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China and Pakistan Strengthen Defence Partnership with Z-10ME Helicopters

August 10, 2025

— Categories: General News



China and Pakistan have reaffirmed their commitment to a peace-focused defence partnership as the Pakistan Army officially inducted the Chinese-made Z-10ME attack helicopter into its fleet.

Chinese Ministry of National Defense spokesperson Jiang Bin said China is willing to share the achievements of its defence equipment development with friendly nations, including Pakistan. He stressed that cooperation between the two countries in the defence and

security sectors is not aimed at any third party, but is intended to enhance international and regional security and stability.

According to Chinese media reports, the induction marks the first export deal for the Z-10ME, a model designed specifically for the export market. The aircraft features advanced combat capabilities and is considered a significant addition to Pakistan's defence assets.

Military analyst Zhang Xuefeng explained that the Z-10ME is an upgraded version of the original Z-10 helicopter. The variant supplied to Pakistan has been customised with enhanced armour plating, radar warning sensors, and electronic jamming systems. These upgrades are expected to increase the helicopter's survivability in high-threat environments.

With strong firepower and improved protection, the Z-10ME is regarded as a valuable asset for Pakistan, particularly in counter-terrorism and border security operations. Defence observers say the helicopters will boost the Pakistan Army's ability to respond quickly and effectively to emerging security challenges.

China and Pakistan both emphasised that the induction is part of a broader strategy for peace and stability. Officials highlighted that military modernisation, when paired with diplomatic engagement, can help maintain balance and deter threats without provoking conflict.

The announcement follows decades of close military collaboration between the two countries. Previous joint projects include the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet, naval vessel construction, and regular joint military exercises. Technology transfers have been a recurring feature of the relationship, with both sides engaging in training exchanges and joint research.

Analysts note that the Z-10ME agreement reflects a continuation of these long-standing ties and may pave the way for further defence cooperation. Potential future initiatives could include joint development of new aircraft, enhanced training programmes for pilots and ground crews, and collaboration on advanced avionics systems.

Both nations have indicated that discussions on expanding defence cooperation will continue, underscoring their shared vision for a stable security environment in South Asia.