

Translation of a document circulated by the Iranian foreign ministry

March 29, 2021

Fact Sheet on "Iran-China Comprehensive Cooperation Plan"

I. Timeline from Conception to Signing:

February 23, 2016:

- Official visit of Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, to Tehran.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China issued a statement raising the level of bilateral relations to "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."
- As per the proposal of the Iranian side, in order to establish long-term relations with China over a period of 25 years, the parties stated their willingness and readiness to consult with each other and negotiate the signing of a long-term cooperation document in Paragraph 2 of the statement [issued during the visit].
- During a meeting with the Chinese president, the Supreme Leader said "the agreement between the presidents of Iran and China for a 25-year strategic relationship is prudent and wise."

February 2016 to January 2019: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with various other ministries and institutions, held several meetings with the aim of identifying priorities, drafting and drawing up the provisions of the document.

February 21, 2019: In a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping during an official visit to China, Dr. Ali Larijani, the then Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, who was accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs and economy, and the governor of the Central Bank, indicated that the draft of the 25-year document would be finalized in the near future.

February 2019 to August 2019: Upon the completion of the internal review process of the document, the draft document was finalized by the Iranian side and ready to be presented to the Chinese side.

August 25, 2019: During an official visit to China, Foreign Minister Dr. [Mohammad Javad] Zarif presented to the Chinese foreign minister the draft of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China.

March 2020:

- The Chinese side officially conveyed its views on the draft received from the Iranian side.
- The views of the Chinese side were provided to [Iranian] national institutions for their input.

May 2020: The text of the draft and the summaries of the views of national institutions, compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, were sent to the esteemed Cabinet for review and decision-making.

June 23, 2020: The esteemed Cabinet allowed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pursue the negotiations based on the above-mentioned conclusion, to finalize and sign the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan between the two countries based on long-term interests.

June 24, 2020: During an online meeting attended by the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China, the Iranian side noted that its points of view in relation to the Chinese side's revisions of the draft document will be conveyed in the near future.

August 2020: The Iranian side delivered the second draft of the document to the Chinese side.

October 10, 2020: During his official visit to China, Foreign Minister Dr. Zarif, held discussions with his Chinese counterpart on the various aspects of the document and how to advance it.

March 5, 2021: The Chinese side expressed its views on the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan to the Iranian side.

March 10, 2021: The Chinese side announced its readiness to sign the document during the official visit of the Chinese foreign minister to Iran upon the finalization of the draft of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan.

March 2021: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the country's top leadership about the contents, assessments and essential recommendations for decision-making.

March 17, 2021: The country's top leadership's approval of the signing of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan, known as "The 25-year Plan", was conveyed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the official visit of the Chinese foreign minister to Iran.

March 27, 2021: The Comprehensive Cooperation Plan between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China was signed by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

II. What are the provisions and contents of the Iran-China Comprehensive Cooperation Plan?

- This document has been compiled in order to implement the sixth article of the statement of the presidents of the two countries with the aim of the practical improvement of relations at the level of comprehensive strategic partnership (published in February 2016) and to provide a suitable platform for the comprehensive development of cooperation.
- The present document envisages a comprehensive program over a long period (25 years) with an approach based on mutual respect and the win-win principle for bilateral, regional and international relations.
- The two ancient Asian civilizations with a long history of close cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, policy, culture, defense and security, have agreed on a roadmap and a

long-term vision for relations in various fields to achieve a comprehensive strategic partnership and its promotion in practice.

- Acknowledgement of cultural commonalities, strengthening multilateralism, protection of the right of governments to enjoy equal sovereignty and an emphasis on the indigenusness of the development model are among the issues raised in the document.
- The shared views of the two countries on many regional and international issues, especially the opposition to unilateralism, has provided the necessary ground for the expansion of cooperation between Iran and China on the international level.
- This document is a political, strategic, economic and cultural plan that has taken into account different areas of cooperation between Iran and China.

i. The political-strategic aspect of the Iran-China Comprehensive Cooperation Plan

- While promoting exchanges, the two sides will boost their consultations and close cooperation on regional issues and within regional and international institutions.
- The two sides will strengthen defense infrastructure, boost counter-terrorism efforts and expand cooperation in various defense fields.

ii. The economic aspect of the Iran-China Comprehensive Cooperation Plan

- Considering the two countries' agreement that there is a potential for expanding cooperation beyond the status quo, Iran and China will underscore economic cooperation in connecting Iran to the value chain through completing the domestic complementary processing chains and through joint production to supply the domestic markets of the two countries and other countries, and ultimately exploiting Iran's potentials, including young and skilled human resources.
- The document underscores cooperation in the fields of petroleum, industry and mining and energy-related fields (renewable energy, etc.) based on sustainable national development and environmental concerns.
- Iran's effective participation in the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative has been highlighted with the aim of gaining geopolitical and geo-economic benefits.
- The document stresses cooperation in the fields of infrastructure, transportation (railways, roads, ports and air transport), telecommunications, science and technology, education and health.
- Facilitating private sector involvement by removing obstacles to cooperation has been stressed.
- The document stresses the facilitation of cooperation in the financial sector, banking, customs, and deregulation of sectors as well as cooperation in the development of special and free trade and industrial zones, including on the Makran coast, and strengthening non-petroleum cooperation with a focus on agriculture and a knowledge-based economy.
 - Facilitating cooperation in the fields of investment and financing of projects and economic cooperation.

ii. The cultural aspect of the Iran-China Comprehensive Cooperation Plan

- The document stresses increasing mutual understanding through the promotion of public exchanges (tourism), media, non-governmental organizations, friendship associations and academic cooperation.
- The two sides envisaged investment and assistance in completing the necessary infrastructure to promote cultural cooperation in various fields, including the tourism industry.

III. What is not included in the Iran-China Comprehensive Cooperation Plan?

- This document has been devised in line with peace, stability and regional and international development and therefore is not against any third party nor interferes in the affairs of any country.
- This document is a roadmap for comprehensive cooperation between Iran and China and therefore does not contain any contractual obligations.
- Nowhere in the document are the prospects of cooperation— whether economic, political, cultural or strategic—quantified, and it therefore does not contain any specific figures, including for investment or financial and monetary resources.
- This document is called “The 25-year Plan”, setting a long-term period to oversee and facilitate the totality of the Comprehensive Cooperation Plan. Evidently, the timeframe for the implementation of any bilateral agreement is determined by the provisions of the same agreement.
- The document does not involve the transfer of any region nor any mutual or unilateral monopoly, and it therefore does not entail any exclusive right.
- No management, administration or exploitation of any region or area is transferred through this document.