China, bringing the mutually beneficial cooperation in financial area between our two countries to a higher level.



The Lusail Stadium is China's first overseas World Cup stadium construction project.

# Deepening China-Qatar People-to-People Exchanges

By Cao Xiaolin

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum. Over the past two decades, China and Arab countries have forged ahead hand in hand for a shared future, carrying out close cooperation in areas such as culture, education, and tourism. This has set a model for the relations characterized by inclusiveness and mutual learning among different civilizations in the world.

In 2022, the first China-Arab Summit was held successfully, during which China and Arab countries unanimously agreed to build a China-Arab community with a shared future in the new era, and highlighted the inter-civilization dialogue as an important aspect of the "eight major cooperation initiatives" for the results-oriented China-Arab cooperation. On the sideline of the summit, HE President Xi Jinping and HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani held a bilateral meeting. They highly commended the achievements of the close people-to-people bonds between China and Qatar, and drew up a blueprint for the development of people-to-people exchanges in the future.

**The number of Chinese tourists visiting Qatar reached 56,000 in 2023, marking a 240% increase year-on-year**

**The vigorous development of China-Qatar people-to-people exchanges has enhanced the mutual understanding and friendship between our peoples, contributing to China-Arab people-to-people exchanges and the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future**

Under the strategic guidance of HE President Xi and HH the Amir Sheikh Tamim, leveraging the favourable momentum of the China-Arab States Summit, China-Qatar people-to-people exchanges have been rapidly promoted to a higher level. More and more Qatari youth are learning Chinese and harboring a genuine love for the Chinese culture. The first batch of Qatari young students participated in the "Chinese Bridge" summer camp in China, and the first HSK Chinese Proficiency Test Center was established in Doha.

The exchanges between our two peoples have become increasingly close and frequent, with the number of direct passenger flights between two countries growing from 30 to 58 per week. Qatar has become a must-visit destination for more and more Chinese tourists. The number of Chinese tourists visiting Qatar reached 56,000 in 2023, marking a 240% increase year-on-year.

The vigorous development of China-Qatar people-to-people exchanges has enhanced the mutual understanding and friendship between our peoples, contributing to China-Arab people-to-people exchanges and the building of a China-Arab community with a shared future.



Qatari Teenager who joined in the "Chinese Bridge" Training Program in Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Currently, China-Arab relationship is at its best in history. The China-Arab and China-Qatar people-to-people exchanges are confronted with unprecedented opportunities. Recently, The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum was successfully held in Beijing.

In his keynote speech at the opening ceremony, HE President Xi Jinping put forward the China-Arab "five cooperation frameworks", calling for broader China-Arab people-to-people exchanges, and proposing a series of specific measures, such as establishing the China-Arab Center of Global Civilization Initiative and achieving 10

million two-way visits of tourists in the next five years with Arab countries. The implementation of these measures will further consolidate the popular support for building a China-Arab community with a shared future and create more favourable conditions for China-Qatar people-to-people exchanges.

The year 2024 is a "fruitful year" for China-Qatar people-to-people exchanges. The "Happy Chinese New Year-Xinjiang is a Nice Place" folk music and dance show was successfully held in Qatar. Many Qatari friends praised it as "the most spectacular performance".

Scholars from the Al Jazeera Center for Studies visited China, and experienced in person a beautiful Xinjiang marked by stability, unity, harmony, and development. Qatar Tourism held the "Meet Qatar Anytime" roadshow in several Chinese cities, including Beijing and Shanghai, helping more Chinese people learn and appreciate Qatar's natural and cultural landscapes. The Sanxingdui Museum and the Katara Cultural Village jointly held a digital immersive exhibition to showcase to the residents of Doha the splendor of ancient Chinese bronze civilization, which thrived 3000 years ago.



Qatari students who participated in the "Chinese Bridge" Training Program.



The "Happy Chinese New Year - Xinjiang is a Nice Place" Folk Music and Dance Show, held in Doha in January 2024.

A new batch of Qatari young students will participate in the "Chinese Bridge" summer camp in China soon, embodying the Arab proverb "Seek knowledge even if it is far away in China." In the future, Qatar will host more China-Arab cultural exchange activities, bringing China-Qatar and China-Arab people-to-people exchanges to new heights.

Friendship holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. The Chinese Embassy in Qatar is willing to work with friends from all sectors in Qatar to jointly implement the significant consensus of our two heads of state and the outcomes of The 10th Ministerial Conference of the China-Arab States Cooperation Forum, striving to create more new opportunities for people-to-people exchanges, consolidate the popular support for the strategic partnership between China and Qatar, and contribute more positive energy to building a China-Arab community with a shared future.

We sincerely wish for the flourishing development of China-Qatar people-to-people exchanges. May the friendship between China and Qatar last for eternity!

# Respect Core Interests, Build a Better World

## Speech at the reception to mark the 10th anniversary of China-Qatar strategic partnership

By Cao Xiaolin, ambassador of China to Qatar

Your Excellency,  
Dr. Ahmad Hassen  
Al-Hammadi,  
Secretary General  
of the Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs,

Your Excellency,  
Mr. Saleh bin Majid  
Al-Khulaifi, Assistant  
Undersecretary for  
Industry Affairs and  
Business Development  
of the Ministry of  
Commerce and  
Industry,

Your Excellency, Ms. Maha Zayed Qaqa  
Alruwaili, Assistant Undersecretary for  
Educational Affairs of the Ministry of Education  
and Higher Education,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Qatar,  
I warmly welcome all of you to attend this  
reception to mark the 10th anniversary of the  
establishment of the strategic partnership  
between China and Qatar.

In 2014, HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa  
Al Thani paid a state visit to China. During the  
visit, H.E. President Xi Jinping and HH Sheikh  
Tamim announced that China and Qatar would  
establish strategic partnership, and work to push  
the bilateral practical cooperation to a higher  
level.

Over the past ten years, this strategic  
partnership has set a role model for the state-  
to-state relationship in the world. Under the  
strategic stewardship of H.E. President Xi Jinping  
and HH Sheikh Tamim, this partnership is now  
at its best in history. Our cordial friendship has  
taken deep roots among the two peoples and  
the cooperation has reaped fruitful outcomes in  
various fields. Some important experiences from  
the development of our diplomatic ties can help  
chart the way forward.

First, both China and Qatar uphold equality.  
China and Qatar have different history and  
culture, but the two countries respect each  
other, follow a development path suited to our  
national conditions, firmly support each other in  
safeguarding our respective sovereignty, security  
and development interests, and keep our future  
firmly in our own hands.

Second, both China and Qatar uphold mutual  
trust and mutual assistance. Mutual trust is the  
foundation for the strategic partnership. China  
and Qatar have cemented political mutual trust  
over the past years, and will continue to firmly  
support each other's core interests and major  
concerns.

Third, both China and Qatar uphold win-win  
cooperation. China has been Qatar's biggest  
trading partner over the past four years. Qatar  
is now the second largest country exporting  
LNG to China. China will remain a long term  
and stable importer of Qatar's LNG. The  
two countries have expanded cooperation  
in various fields within the framework of  
the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and forged  
synergy between BRI and Qatar National  
Vision 2030. China's modernization will surely  
bring more opportunities to Qatar and other  
countries in the world. China welcomes Qatar  
to become a companion on the Chinese path  
to modernization. This cooperation is in the  
fundamental interests of both the Chinese people  
and the Qatari people.

Fourth, both China and Qatar uphold fairness  
and justice. The China-Qatar strategic  
partnership stands on the right side of history.  
The two states hold similar views on the war on  
Gaza and have called on all parties to exercise  
restraint and worked hard to deescalate the  
situation. Our strategic partnership will make  
more positive contributions to the cause of  
peace and development of mankind.



Chinese ambassador Cao Xiaolin

Your Excellency, Dr. Al-Hammadi, Distinguished  
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

What comes out more important as an  
experience from the China-Qatar strategic  
partnership is the firm adherence of the one-  
China principle by the Qatari Government, to  
which the Chinese Government appreciates very  
much.

Every country has its core national interests,  
such as its national sovereignty, territorial  
integrity, and the continued stable development  
of its economy and society.

The one-China principle is at the core of China's  
core national interests, and constitutes the  
political foundation of the bilateral relationship  
between China and the countries which have  
diplomatic ties with China.

There is but one China in the world. Taiwan  
is an inalienable part of China's territory. The  
Government of the People's Republic of China is  
the sole legal government representing the whole  
of China. This is an undeniable fact, a universal  
consensus of the international community and a  
basic norm in international relations.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution  
2758, which was adopted at its 26th Session  
in 1971, stated unequivocally that it "decides to  
restore all its rights to the People's Republic of  
China and to recognize the representatives  
of its Government as the only legitimate  
representatives of China to the United Nations,  
and to expel forthwith the representatives of  
Chiang Kai-shek from the place which they  
unlawfully occupy at the United Nations and in  
all the organizations related to it."

The UNGA Resolution 2758 made it clear that  
the government of the People's Republic of China  
is the sole legal government representing the  
whole of China, including Taiwan, at the UN;  
Taiwan is not a country but a part of China's  
territory. It makes clear Taiwan's status as a non-  
sovereign entity. The resolution resolved once  
and for all politically, legally and procedurally  
the issue of the representation of the whole  
of China, including Taiwan, at the UN. The  
resolution also made clear that there can only  
be one seat representing China at the UN and  
precluded the possibility of "two Chinas" or "one  
China, one Taiwan."

Since the adoption of the resolution, the one-  
China principle has been observed by the UN and  
its specialized agencies on the Taiwan question.  
Taiwan is referred to as "Taiwan, province of  
China" in all UN's official documents. It was  
clearly stated in the official legal opinions of  
the Office of Legal Affairs of the UN Secretariat  
that "the United Nations considers 'Taiwan' as a  
province of China with no separate status," and  
the "authorities" in "Taipei" are not considered to  
enjoy any form of government status."

The Taiwan region's participation in the  
activities of international organizations must  
and can only be handled in accordance with the  
one-China principle. The United Nations is an  
intergovernmental international organization  
composed of sovereign states. Taiwan, a  
province of China, has no basis, reason or right  
to join the UN or its relevant agencies. This is  
stipulated in the UN Charter and is the principle  
that all UN member states must follow and an  
obligation that they should fulfill.

China highly appreciates the firm support from  
Qatari on the one-China principle. With this  
important principle as a solid basis, the China-  
Qatar strategic partnership will focus on the  
strategic nature, open up new prospects for  
common development, win-win cooperation  
and mutual success for the benefit of both the  
Chinese people and Qatari people, and for lasting  
peace, prosperity and stability of the world.

Your Excellency, Dr. Al-Hammadi, Distinguished  
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the  
inception of the China-Arab States Cooperation  
Forum. Over the past two decades, under the  
guidance of head-of-state diplomacy and with  
joint efforts from both China and the Arab



Embassy of China held a reception to mark the 10th anniversary of China-Qatar strategic partnership on May 19, 2024

countries, the Forum has always served its  
purpose of enhancing dialogue and cooperation  
and promoting peace and development, and has  
become a golden brand in promoting collective  
dialogue and practical cooperation between  
China and the Arab states. The Forum has made  
important contributions in advancing relations  
between China and the Arab states and set up a  
fine example of South-South cooperation.

Under the Forum, China and the Arab states  
have drawn on each other's fine cultural  
achievements, promoted the rich values of  
Eastern civilizations, and nurtured the spirit  
of friendship featuring "solidarity and mutual  
assistance, equality and mutual benefit, and  
inclusiveness and mutual learning."

Under the Forum, China and the Arab states  
have consolidated cooperation in traditional  
areas, including economy and trade, energy and  
infrastructure development. China has been the  
biggest trading partner of the Arab states for  
quite a few years. The two-way trade volume has  
grown from US\$36.7 billion in 2004 to US\$398.1  
billion in 2023, a tenfold increase in twenty  
years.

Under the Forum, China and the Arab States  
have synergized development strategies and  
leveraged our respective strengths to cultivate  
driving forces for new sources of growth such  
as green and low-carbon development, health  
and medical services, investment and finance,  
aviation and aerospace, AI, digital economy and  
peaceful use of nuclear energy, etc.

Under the Forum, China has supported the  
Arab states in promoting political settlement  
of hot-spot and challenging issues with Arab  
wisdom, and building a common, comprehensive,  
cooperative and sustainable security  
architecture in the Middle East. China welcomes  
the Arab states to participate in the Global  
Security Initiative (GSI), and will continue to  
contribute Chinese wisdom to promoting peace  
and tranquility in the Middle East.

Under the Forum, mutually beneficial  
cooperation between China and Qatar has  
yielded fruitful outcomes in various fields. The  
Chinese enterprises have participated in Qatar's  
investment and development projects of natural  
gas and oil, ports and airport, communication  
network, stadiums, strategic reservoirs, clean  
energy and green transportation, etc. The  
cooperation between China and Qatar has a  
strong internal driving force and will better  
benefit our people.

As strategic partners, China and Arab states  
should carry forward the spirit of China-  
Arab friendship, strengthen solidarity and  
cooperation, and foster a closer China-Arab  
community with a shared future, so as to deliver  
greater benefits to our peoples and advance the  
cause of human progress.

Your Excellency, Dr. Al-Hammadi, Distinguished  
Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Middle East is undergoing new and profound  
changes. The aspiration of the Arab people  
for peace and development is much more  
compelling. The Palestinian issue bears on peace  
and stability in the Middle East, and is one of  
the core interests of the Arab states. The historical  
injustices done to the Palestinian people  
should not be left unattended indefinitely. The  
prolonged war on Gaza calls for a just settlement  
of the Palestinian issue at an early date.

As one of the five permanent members of the  
United Nations Security Council, China has  
played very important positive role in promoting  
peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle  
East. As the Chinese Foreign Minister, H.E.  
Wang Yi, noted in the written interview with Al  
Jazeera Media Network recently that the Gaza  
calamity shows once again that the perpetual  
denial of the legitimate national rights of the  
Palestinian people is the root cause of the  
Palestinian question, and it is also the core issue  
of the Middle East question. China will continue  
to strengthen solidarity and cooperation  
with Middle East countries and the whole  
international community to firmly support the  
just cause of the Palestinian people in restoring  
their legitimate national rights; firmly support  
internal reconciliation among different factions  
of Palestine through dialogue; firmly support  
Palestine's full membership in the United Nations  
at an early date; and firmly support establishing  
the independent State of Palestine and  
realizing "the Palestinians governing Palestine."  
China calls for a more broad-based, more  
authoritative and more effective international  
peace conference to set a timetable and a road  
map for the two-State solution, to promote  
comprehensive, just and lasting settlement  
of the Palestinian question, and to ultimately  
realize peaceful coexistence between Israel and  
Palestine as well as harmony between the Arab  
and Jewish peoples.

Over the past months, Qatar has worked very  
hard with Egypt, as mediators from the Arab  
countries, to help reach a ceasefire deal on  
the war on Gaza and to provide humanitarian  
assistance to people in Gaza. Qatar's role is very  
unique and important, and the contributions are  
very significant. The international community  
highly appreciates all the positive efforts by  
Qatar.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity  
to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you present  
here tonight for your care and contributions to  
the development of the strategic partnership  
between China and Qatar, and between China  
and the Arab states. I wish all of you have a  
pleasant evening.

Thank you.

## The First China-Arab States Summit

The first China-Arab States Summit was  
held at the King Abdulaziz International  
Conference Center in Riyadh, the capital of  
Saudi Arabia on December 9, 2022. The Summit  
issued the *Riyadh Declaration of the First China-  
Arab States Summit* which announced that China  
and Arab States agreed to make all-out efforts  
to build a China-Arab community with a shared  
future in the new era.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the  
Summit with leaders from 21 countries of the  
Arab League, including Crown Prince and  
Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud  
of Saudi Arabia, President Abdel Fattah Al-  
Sisi of Egypt, King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein

of Jordan, King Hamad bin Isa bin Salman Al  
Khalif of Bahrain, Crown Prince Mishal Al-  
Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait, President  
Kais Saied of Tunisia, President Ismail Omar  
Guelleh of Djibouti, President Mahmoud Abbas  
of Palestine, Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al  
Thani of Qatar, President Azali Assoumani of  
Comoros, President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani  
of Mauritania, Prime Minister Mohammed  
Shia' Al Sudani of Iraq, Prime Minister Aziz  
Akhannouch of Morocco, Prime Minister Aïme  
Benabderrahmane of Algeria, Prime Minister  
Najib Mikati of Lebanon, as well as Secretary-  
General Ahmed Aboul Gheit of the Arab League  
and heads of other international organizations.

President Xi delivered a keynote speech entitled  
"Carrying Forward the Spirit of China-Arab  
Friendship and Jointly Building a China-Arab  
Community with a Shared Future in the New  
Era" at the Summit.

President Xi pointed out that China and Arab  
states enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges.  
The two sides have come to know and befriend  
each other through the ancient Silk Road, shared  
weal and woe in their respective struggles  
for national liberation, conducted win-win  
cooperation in the tide of economic globalization,  
and upheld fairness and justice in the changing  
international environment. Together, China and  
Arab states have nurtured the spirit of friendship

featuring "solidarity and mutual assistance,  
equality and mutual benefit, and inclusiveness  
and mutual learning". Solidarity and mutual  
assistance is a distinct feature of China-Arab  
friendship. China and Arab states trust each  
other and firmly support each other on issues  
involving their respective core interests. The  
China-Arab strategic partnership is unbreakable.  
Equality and mutual benefit is a constant driver  
for their friendship. China and Arab states have  
set an example for South-South cooperation  
in pursuing mutually beneficial collaboration.  
Inclusiveness and mutual learning is a key value  
inherent in their friendship. China and Arab  
states appreciate and learn from each other. The

two sides advocate together inter-civilizational dialogue and endeavor to safeguard the diversity of world civilizations.

President Xi underscored that the world today is in a new period of turbulence and transformation. The Middle East is undergoing new and profound changes. The aspiration of the Arab people for peace and development is much more compelling, and their call for equity and justice is stronger than ever. As strategic partners, China and Arab states should carry forward the spirit of China-Arab friendship, strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and foster a closer China-Arab community with a shared future, so as to deliver greater benefits to the peoples and advance the cause of human progress.

- China and Arab states should stay independent and defend their common interests. China supports Arab states in independently exploring development paths suited to their national conditions and holding their future firmly in their own hands. China is ready to deepen strategic mutual trust with Arab states, and firmly support each other in safeguarding sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity. The two sides should jointly uphold the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, practice true multilateralism, and defend the legitimate rights and interests of developing countries.

- China and Arab states should focus on economic development and promote win-win cooperation. The two sides should strengthen synergy between their development strategies, and promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. They should consolidate cooperation in traditional areas including economy and trade, energy and infrastructure development. In the meantime, the two sides should strengthen new sources of growth such as green and low-carbon development, health and medical services, and investment and finance, and expand new frontiers including aviation and aerospace, digital economy and peaceful use of nuclear energy. China and Arab states should also tackle major challenges like food security and energy security. China will work with the Arab side to implement the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and drive sustainable development of South-South cooperation.

- China and Arab states should uphold regional peace and strive for common security. China supports the Arab side in promoting political settlement of hotspot and challenging issues with Arab wisdom, and build a common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security architecture in the Middle East. China urges the international community to respect the role of the Middle East people as masters

of their own affairs, and add positive energy to the security and stability of the region. China welcomes the Arab side to participate in the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and will continue to contribute Chinese wisdom to promoting peace and tranquility in the Middle East.

- China and Arab states should increase exchanges among civilizations to enhance mutual understanding and trust. The two sides need to increase personnel exchange, deepen people-to-people cooperation, and promote the exchange of governance experience. The two sides need to jointly oppose Islamophobia, carry out cooperation on deradicalization, and reject association of terrorism with any particular ethnic group or religion. China and Arab states need to advocate humanity's common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, and set an example of inter-civilizational exchanges and mutual learning in the new era.

President Xi pointed out that as the first follow-up step of building a China-Arab community with a shared future and implementing the Outline of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan Between China and Arab States, China will, in the next three to five years, work with the Arab side to advance eight major cooperation initiatives in areas including development support, food security, public health, green innovation, energy security, inter-civilizational dialogue, youth development, and security and stability, and will strive for early harvest.

President Xi stressed that the Palestinian issue bears on peace and stability in the Middle East. The historical injustices done to the Palestinian people should not be left unattended indefinitely. The legitimate rights and interests of a nation are not up for trade, and the demand to establish an independent state shall not be denied. The international community should stay firm in its commitment to the two-state solution and the principle of "land for peace", make resolute efforts to promote peace talks, and strive for a just settlement of the Palestinian issue at an early date. China will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to Palestine and support livelihood projects in the country.

Toward the end of his remarks, President Xi pointed out that the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China laid out the tasks and path of advancing the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through Chinese modernization. China will stay committed to upholding world peace, promoting common development, and building a community with a shared future for mankind. By doing so, China wishes to create new opportunities for Arab states and all other countries with China's new development. At the Summit, China and Arab states agreed to build a China-Arab community



A group photo taken at the First China-Arab States Summit.

with a shared future in the new era, which is an epoch-making milestone in China-Arab relations. China stands ready to take this as a new starting point and work with the Arab side to carry forward the spirit of China-Arab friendship, open up broader prospects for China-Arab cooperation, and usher in an even brighter future for China-Arab relations.

On behalf of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman welcomed leaders of relevant countries to the first Arab States-China Summit and extended congratulations on its full success.

Arab leaders at the Summit actively echoed President Xi's important speech and the eight major cooperation initiatives he proposed. They noted that the friendly relations between Arab states and China are built on the basis of mutual respect, cooperation as equals and mutual benefit. The Arab side attaches high importance to China's great development achievements and important role in the world. They highly commend China for putting forth the Belt and Road Initiative, the GDI and the GSI. They also highly recognize China's important propositions for facilitating political settlement of regional hotspot issues, its consistent support for the legitimate rights and interests of the Palestinian people, and its commitment to upholding justice in the international community. In a world in danger of division and confrontation and still haunted by unilateralism and hegemony, deepening Arab-China strategic partnership would help bring about equity and justice and uphold world peace, prosperity and development. The opportune Arab States-China Summit reflects the high-level of Arab-China relations and represents a continuation and development of the Arab States-China Cooperation Forum. Through this Summit, the Arab side hopes to further cement

the friendship and mutual trust between Arab States and China, make comprehensive plans for and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation across the board, build an Arab-China community with a shared future in the new era and bring the Arab-China comprehensive strategic partnership to a new and higher level, so as to better serve the common interests of Arab states and China, and realize the shared aspirations of the Arab and Chinese people. It is believed that this Summit will become an important milestone in the history of Arab-China relations. The Arab side upholds independence and autonomy, and is firmly committed to the one-China principle. It will continue to firmly support China on issues concerning China's core interests and oppose any hostile actions targeted against China. The Arab side hopes to work with China to deliver on the outcomes of this Summit, advance the eight major cooperation initiatives, continue to promote Belt and Road cooperation, step up communication and coordination on international and regional affairs, respond to climate change, food security, energy security and other common challenges through cooperation, step up people-to-people exchanges, enhance inter-civilizational dialogue and make positive contribution to peace and common development of all humanity.

The Summit issued the Outline of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan Between the People's Republic of China and Arab States and a document on Deepening the Sino-Arab Strategic Partnership for Peace and Development.

A number of cooperation documents on Belt and Road cooperation, energy, food, investment, green development, security, aerospace, and other fields have been signed by relevant Chinese authorities and the Arab side, including the General Secretariat of the Arab League and the affiliated bodies of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

## The First China-GCC Summit

The first China-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit was held at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Center in Riyadh on the afternoon of December 9, 2022.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the Summit with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah of Bahrain, Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, Deputy Prime Minister Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al Said of Oman, the Ruler of Fujairah Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammad Al Sharqi of the UAE, and GCC Secretary General Nayef Falah Al Hajraf. It was decided at the Summit to establish and strengthen a China-GCC strategic partnership.

President Xi delivered a keynote speech entitled "Building on Past Achievements and Jointly Creating a Brighter Future of China-GCC Relations".



A group photo taken at the First China-GCC Summit.

President Xi pointed out that the friendly exchange between China and GCC countries goes back nearly two millennia. In 1981, China established contact with the GCC upon its inception. Forty plus years on, the two sides have written together a splendid chapter of solidarity, mutual assistance and win-win cooperation. The leapfrog growth of China-GCC relations is attributed to the profound mutual trust. China and GCC countries have all along supported each other's sovereignty and independence, respected each other's development paths, upheld equality between countries regardless of their size, and stood firm in defending multilateralism. It is attributed to the high degree of complementarity. China has a vast consumer market and a complete industrial system, while the GCC, with rich energy resources, is embracing diversified economic development. This makes the two sides natural partners of cooperation. It is attributed to the empathy of the two peoples. Both belonging to the family of Eastern civilizations, China and GCC countries have similar culture and values. Their peoples enjoy close bonds of friendship. It is also attributed to the solidarity between the two sides in times of adversity. Against regional and international uncertainties, as well as challenges such as the financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and major natural disasters, the two sides have come to each other's aid and navigated through the difficulties together.

President Xi underscored that China highly commends the GCC countries' efforts to seek strength through unity and make the GCC the most dynamic regional organization in the Middle East and the Gulf. Standing at a historical crossroads, the two sides should carry forward the tradition of China-GCC friendship, and take the establishment of the China-GCC strategic partnership as an opportunity to enrich the strategic substance of this relationship.

- China and the GCC should be partners for greater solidarity, further consolidate political mutual trust, and firmly support each other's core interests. The two sides need to jointly uphold

the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, practice true multilateralism, and defend the common interests of all developing countries.

- China and the GCC should be partners for common development, better synergize development strategies, and leverage their respective strengths to cultivate driving forces for development. China looks forward to working with all parties to advance the implementation of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and follow through on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to promoting regional development and prosperity.

- China and the GCC should be partners for common security. China will continue to firmly support GCC countries in safeguarding their security, and support the efforts by countries in the region to resolve differences through dialogue and consultation and to build a Gulf collective security architecture. China welcomes the participation of GCC countries in the Global Security Initiative (GSI) in a joint effort to uphold regional peace and stability.

- China and the GCC should be partners for cultural prosperity, enhance interactions between their peoples, increase cultural exchanges, draw on each other's fine cultural achievements, and promote the rich values of Eastern civilizations, so as to contribute their share to the development and progress of human civilization.

**President Xi stressed that in the next three to five years, China will work with GCC countries in the following priority areas.**

**First**, setting up a new paradigm of all-dimensional energy cooperation. China will continue to import more crude oil and LNG from GCC countries, strengthen cooperation with GCC countries in oil and gas development and clean and low-carbon technologies, and conduct RMB settlement in oil and gas trade. A China-GCC forum on peaceful use of nuclear technology and a China-GCC nuclear security demonstration center will be established. China will provide training opportunities to GCC countries on peaceful use of nuclear energy and technology.

**Second**, making new progress in finance and investment cooperation. China and GCC countries could collaborate on financial regulation, set up a joint investment commission, and support cooperation between sovereign wealth funds from both sides in various forms. The two sides could explore setting up a China-GCC forum on industrial and investment cooperation, strengthen investment cooperation on digital economy and green development, build a working mechanism on investment and economic cooperation, and deepen digital currency cooperation.

**Third**, expanding new areas of cooperation on innovation, science and technology. China is ready to work with GCC countries to set up big data and cloud computing centers, strengthen 5G and 6G technology cooperation, build innovation and entrepreneurship incubators, and implement ten digital economy projects in such areas as cross-border e-commerce and communications network. A China-GCC cooperation mechanism in meteorological science and technology will be set up, and the two sides could convene a seminar on climate response.

**Fourth**, seeking new breakthroughs in aerospace cooperation. China stands ready to work with GCC countries on remote sensing and communications satellite, space utilization, aerospace infrastructure, and the selection and training of astronauts. China welcomes GCC astronauts to its space station for joint missions and space science experiments with their Chinese colleagues. China welcomes GCC countries' participation in payloads cooperation in its aerospace missions, and will consider establishing a China-GCC joint center for lunar and deep space exploration.

**Fifth**, nurturing new highlights in language and cultural cooperation. China will cooperate with 300 universities, middle and primary schools in GCC countries on Chinese language education, work

with GCC countries to set up 300 Chinese language smart classrooms, provide 3,000 "Chinese Bridge" summer/winter camp opportunities, and set up Chinese language learning and testing centers and online Chinese classes. The two sides could hold a China-GCC language and culture forum, and compile a bilingual library for people-to-people and cultural exchanges and mutual learning.

President Xi underscored that China and GCC countries share the glorious mission of developing and revitalizing their nations. China-GCC relations are both time-honoured and young. China will continue to support the GCC in seeking strength through unity, realizing diversified economic development, and playing a bigger role in regional and international affairs. China will work with the GCC to take the Summit as an opportunity to usher in a brighter new era for China-GCC relations.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman chaired the Summit on behalf of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. He noted that the many risks and challenges facing the world require the solidarity and joint response of all parties. Under the able leadership of President Xi Jinping, China has scored huge development achievements and become a major progressive force steering global governance. The GCC highly values the rich fruits of GCC-China cooperation in various fields, and highly appreciates China's proposal of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and its important contribution to promoting the political settlement of regional issues. All GCC countries look forward to closer cooperation with China, and hope to identify priority areas for future GCC-China cooperation at the Summit, which will open a new chapter in this relationship. The GCC is committed to increasing experience-sharing and technological cooperation with China and to pushing for more outcomes from cooperation in infrastructure, health, energy and so on, in a bid to better tackle global challenges like the food and energy crises.

Other GCC leaders attending the Summit spoke highly of GCC-China relations and the first GCC-China Summit. They shared the view that the first GCC-China Summit is a milestone event in the history of GCC-China relations. GCC countries and China have similar ideas and views, and their relationship fully demonstrates mutual understanding, mutual trust and win-win cooperation. The GCC believes that the sustained prosperity and development of China will create more opportunities for the world, and that closer GCC-China cooperation will help promote a more just and reasonable international order and contribute to regional peace and development. The GCC is firmly committed to the one-China principle, and stands ready to work with China to implement the outcomes of the Summit and further deepen GCC-China cooperation in priority areas to the benefit of their peoples.

At the Summit, a joint statement by the People's Republic of China and the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf was issued, a 2023-2027 action plan for strategic dialogue between the two parties was adopted, and plans were made for China's cooperation with GCC countries in various fields.

### The 10th Ministerial Conference of the **CHINA-ARAB STATES COOPERATION FORUM**

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**Gulf Times thanks the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Qatar for the support rendered in preparing the Supplement**