
**CHINA'S XI VOWS TO EXPAND TIES WITH NORTH KOREA DURING PYONGYANG TRIP,
URGES REGIONAL PEACE**

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Saadet Gokce

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday vowed to expand China's ties with North Korea and called for regional peace during talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on his first visit to Pyongyang in seven years.

Xi said that China is "ready to expand" practical cooperation with North Korea in the economy and trade, agriculture, construction, science and technology, as well as healthcare, according to the state-run news agency Xinhua.

He also urged both sides to "firmly safeguard" their sovereignty, security, and development interests.

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