

Documents

January-June 2015

I. Foreign Policy

A. BAHRAIN

Pakistan-Bahrain Joint Press Statement

1. At the invitation of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain on 7-8 January 2015. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Begum Kalsoom Nawaz and a high-level delegation.
2. His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, very warmly welcomed H.E. the Prime Minister of Pakistan on arrival at the airport.
3. His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received H.E. the Prime Minister of Pakistan, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, at Sakhir Palace. His Majesty the King conferred on the Prime Minister Shaikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa First Class Medal in recognition of his contribution towards further strengthening relationship between the two countries. His Majesty the King also hosted a banquet in honour of the Prime Minister.
4. The Prime Ministers of the two countries held high-level talks. His Royal Highness the Prime Minister hosted luncheon in honour of the Prime Minister and the accompanying delegation.
5. The following documents were signed during the visit:
 - 1) Agreement on exemption from Short Stay Visa for Diplomatic and Special Passport holders (Bahrain) and Diplomatic and Official Passport holders (Pakistan)
 - 2) MOU on Twinning of Islamabad, Capital of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Manama, Capital of the Kingdom of Bahrain
 - 3) MOU in the Field of Education and Higher Education
 - 4) MOU between the University of Bahrain and Quaid-i-Azam University
 - 5) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Culture and Arts
 - 6) MOU on Co-operation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises development. During the ceremony, the Prime Minister of Pakistan handed over to His Royal Highness the Prime Minister of Bahrain the

Instrument of Ratification (IoR) of the Agreement for the Promotion and Protection of Investments.

6. In light of the existing close bilateral ties between the two countries, wide-ranging discussions were held in a sincere, friendly and candid atmosphere. The discussions were focused on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest to further broaden and deepen bilateral engagement in all mutually beneficial fields. The leaders under scored the importance of this approach to provide impetus for promoting political and economic relations, tourism and people-to-people contacts.
7. The two sides expressed their satisfaction at the regular exchange of high-level visits during the recent years and recalled the substantive outcome of the successful State Visit of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on 18-20 March 2014, and agreed to follow up on the implementation of the agreements and the Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed during the visit.
8. Bahrain and Pakistan agreed on the need to encourage the private sector to participate in the establishment of a Pakistan Energy Fund. The Prime Minister of Pakistan conveyed deep appreciation on behalf of the people of Pakistan for the Royal gesture to establish King Hamad University Hospital in Pakistan.
9. Both sides under scored the importance of continuing regular consultations through the existing institutional mechanisms and agreed to hold the inaugural meeting of the Bahrain-Pakistan Joint Ministerial Commission in Islamabad in 2015.
10. Recognising the need to hold regular Foreign Ministry Consultations, both sides decided that the first round of consultations would be held in 2015, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Consultations signed between the two Foreign Ministers on 20 December 2006.
11. The two sides stressed the importance of increasing defense and security cooperation between the two countries, and reiterated their desire to hold security dialogue annually between the two countries. They decided to increase sharing of information, intelligence and assessments.
12. Both sides denounced terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed their desire to strengthen their cooperation, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels, in combating terrorism and financing of terrorism. Pakistan reaffirmed its support for measures taken by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain in order to combat terrorism and maintain security and stability.
13. The leaders of Bahrain reiterated strong condemnation of the horrible terrorist attack, which targeted a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, and claimed the lives of 145 innocent school children and teachers. Bahrain affirmed full support to Pakistan in confronting and defeating terrorist groups, and offered condolences to the Government and the people of Pakistan and to the relatives of the victims of this barbaric incident, emphasising that such

acts are alien to all religions and in total contradiction to human values. The Prime Minister of Pakistan thanked the Bahraini leadership for the expression of sympathy and solidarity on behalf of the people of Pakistan.

14. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan congratulated the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for successful holding of free and fair general elections on 22 and 29 November 2014; stressing that the participation of the people of Bahrain in large numbers demonstrated their faith in the political system and confidence in the leadership of Bahrain.
15. Expressing satisfaction over improving economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries, both sides recognized the potential for greater trade and commercial exchanges, and agreed to take all steps necessary to provide a greater impetus to bilateral trade turnover.
16. Realising the significant role played by investors, both sides agreed to provide favourable environment for investors from both countries and emphasized the need for regular and timely exchange of information on available investment opportunities. Recognizing the enormous growth potential of their economies, Pakistan side encouraged Bahraini investors to take advantage of favourable environment for investment and to consider investing in areas of high rate of return in Pakistan and shared information about their infrastructure development plans in near future. The Pakistani side recognized Bahrain as an ideal gateway to the GCC markets.
17. Furthermore, the leaders agreed on enhancing cooperation in the fields of energy, youth and sports, advancement of women, social works and human resource development, agriculture, marine resources, cattle breeding, poultry and fish-farming.
18. Alongside extensive discussions on bilateral relations, views were exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest, including the situation in the Middle East and the situation in West Asia and South Asia. The leaders agreed on the importance of peaceful resolution of all issues, regional as well as global, through dialogue.
19. Bahrain and Pakistan called upon the international community to work towards reaching a peaceful solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the two-state solution in accordance with relevant UN resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative. The two sides also reaffirmed their determination to provide the necessary support to reach a solution that leads to the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian state on the basis of the 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Shareef as its capital, and solve all final status issues, which will lead to regional peace and security. They reiterated that Israeli settlements on the Occupied Palestinian Territories are not only illegal under international law but also undermine prospects for achieving comprehensive long-standing peace.
20. Acknowledging the immense existing commercial potential between Pakistan and the GCC countries, Bahrain reiterated its support and commitment to further strengthen cooperation, through early finalization of the Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement.

21. His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, thanked His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to him and his delegation. The Prime Minister of Pakistan extended invitations to His Majesty the King, His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince to visit the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at their earliest convenience, which were gladly accepted.

Islamabad, 08 January 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

B. CHINA

1. List of Pakistan-China MOUS

The memoranda of understanding signed by both sides are listed below:

1. Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on establishing the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.
2. Minutes of the 4th JCC of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.
3. Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
4. Exchange of Notes of feasibility study of the Demonstration Project of the DTMB between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
5. Exchange of notes on provision of Anti-Narcotics Equipment between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
6. Exchange of notes on provision of Law Enforcement Equipment between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
7. Exchange of Notes on Feasibility Study of Gwadar Hospital between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
8. MOU on provision of Chinese Governmental concessional Loan for second phase up-gradation of Karakorum Highway (Havelian to Thakot) between Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
9. MOU on provision of Chinese Governmental concessional Loan for Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Multan to Sukkur) between Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
10. MOU on provision of Chinese Governmental concessional Loan for Gwadar port East Bay Expressway Project between Ministry of Commerce

- of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
11. MOU on provision of Chinese Governmental concessional Loan for Gwadar International Airport between Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 12. Protocol on Banking Services to Agreement on Trade in Services between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the People's Republic of China.
 13. MOU on provision of Material for Tackling Climate Change between National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of Finance (EAD) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 14. Framework Agreement on Cooperation on Major Communications Infrastructure Project between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 15. MOU on Cooperation between NDRC of the People's Republic of China and ministry of Planning Development and Reform of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 16. MOU on Pro Bono Projects in the Port of Gwadar Region between Ministry for Planning, Development and Reform of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.
 17. MOU on establishment of China-Pakistan Joint Cotton Bio-Tech Laboratory between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 18. Framework Agreement between the National Railway Administration, Government of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Railways, Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Joint Feasibility Study for up-gradation of ML1 and Establishment of Havelain Dry port of Pakistan Railways.
 19. Protocol on the Establishment of China-Pakistan Joint Marine Research Center between State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
 20. MOU on cooperation between the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Films and Television of China and Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage of Pakistan.
 21. Triple Party Agreement between China Central Television and PTV and Pakistan Television Foundation on the re-broadcasting of CCTV-NEWS/CCTV -9 Documentary in Pakistan.
 22. Protocol on establishment of Sister Cities Relationship between Chengdu city Sichuan Province of PRC and Lahore City.

23. Protocol on establishment of Sister Cities Relationship between Zhuhai City, Guangdong province of the People's Republic of China and Gwadar city, Balochistan of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
24. Protocol on establishment of Sister Cities Relationship between Karamay City, XianjianUgur, autonomous region of the People's Republic of China and Gwadar city, Balochistan of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
25. Framework Agreement between NEA and MoPNR on Gwadar-Nawabshah LNG Terminal and Pipeline Project.
26. Commercial Contract on Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project.
27. Agreement on financing for Lahore Orange line Metro Train project.
28. MOU on financing for KKH up-gradation Phase-2 (Havelian to Takot), KLM, Gwadar East Bay Expressway, Gwadar International Airport Projects.
29. Financing Agreement relating to the 870 MW Hydro-Electric Suki Kinari Hydropower Project between EXIM Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited and SK Hydro (Private) Limited.
30. Financing Cooperation Agreement between the EXIM Bank of China and Port Qasim Electric Power Company (Private) Limited (on Port Qasim 2x660MW Coal-fired Power Plant).
31. Framework Facility Agreement for 720MW Karot Hydropower Project between China Development Bank Corporation, EXIM Bank of China and Karot Power Company (Private) Limited.
32. Term Sheet of the facility for Zonergy 9x100 MW solar project in Punjab between China Development Bank Corporation, EXIM Bank of China and Zonergy Company limited.
33. Drawdown Agreement on Jhimpir wind Power project between UEP Wind power (Private) Limited as Borrower and China Development Bank Corporation as lender.
34. Terms and Conditions in favor of Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company for Thar Block II 3.8Mt/a mining Project, Sindh province, Pakistan Arranged by China Development Bank Corporation.
35. Terms and Conditions in favor of Engro Powergen Thar (Private) Limited, Sindh province, Pakistan for Thar Block II 2x330MW Coal Fired Power Project Arranged by China Development Bank Corporation.
36. Framework Agreement of Financing Cooperation in Implementing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor between China Development Corporation and HBL.
37. MOU with respect to Cooperation between WAPDA and CTG.
38. MOU among PPIB, CTG, and Silk Road Fund on Development of Private Hydro Power Projects.
39. Facility operating Agreement for Dawood Wind Power project between ICBC and PCC of China and HDPPL.
40. Framework Agreement for Promoting Chinese Investments and industrial Parks Developments in Pakistan between ICBC and HBL on financial services corporation.

41. The financing term sheet agreement for Thar Block -I between ICBC, SSRL.
42. Energy Strategic Cooperation Framework Agreement between Punjab Province of Pakistan and China Huaneng Group.
43. Framework Agreement on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Energy Project Cooperation between Ministry of Water & Power and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (SINOSURE).
44. Cooperation Agreement between Sino-Sindh Resources (Pvt.) Ltd and Shanghai Electric Group for Thar Coalfield Block I Coal-Power integrated Project in Pakistan.
45. Cooperation Agreement for Matiyari-Lahore and Matyari (Port Qasim)-Faisalabad Transmission and Transformation Project between National Transmission Distribution Company (NTDC) and National Grid of China.
46. IA on Port Qasim Coal fired Power Plant between Power China and GoP.
47. Facility Agreement for the Sahiwal Coal-fired Power Plant Project between industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited, Huaneng Shandong Electriciry limited and Shandong Ruyi Group.
48. Cooperation Agreement on Hubco Coal-fired Power Plant Project between CPIH and Hubco Power Company.
49. Facilitation Agreement on Salt Range Coal-fired Power Project between CMEC and Punjab Government.
50. MOU between NUML Pakistan and Xinjiang Normal University, Urumqi China for Cooperation on Higher Education.
51. Agreement on collaboration on establishment of NUML International Center of education (NICE) between NUML Pakistan and Xinjiang Normal University, Urumqi, China.

On this occasion the two leaders inaugurated the following projects by unveiling the plaques:

1. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Lahore Branch.
2. Energization of 100 MW solar power plants at Quad-i-Azam solar park, Bahawalpur.
3. FM 98 Dosti Channel studio PBC-CRI, Islamabad.
4. Demonstration project of DTMB Broadcasting in Pakistan.
5. China Cultural center Pakistan.
6. China-Pakistan Joint Research Center for small hydropower, Islamabad.
7. China-Pakistan cross-border optical fiber cable system project.
8. Metro rail transit system on the Orange Line in Lahore.

Ground breaking of following power projects was also jointly done by Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping via video link:

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| 1. Karot | 720 MW | Hydropower project. |
| 2. Dawood | 50 MW | Wind-power project. |
| 3. Sachal | 50 MW | Wind-power project. |

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| 4. | Zonergy | 900 MW | solar project. |
| 5. | Jhimpir | 100 MW | Wind-power project. |

Islamabad, 21 April 2015. *Source:* <http://nation.com.pk>.

2. Joint Statement between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China on Establishing Strategic Cooperative Partnership

1. At the invitation of President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China is paying a state visit to Pakistan from 20 to 21 April 2015. During the visit, President Xi Jinping met with President Mamnoon Hussain, Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, leaders of the Senate, the National Assembly, the Armed forces and political parties of Pakistan; and also engaged with people from a wide spectrum of the society.
2. The Leaders of the two countries reviewed with satisfaction the historical development of Pakistan-China relations and the progress made in recent years. They agreed that the Pakistan-China relationship had acquired greater strategic significance against the backdrop of complex and changing international and regional situations. The two sides agreed to elevate the Pakistan-China relationship to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, enriching the Pakistan-China Community of Shared Destiny, to ensure the perpetual continuity in Pakistan-China friendship from generation to generation.
3. The Chinese side reiterated that China has always placed its relationship with Pakistan on a priority position in its foreign policy agenda. China appreciates Pakistan's consistent and staunch support on issues concerning China's core interests. China reaffirms its support and solidarity for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Pakistan. It appreciates Pakistan's efforts for the peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues with its neighbours. In fact, friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and China serve the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, and contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and beyond.
4. The Pakistani side described friendship with China as the cornerstone of its foreign policy. Pakistan is committed to one-China policy. Pakistan fully supports China in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
5. The two sides agreed to maintain close high-level exchanges, which would provide guidance for the healthy and sustainable development of bilateral relationship. The two sides will further enhance strategic communication and coordination to safeguard their common interests.

6. The two sides highly appreciate the progress to make China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) an important project of 'the Belt and Road'. Pakistan welcomes the creation of Silk Road Fund by China and its utilization for CPEC-related projects. The Pakistan side will firmly support and actively take part in the building of 'the Belt and Road'. Silk Road Fund has become stockholders of China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited Company, and will join hands with it to invest in clean energy projects such as Karot Hydropower Station, which is the first investment project of Silk Road Fund since its establishment. Silk Road Fund is willing to actively seize opportunities to invest in and provide financing for other projects under the framework of CPEC. The two sides believed that the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives represent a new model of regional and South-South cooperation, which will offer new opportunities for Asia's rejuvenation and the common prosperity of all countries.
7. In noting the progress made in the building of the CPEC, the two sides stressed that the planning and development of the CPEC will cover all regions and benefit the entire population of Pakistan, while promoting the common development and prosperity of both China and Pakistan as well as other parts of the region. The two sides agreed to promote a '1+4' pattern of economic cooperation featuring a leading role of the CPEC and four key areas including the Gwadar Port, Energy, Transportation Infrastructure and Industrial Cooperation. The two sides welcomed the successful fourth session of the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee and agreed to complete the CPEC long-term Planning at the earliest possible date. The two sides will actively facilitate the important cooperation projects including the Karakoram Highway (Phase II) Upgrade and Reconstruction, the Gwadar Port, the Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Multan-Sukkur section), the Lahore Metro Orange Line, the Haier-Ruba Economic Zone, the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project, the Pakistan-China Cross-border Fiber Optic Cable, the Landing of DTMB in Pakistan, as well as a number of energy, infrastructure and power generation projects.
8. The Pakistani side appreciated the generous help the Chinese side has provided for its economic development over the years. The Chinese side reiterated that it will continue to support Pakistan's efforts to develop its economy, provide assistance to the reconstruction and related projects on people's livelihoods in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and provide material assistance for Pakistan to adapt to climate change.
9. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the growing volume of their bilateral trade, which has crossed US\$ 15 billion and agreed to make efforts to raise it to US\$ 20 billion in next three years. They also agreed to take appropriate measures to ease the imbalance in their bilateral trade. The two sides decided to speed up the second round of talks on the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement, and are ready to open up the banking industry wider to each other under the Pakistan-China Agreement on Trade in Services.

Pakistan welcomes the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and both sides agreed to accelerate the preparation for the Bank to promote regional infrastructure construction and economic development.

10. The two sides agreed to further enhance maritime cooperation, bring into full play the Pakistan-China Maritime cooperation dialogue mechanism, strengthen policy dialogue and strategic communication on maritime issues, and conduct close cooperation on navigation security, marine economy, the exploration and utilization of marine resources, marine scientific research and environmental protection. The two sides decided to set up a Joint Marine Scientific Research Centre in Pakistan. The Chinese side announced that it will hold a training course on maritime scientific research for South Asian countries in 2015. The Pakistani side expressed its willingness to take an active part in it.
11. The two sides believed that the security interests of Pakistan and China are closely interconnected. They will actively advocate the Asian security concept featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. The two sides will continue to enhance cooperation in fighting terrorism and national defence, and strengthen coordination on international and regional security affairs. The two sides will continue working together to resolutely combat the terrorist organization, ETIM. China commended Pakistan's major contribution to the international counter-terrorism efforts, and will continue to support Pakistan in implementing its counter-terrorism strategy in accordance with its national conditions and enhancing counter-terrorism capacity building. Both sides will continue to regularly utilize their existing mechanisms of Strategic Dialogue and Counter-terrorism Consultations to further promote coordination and mutual understanding.
12. The two sides agreed to actively promote 2012-2020 Space Cooperation Outline between China National Space Administration and Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission. Both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in space technology applications, expedite the integration process of remote sensing, telecommunication and navigation technologies for their extensive application in communications, hydrology, geology, disaster management, port management, mineral prospection, food security, water prospection and other areas for seeking potential advantage in social and economic development.
13. The two sides agreed to further enhance defence cooperation, maintain high-level visits and exchanges at various levels between relevant departments of the two armed forces, make full use of the Pakistan-China Defence and Security Consultation mechanism, deepen cooperation in areas such as joint exercises and training, personnel training and equipment and technology, and expand cooperation in defence technology and production.
14. The two sides attach great importance to people to people and cultural exchanges between the two countries, and will build Pakistan-China relations as a model of friendly exchanges and cooperation among countries of different civilizations. The two are jointly celebrating the Pakistan-China

Year of Friendly Exchanges in 2015, and agreed to further expand exchanges between think-tanks, media, youth, academics and artists of the two countries to make Pakistan-China friendship even more deeply rooted in the hearts of the people. China announced the establishment of the Chinese Cultural Centre in Islamabad, which was welcomed by Pakistan. The two sides announced the agreement on establishment of sister city relations between Chengdu and Lahore, between Karamay and Gwadar as well as between Zhuhai and Gwadar. The two sides will actively encourage and support their publishing organizations to participate in each other's book fairs and to translate and circulate high-quality publications of each other. The two sides announced the launch of CCTV English News Channel and International Documentary Channel, the establishment of the 'FM98 Pakistan-China Friendship Radio' studio by the China Radio International and the Pakistan-China Small-sized Hydro Power Technology National Joint Research Center in Pakistan. The Chinese side announced a training program of 2000 experts from Pakistan in the next 5 years. The Pakistani side expressed its gratitude.

15. The two sides agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation on international and regional issues of common interest, and maintain close communication and coordination within international and regional mechanisms such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) to safeguard the common interest of developing countries. China will actively support Pakistan's efforts to become a full member of SCO at an early date.
16. The two sides recognized that the year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War. Pakistan and China support the international community to use this opportunity to organize commemorative events, in order to draw lessons from history, reaffirm the solemn commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, and safeguard the victory of the Second World War and the contemporary world order and international system based on the Charter of United Nations; to chart the course for the future, explore effective approaches to safeguard international peace and security under new circumstances, and jointly build a new type of international relations featuring win-win cooperation. The two sides support the reform of the United Nations and its Security Council to enable it to better discharge the responsibilities enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The two sides believed that the Security Council reform should increase the representation of developing countries and engage in democratic consultations to seek a comprehensive solution that accommodates the interests and concerns of all UN Member States and enjoys extensive support.

17. The two sides believe that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. The two sides are ready to work together for peace, development and cooperation among the South Asian countries so as to achieve enduring peace and common prosperity in the region. Pakistan supports China in elevating its relations with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, commended the China-South Asia People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges Plan, the China-South Asia Science and Technology Partnership Plan and other initiatives put forward by the Chinese side, and is ready to participate in these initiatives actively.
18. The two sides believe that cooperation between Pakistan and China is conducive to maintaining peace and stability and promoting common development and prosperity in the region. They reaffirm their commitment to multilateral non-discriminatory arms control and non-proliferation endeavours. They agree to continue bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy under IAEA safeguards, in line with their respective bilateral and multilateral commitments. China appreciates and supports steps taken by Pakistan towards its mainstreaming into the global non-proliferation regime. In this context, China welcomes Pakistan's engagement with the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and is ready to strengthen communication and coordination with Pakistan.
19. The two sides believe that the evolving situation in Afghanistan has immediate implications for regional security and stability. Pakistan recognizes the constructive role being played by China in regional peace and stability and in this context, the two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on Afghanistan, support the 'Afghan-owned and Afghan-led' peace and reconciliation process and work with the international community to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region. China will extend full support to Pakistan for hosting a successful Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process in Islamabad in 2015.
20. President Xi Jinping expressed his appreciation to the government and people of Pakistan for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. He invited President Mamnoon Hussain to visit China again at a mutually convenient time. The President of Pakistan accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Islamabad, 20 April 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

C. ECO & SAARC

1. Address of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at the Envoys Conference of SAARC and ECO regions

Bismillah Irrehmanir Rahim.
Honorable Adviser,
Honorable Special Assistant,

Cabinet Ministers (if any),
Foreign Secretary,
Distinguished Envoys.

I congratulate you on your in-depth deliberations over the past three days.

Your recommendations, presented by the Foreign Secretary, will guide decisions of the Government. Your experience and expertise helps us gain traction and navigate steadily as we craft a better future for Pakistan.

So I compliment you on your solid work, which will receive my full attention.

The theme of connectivity that you have chosen for the conference is most apt and timely.

More than 1.9 billion people live in the regions where you represent Pakistan. This is a big chunk of world population. These regions, geographically, sit astride geopolitical fault-lines, economic and trade arteries, and rich natural and human resources.

It is your collective calling, and indeed of the Foreign Office and the entire State of Pakistan, to tap into their markets, to build cultural bridges with them, and to partner with them in our quest for peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

In pursuit of our vision, anchored in the Quaid's dictum of "peace within, and peace without", we are working to safeguard our national interests, build a peaceful neighborhood, spur economic and trade diplomacy and provide high quality services to the Pakistani community abroad.

You all know that Pakistan has a unique economic geography, connecting multiple countries, regions and neighborhoods. We are determined to realize its full potential. Pakistan is a strong proponent of regional economic integration so that we can together create new opportunities for jobs, businesses, industrial production, and agricultural growth.

We need to identify and promote new regional and global agents and value chains to connect economic nodes.

We believe that Pakistan is both a conduit and a destination for investment, trade, production and distribution.

Informed by this compelling rationale, we have embarked on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This mega-project is a transformational, and a game changer for Pakistan and for the region. It would, in due course, also benefit adjoining and peripheral regions.

This project will build the Gwadar Port as the regional trans-shipment pivot, supported by a network of roads, railway lines, power plants, industrial zones, pipelines and fiber optic cables. The CPEC would make Pakistan a hub for trans-regional commerce and industry.

I want you to use your skills and ingenuity to create greater awareness about this historic initiative, dispel misgivings about it, and harness resources that can augment our efforts.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, we took momentous decisions to lock in a massive investment of US \$ 46 billion to transform Pakistan's economic landscape.

At the All Parties Conference (APC) I convened on May 28th, all political parties reached consensus on this flagship initiative. In the PSDP 2015-16 we have allocated more than 300 Billion rupees for projects under CPEC which indicate our complete commitment to fast track implementation of CPEC. You are meeting at a time when Pakistan is demonstrating resilience and exuding confidence. Pakistan's promise as an ascending nation and a lucrative market is being recognized by world capitals and global markets.

So I request you to cast off any residue of cynicism and despondency that you may have, and put your shoulder to the wheel for making Pakistan a great nation. Diplomacy is the best tool to achieve this objective.

Today democracy is taking root in the country. We are reaching decisions through consultation and consensus. Institutional efficiency is being enhanced to rebuild the country.

We have taken a series of steps to consolidate macroeconomic stability, control budgetary deficit, strengthen public finances, reduce inflation, and increase foreign exchange reserves. Overall, economic growth is gaining momentum and I see investment confidence rising. This has also been independently substantiated by the World Bank, IMF, Asian Development Bank, UN ESCAP, and leading credit rating agencies.

This is not a time for complacency but a time for intensifying our efforts. You have been placed in key positions to speak to diverse constituencies in your host countries about the bright and brightening prospects of our economy.

Your efforts will help us attract foreign direct investment in small and large manufacturing sectors. As we go along, Pakistan will become the most hospitable and promising destination for investment. Please showcase this to the world.

Pakistan is now recognized as an emerging market with immense potential. The Government is according highest priority to security and energy to ensure that we continue to move on the pathway to economic revival, inclusive growth and social development.

Operation Zarb-i-Azb has already taken down terrorists' networks, disrupted their command and control system, and debilitated their supporting infrastructure. We are succeeding; but it is still a long haul, as we take on all kinds of ethnic, communal and sectarian violence. This is an all-out war against all forms of violence.

The National Action Plan, which enjoys consensus across the national spectrum, gives us the necessary framework to counter terrorism effectively and decisively. We will spare nobody as we choke financing for terrorism and sectarian violence; and disable terrorists' logistical support systems.

In this regard, we are enlisting assistance of our friendly countries.

Externally-sponsored terrorism and violent extremism are grave threats to a secure and prosperous Pakistan.

The entire nation is dismayed by the recent irresponsible and, I must say, imprudent statements from the Indian political leadership. This vitiates the atmosphere and takes us farther away from our goals of regional peace and stability.

We will protect our vital interests at all costs. This message must be heard loud and clear. At the same time, we will not abandon our high moral ground because of provocations. We will continue our quest for a peaceful neighborhood. But there should be reciprocity and acknowledgement of the overtures I have made to promote the dialogue process.

The issue of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be relegated to the back burner of history. This last Tuesday, in Dushanbe, I urged Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to play a proactive role in promoting peace in the region; and reminded him that it was incumbent on the UN Security Council to ensure early implementation of its resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have moved closer, thanks to the joint efforts being made by the leadership of the two countries. Along with President Ashraf Ghani, we have resolved to fight together our common enemy - terrorism.

Last month, I told President Ashraf Ghani: "... the enemies of Afghanistan cannot be friends of Pakistan." And there are no good and bad terrorists. We will fight them all.

We are strengthening our ties in the fields of trade, education, military training, and intelligence cooperation.

We have conveyed to Afghanistan that its soil should not be used against Pakistan; and we would make sure that terrorists do not establish hideouts in our territory. Stemming cross-border violence is our shared responsibility.

We will continue to support an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process.

The Middle East is in a state of turmoil and volatility. Our appeal to the Middle Eastern countries is to move swiftly from the conflict zones to negotiations. There is no sublimity or salvation in fighting. We don't take sides in conflicts. That said, we would stand by Saudi Arabia, our longstanding ally; and call on Houthi rebels to cease their hostilities to pave way for a peaceful resolution of all problems.

Let me now turn to SAARC and ECO.

Pakistan, along with other likeminded countries, has always been a driving force to revitalize these organizations; but regrettably they are not taking off. It is time for SAARC and ECO to become connectivity backbones for South, Central and West Asia. Pakistan should continue its efforts in this regard. We must advance our vision of economic cohesion by constructing physical infrastructure, reviving and reinforcing transportation networks, building energy corridors, and developing transit hubs. This would have a positive spillover

effect and start a virtuous growth cycle and discredit the vicious cycle of strife that stalks our regions.

Pakistan will give full support to cross-regional projects focusing on energy & water security, value addition, research, science and technology, and modernization.

Our line ministries and embassies must have more synergy. The practice of operating in silos must be broken. Abroad, you are representatives of not just Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but of the entire government and the state. To get optimal results, you must enhance your contact with the Ministries of Commerce, Finance, Water and Power, Petroleum and Natural Resources, EAD, as well as with the Board of Investment and TDAP.

We must all act like one big, united family.

Last but not least. Pakistani community in the countries where you are accredited should remain an absolute priority for your embassies and consulates, no matter how small or large their number is.

Pakistani diaspora is an asset for us. Pakistanis have done well for themselves; and they are keen to contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan. Expatriates who want to invest in Pakistan should be given all the facilities.

Pakistanis abroad connect with Pakistan through you. They should be treated with respect and dignity, irrespective of their social status. I urge you to improve your consular and community services for them.

Soft power is not just about Pakistan's cultural exhibits, important though they are. You must also project growing economic strength of Pakistan by promoting our industrial and agricultural products and our growing competencies in the services sector.

Finally, my message to you is that this is a seminal moment for us, as a nation. It should not be wasted. Our geo-strategic and geo-economic policies should move in tandem. We should negotiate our transition to stability and development with confidence and conviction. We should leverage our pivotal location for the benefit of the people of Pakistan and the extended neighborhood. We stand committed to our people to deliver and for that each one of you has a role to play.

Islamabad, 11 June 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

D. EXTENSION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF

Approval of Pakistan's claim for Extension of Continental Shelf, Statement by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs

It is of great satisfaction for us that Pakistan's claim at the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), for extension of outer limits of its continental shelf, has been unanimously approved. As a consequence of this landmark development, Pakistan has been granted an

additional area of approximately 50,000 square kilometers. Pakistan will have exclusive rights for exploitation and exploration of resources at and beneath the seabed in this area in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. This development will boost our efforts aimed at sustainable socio-economic uplift of the people of Pakistan.

The approval at the United Nations is the result of sustained, dedicated and very well-coordinated diplomatic and technical efforts by concerned Pakistani departments at various levels including national and international.

Pakistan had submitted its claim to the CLCS in April, 2009.

We are thankful to the brotherly country of Oman for its understanding and cooperation in the matter.

Islamabad, 20 March 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

E. FOREIGN POLICY

1. **Statement by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security & Foreign Affairs at the Closing Session of the Seminar: ‘Crossroads Asia: Dynamics of Peace and Progress’ at the National Defence University**

It is a privilege to address this distinguished group which has been deliberating over the past two days on a topic that has acquired immense importance over the past few years. It is always a pleasure to come back to the NDU and interact with such a well-informed audience of academics and researchers. I commend the NDU for organizing such interactive sessions where discussions are held in a healthy and intellectually stimulating environment.

The statement that the 21st century belongs to Asia is no longer a hopeful wish. It has already become a discernable reality and increasingly geo-economics is beginning to dominate geo-politics. As the United States and western powers look eastwards and the Asia-Pivot is trying to expand its influence, it is important for the Asian continent to realize its strengths, identify opportunities, ensure its independent and autonomous place in global politics and determine its future as an emerging economic powerhouse. In this power play, South Asia’s geo-strategic location gives it an added advantage of being at the crossroads of West, Central and East Asia yet, it is still to realize its full potential.

A glance at Asia’s history reveals its growing relevance through centuries. It has housed some of the greatest civilizations and empires of our history in China, Middle East, Turkey and Persia. Frictions and rivalries were inevitable, but so was the spirit of cooperation and political alignments. Today, the economic and political map of the continent illustrates the region’s complex tapestry. After decades of war and revolutionary turmoil, Asia has transformed itself dramatically. Starting in the 1970s, Asia has increasingly become the centre of global geo-economic gravity.

The rise of “Asian tigers” has been a game changer for the global economy: Rapid growth in Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan in the 1970s, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand in the 1980s brought prosperity and economic dynamism to the people of East and South East Asia. Japan played a major role in bringing large scale investment to the Asian tigers. In 1979 China changed course under Deng Xiaoping by proclaiming a policy of economic reforms that brought unprecedented growth of over 10 percent in China for the next three decades. China has now become the second largest economy of the world.

The integration of 10 South East Asian economies in ASEAN was another landmark for Asia and led to an era of sustained economic growth and prosperity for the people. ASEAN has become a template for other regions to emulate. Whatever the criteria - proportion of global GDP, trade, foreign direct investment or global capital flows - Asia has moved from the margins to the centre of the global economy. The truth is that the health of the 21st century global economy will largely be determined, and driven, by the emerging mega-economies of Asia.

Overlaying this 21st century global economic miracle is an array of parallel political and security policy realities that are almost 19th century in their character. Unresolved territorial disputes, resurging nationalism and growing non-traditional security threats dominate the region. This is augmented by the absence of effective regional political and security institutions and mechanisms that could ameliorate simmering regional tensions or manage crises that are inevitable in an environment as varied and diverse as Asia. All this is taking place against a background of increasing military buildup, at a time when most western military budgets are being reduced. Host to five nuclear weapons states – China, Russia, India, Pakistan and Israel, strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific region is of continuing concern for both the region and the world.

During the past decade, the world has also seen unprecedented chaos and violence triggered by a variety of factors and forces. With globalization and new technological advancements, controls at the borders have not been very effective for the security and stability of many countries. The Arab spring was a classic case in point, where revolutionary movements spread across the region like wildfire, engulfing a big chunk of the Middle East and shook the very foundations of many states. The quest for power in Syria and Iraq still rages on with no end in sight. The engagements of the major powers, particularly the U.S., Russia and China, have seen strategic shifts, but not yet found a new equilibrium.

Central Asia and Eurasia is one of the most important sources of world’s energy resources, after the Arabian Gulf and Siberia. However, one of the most serious limitations to its development is the lack of a legal regime, which has led to serious disputes among the littoral states over the question of energy exploitation and distribution. Politically, as well as economically, certain regional and international powers are trying to expand their sphere of influence

in the region and a strong rivalry is emerging among these powers for the control and exploitation of these energy resources.

The “Asian pivot” or “rebalancing” is generating new dynamics in Asia. The rise of potent non-state entities, like ISIS, has changed the global threat matrix and is beginning to imperil the stability of many states and societies. Terrorism, climate change, economic interdependence, regional integration, and a shrinking globe, are all facets of the infinitely complex world that Asian countries have to grapple with.

The enormous potential of the Asian countries can be exploited for the benefits of its people through a sustained policy of interdependence and cooperation. While East Asia has surged ahead in economic growth and prosperity, South Asia remains mired in conflict and poverty. Pakistan has always stood for mutually beneficial cooperation and peaceful coexistence. We value enhancing economic ties, trade, transport and energy connectivity in the region and this has been the cornerstone of our government’s policies since we came to office.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has enunciated “peace for development” as the defining principle of Pakistan’s foreign policy. Building a peaceful neighborhood and a rebalancing between geo-strategic and geo-economic priorities constitute the main pillars of this policy. The Government has embarked on resolute efforts to create a peaceful external and internal environment, so that the core national objective of economic development is robustly advanced. The vision of a peaceful neighborhood cannot, however, be realized without a qualitative transformation in our relationships with Afghanistan, India and Iran.

Our western neighbour, Afghanistan, is at a pivotal juncture. Decades of war, external involvement and internal conflict affected all aspects of national life in the country. Undaunted, the resilient Afghan people are determined to emerge from decades-long conflict and to build a prosperous future. 2014 was a year of landmark transitions — in political, security and economic realms. The swearing-in of President Ashraf Ghani on 29 September 2014 ended the uncertainty about Afghanistan’s political future. Peaceful transfer of power and formation of a National Unity Government were historic firsts.

The Afghan National Security Forces have assumed responsibility for security, as NATO-led ISAF wrapped up its combat mission and assumed a “train, advise and assist”, role in the framework of “Resolute Support Mission.” Simultaneously, Afghanistan has commenced the “Transformation Decade” (2015-24) with the primary goal of becoming economically self-reliant. To this end, an ambitious reform programme has been outlined by the new Afghan government, which is supported by the international community.

International engagement over the past 13 years has helped bring about substantial improvements in Afghanistan including in the economy, infrastructure, health, education and democracy-building. In our view, it is imperative to preserve and consolidate these gains.

At the same time, it is essential to address the challenges; increase in insurgent activities, continued narcotic production and trafficking, and issues related to corruption and governance. We believe this precious moment of hope and optimism in Afghanistan must be defended, by not repeating the mistakes of the past. International community's continuous engagement is a major imperative, since another abandonment of Afghanistan would lead to a repeat of the 1990s. The new Afghan government must be provided continuous economic and financial support for economic revival and for delivering on its reform agenda. All Afghan stakeholders must be convinced that their country would emerge stronger only if they worked with each other, not against each other, to carve out a political settlement. The external actors would have to agree on a regional consensus on non-interference.

On the economic front far-reaching initiatives have been taken by Pakistan and Afghanistan, including enhancing bilateral trade, streamlining transit trade issues, increasing investment cooperation, strengthening connectivity through road and rail links, and promoting energy collaboration through trans-regional projects like CASA-1000 and TAPI. Pakistan is also supporting the "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process", and would host its Ministerial Conference in 2015.

These positive trends are reinforced by the enhanced engagement of China both bilaterally with Afghanistan and in the regional context. Pakistan views this as a welcome development for peace, security, reconciliation, and economic progress of Afghanistan. China's endeavours with Afghanistan, along with Pak-China cooperation on strategic projects like the Economic Corridor, would help effectively promote our common goals of a peaceful and stable region through grater trade and energy connectivity.

While considerable improvement in Pakistan-Iran relations has also started, India unfortunately has not reciprocated our outreach. The cancellation of Foreign Secretary-level talks by India on the pretext of our High Commissioner's meeting with Kashmiri leaders was found unconvincing worldwide. Any efforts by India towards unilaterally altering the status of Kashmir would further compound the already complicated situation.

Unprovoked and indiscriminate firing and shelling from across the Line of Control and the Working Boundary, with Indian leadership threatening disproportionate use of force, portend India's dangerous desire to create a space for war. This hostile attitude also reveals a clear dichotomy in India's insistence on eliminating terrorism on the one hand and creating distractions for our armed forces engaged in a relentless and non-discriminatory counter-terrorism operation '*Zarb-e-Azb*' on the other hand. While the international community recognizes that Pakistan's counterterrorism efforts must be strengthened, and not impeded, India with its massive defence spending is accentuating the conventional asymmetry and seriously impacting regional stability.

From the outset, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had emphasized to the new Indian leadership that the main dynamic in South Asia should be cooperation, not confrontation. Consistent with this perspective, we continue to

follow a policy of restraint and responsibility but are determined at the same time to resolutely defend our national interests. We will not get drawn into any arms race, but will ensure maintenance of a credible deterrent capability. Pakistan shall not abandon its political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmir cause at any cost. Pakistan remains committed to a sustained, unconditional and result-oriented dialogue. Since it cancelled the dialogue, the onus would be on India to take the initiative. South Asia is home to one-fifth of humanity. We believe the fulfillment of their aspirations for a secure and better future should have primacy over any other consideration.

Pakistan appreciates US interest in South Asia and expects it to play a constructive role for strategic stability and balance in the region by allowing space and resources to focus on the objectives of economic development and poverty reduction and reduce the possibility of a reinvigorated arms race in the sub-continent. We hope that not only USA but also other important members of the international community will also support this objective of regional balance and strategic stability in South Asia.

Pakistan also has vital strategic and economic interests in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific regions. Our own security and prosperity is closely linked with the security and prosperity of these regions. It is therefore important for Pakistan to expand its trade and economic links with ASEAN member states in the coming years.

In conclusion I would reiterate that the evolving geo-political spectrum in Asia entails strategic challenges and unlimited opportunities. We continue to passionately assess the emerging trends and pursue realistic goals dictated by Pakistan's national interests and have taken far reaching decisions to meet emerging challenges.

If Asia can overcome its inter-state political challenges, the economic dividends will be unprecedented. We must intensify efforts to resolve contentious issues and disagreements between the regional states through dialogue and political accommodation. Lasting changes can be managed through wisdom and far-sighted leadership.

Thank You

Islamabad, 11 February 2015.

2. Keynote address by Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs and National Security on 'Security Trends in the Asia-Pacific Region: Prospects and Challenges for Pakistan'

I thank the National Defense University for inviting me to this conference.

The first thing that comes to one's mind is that the Asia-Pacific is vast, in terms of geography and population. Political geographers exclude the Middle East and Central Asia from it. Even after excluding these strategically located regions, the Asia-Pacific covers a total land area of 21 million square

kilometers; has a population of 4.4 billion or 60 per cent of the world population; and GDP of more than US \$ 40 trillion.

Let us look at the global trends first.

The US is trying to 'rebalance' its presence in the Asia-Pacific region in order to regain its place in the wake of the rise of China and other emerging powers. China has already established its eminence at the regional and global levels; whereas other nations - Japan, RoK, India, Russia, ASEAN, and Australia - are devising their strategies to project their power, resolve tensions and adjust to new realities.

In recent days, China and Japan have moved to ease strains over the Diaoyu/Senkaku island, but this is not the only issue that keeps the temperatures high between the second and the third largest economies of the world. Other issues include the shaping of the new world order, including the composition of the reformed Security Council and the industrial competition between China and Japan. The Korean Peninsula is eerily volatile though it is calm for the time being. Divergences over the disputed islands in the South China Sea pose even more scary security challenges. These scenarios are compounded by widely perceived Indian ambitions to play a major power role in the region and to contain China.

The dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve their outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, has not made much progress in the past two decades and is now virtually suspended.

In addition, the Asia-Pacific has shared problems of water scarcity, food security, growing demand for energy, climate change, terrorism, transnational crime and maritime security, to mention a few.

But all is not doom and gloom.

The Asia-Pacific is rising economically. In fact, this is called Asia's century. The Asia-Pacific countries not only absorbed the 2008 financial crisis confidently but continued to grow at an impressive rate. Today, Asia is the fastest growing economic region. In the last quarter of 2014, the region's GDP grew by 6.3 percent and the forecast for this first quarter of 2015 has been 6.2 percent. Hence, the markets are stable and growing. Continuing structural reforms and resultant spillovers are delivering positive results, despite continuing slowdown in Japan and the Eurozone. East Asian nations have succeeded in converting their youth bulge into demographic dividends.

Despite the divergences amongst nations on the strategic and political issues, the economic complementarity and connectivity between them is growing at a fast pace.

The launch of the Chinese initiative of One Belt, One Road - short for the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road - is a historic and revolutionary watershed. This initiative calls on all nations in Asia, Africa and Europe to steer themselves away from confrontation to cooperation, from geo-strategy to geo economics, and from rival economic blocs to regional and inter-continental connectivity. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a central plank of this grand, transformative plan.

Against this strategic and economic backdrop, Pakistan is making its choices prudently and with confidence.

We are supporting all efforts for peace, stability and prosperity in the region. We think that the Asia-Pacific should not become an arena for strategic competition and Byzantine schemes to outstrip each other but a shared space for economic and cooperation. We think that in international diplomacy we should evolve a new paradigm of peaceful co-existence that benefits all but hurts none.

In pursuit of this policy, we are not only deepening our ties with China, but also reinforcing our bilateral relations with all East Asian Nations, including Japan, RoK and ASEAN. We have a separate bilateral track with the US, which is playing an active role in the Asia Pacific and South Asian regions.

China has emerged as our most trusted ally both in strategic and economic realms. Though the historical trends of our bilateral trade were not encouraging, in the recent past it has picked up. The good news is that in the past two years, our exports to China have also increased by 25 percent to US \$ 4 billion, out of the total trade of US 16 \$ billion, constituting roughly 17 percent of total exports. We want to cross the US \$ 20 billion mark for overall trade in the next three years.

In that context, the decisions taken by President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif a week ago and the signing of 51 MOUs are a historic first and one that has further consolidated our relations with China and would usher in a new era of progress for the people of Pakistan.

These investment flows, totaling US \$ 46 billion, that are expected under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the energy, infrastructure and industrial sectors will help graduate Pakistan to a higher level of growth and development, as well as improve corporate productivity. Pakistan in the coming decade will be able to join the ranks of rapidly growing emerging nations.

Pakistan has been a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN since 1993. We want to become a full dialogue partner of ASEAN. In 2004, Pakistan acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and joined the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). In 2005, ASEAN and Pakistan signed the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism.

In 2013, ASEAN's total trade with Pakistan amounted to US\$6.3 billion. Pakistan's exports to ASEAN were US\$ 1 billion; and imports US\$ 5.3 billion.

ASEAN FDI to Pakistan has been growing; and many Pakistani investors have started their enterprises and businesses in ASEAN countries.

We are now paying special attention to expand our relations with ASEAN in the areas of trade, industry, investment, science and technology, drugs and narcotics, environment, tourism, and human resources development.

As we all know, Afghanistan is key to peace and stability in the region and Pakistan. Our rapport with the Afghan leadership is excellent. Pakistan will play its constructive role in supporting an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process; and participate in the reconstruction process.

We would continue our policy of a peaceful neighborhood. We want to resolve all outstanding issues with India, including Jammu and Kashmir, through dialogue so that we can remove all the barriers to bilateral and regional economic cooperation. Dialogue is a must and time is running out. A perennial, recurring hiatus is not good for the two nuclear weapon states of South Asia.

Finally, the Asia-Pacific is an important region in global decision-making at the UN, UN-related organizations and international financial institutions. Pakistan needs their support on UN reform, peacekeeping, disarmament issues, international finance, post-2015 development agenda, climate change, human rights and elections to the UN and other international bodies. Our bonds with the Asia-Pacific states in these fora are strong; we will work to make them stronger.

I thank you.

Islamabad, 28 April 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

F. FRANCE

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Paris

Pakistan condemns the brutal terrorist attack in Paris that resulted in the loss of many lives and has left several others injured.

Pakistan deplores terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We extend our condolences to the government and people of France on the loss of life.

We are confident that the international community will continue to stand firm against terrorism and bring the perpetrators of terrorist acts to justice.

Islamabad, 08 January 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

G. INDIA

1. Statement of the Foreign Secretary to media after FS-Level meeting between Pakistan and India

1. Pursuant to the telephone call by Prime Minister Modi to the Prime Minister on 13th February 2015, the Foreign Secretary of India, Mr. S. Jaishankar, is on a visit to Islamabad today.
2. I held detailed discussions with Mr. Jaishankar today in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.
3. Our side was guided by the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan which envisages a peaceful and stable South Asia. Both sides recognized that the two countries need to work together to address mutual concerns and make efforts to promote peace and development.

4. My discussion with the Indian Foreign Secretary covered bilateral and regional issues of mutual concern and common interest, including the Jammu & Kashmir dispute. I told my Indian counterpart that the leadership and people of Pakistan were deeply attached to the cause of Jammu & Kashmir and we need to make a concerted effort to resolve this dispute and indeed other disputes like Siachen, Sir Creek and water issues that could also be addressed through dialogue.
5. I underlined that we needed to work together in areas of convergences and address each other's concerns in areas of divergences. The importance of maintaining dialogue was also stressed.
6. The issue of the situation at the Line of Control and Working Boundary was also raised. I underscored Pakistan's firm commitment to the 2003 ceasefire, and the need to make optimal use of existing mechanisms to maintain ceasefire.
7. I underlined that the global phenomenon of terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security. I reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to eradicate the menace. I underlined that Pakistan was desirous of cooperation from its neighbours, in particular. Indian side raised its concerns. We also raised the issue of Samjhota Express terrorist attack and Indian involvement in FATA and Balochistan.
8. On bilateral trade and economic relations, I affirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing mutually beneficial trade and economic relations.
9. I also underlined the importance of greater people to people contacts and friendly exchanges in building a relationship of trust and friendship between the two countries. In this regard, I suggested that the two sides should encourage increased people to people exchanges; promote cooperation in various fields including religious tourism; and discourage hostile propaganda against each other.
10. I also emphasized the need to promote media and sports contacts.
11. I conveyed to the Indian Foreign Secretary that Pakistan attached high importance to SAARC, which is an important vehicle for promoting regional cooperation. Both of us agreed on the need to work together to develop the potential of regional cooperation.
12. Discussing the next SAARC Summit, I mentioned to Foreign Secretary Jaishankar that Pakistan is preparing to host the 19th SAARC Summit and was looking forward to welcoming the SAARC Leaders.
13. Overall, the visit provided an opportunity to discuss bilateral relations and to understand each other's concerns and interests. It was agreed to work together to find common ground and narrow differences.
14. The Foreign Secretary of India called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Syed Tariq Fatemi, and Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz.
15. Later, the Foreign Secretary of India also paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister.

Islamabad, 3 March 2015.

2. Text of Pakistan's response to the Indian Statement during the Asian-African Summit

"The representative of India has asserted that the question of Jammu & Kashmir is not relevant to this forum. The representative has also made some untenable claims on the issue.

Fundamental rights and the right to self-determination was the cornerstone of the Bandung Declaration. What Pakistan has stated is a fact, that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are still awaiting the fulfillment of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is recognized by UN Security Council resolutions, agreed to by both India and Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir is neither an integral part of India, nor has it ever been. Security Council resolutions recognize Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory, and have pronounced that "the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations" (unquote). That is the legal status, which holds today.

The UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, accepted by both India and Pakistan, remain to be implemented. People of Jammu and Kashmir have yet to exercise their right to self-determination. This is exactly what Pakistan has said.

Pakistan is ready to discuss the Jammu and Kashmir issue bilaterally with India. However, it is not merely a bilateral matter. It is also an international issue, and is on the agenda of the United Nations".

Islamabad, 24 April 2015.

3. Statement from the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs

Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, has expressed serious concern over the statement made by Indian Defence Minister Mr. Manohar Parrikar that India will use terrorism to counter terrorism from other countries.

This statement, Mr. Aziz said, only confirms Pakistan's apprehensions about India's involvement in terrorism in Pakistan. It must be the first time that a Minister of an elected government openly advocates use of terrorism in another country on the pretext of preventing terrorism from that country or its non-state actors.

Pakistan, Mr. Aziz said, sincerely pursues a policy of good neighbourly relations with India. Terrorism is our common enemy and it is vital for the two countries to work together to defeat this menace, from which Pakistan has suffered much more than almost any other country.

Islamabad, 23 May 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk.

H. SAUDI ARABIA

Message of Condolences from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, HRH Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on the sad demise of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz

Your Royal Highness,

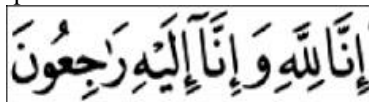
We are saddened and shocked to learn of the passing away of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz.

The people of Pakistan share the grief of the bereaved family and brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and wish to offer heartfelt condolences on this sad occasion. King Abdullah was a great friend of Pakistan. He was revered by the people of Pakistan for his wholehearted support that was always forthcoming.

During our recent meeting in Riyadh, I was encouraged to learn that the King's health was improving. I have, therefore, personally received the news of his passing away with a deep sense of grief.

King Abdullah was a great Muslim leader. His passing away is a great loss to the Muslim Ummah.

The people of Pakistan join me in praying to Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in eternal peace.



(Muhammad Nawaz Sharif)
Prime Minister of the
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Royal Highness
Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud,
Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense,
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Islamabad, 23 January 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

I. TURKEY

1. Text of Joint Declaration on Strengthening Pakistan-Turkey Strategic Relationship

Reaffirming the immutable bonds of common faith, shared history, cultural affinity and brotherhood between the peoples of Pakistan and Turkey;

Underscoring the unique and abiding character of Pakistan-Turkey relations, marked by exceptional mutual trust, understanding and goodwill;

Expressing profound satisfaction at the continued development and expansion of bilateral relations in the political, economic, security and cultural domains;

Reiterating the commitment to continue to transform the cordial bilateral relationship into a robust strategic partnership;

Emphasizing the common vision of the two countries for peace and development for their peoples and the region;

Reaffirming the resolve to fight extremism and terrorism in all forms and manifestations;

Strongly condemning the defamation campaign against the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and the religion of Islam;

Stressing the need for respecting all religions and calling for criminalization of all acts of Islamophobia;

Reaffirming the commitment to continue efforts to promote better understanding and inter-faith harmony;

Endorsing the results of the meetings of the Joint Working Groups of the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), held in Islamabad, on 16 February 2015;

We, as the co-chairs of the 4th Meeting of the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council, held in Islamabad, on 17 February 2015, with the participation of:

- H.E. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Idris Güllüce, Minister of Environment and Urbanization, H.E. Nihat Zeybekci, Minister of Economy, H.E. Taner Yıldız, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, H.E. Mehmet Müezzinoğlu, Minister of Health, H.E. Lütfi Elvan, Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communication,
 - H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister for Commerce, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Minister of Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Privatization, H.E. Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, H.E. Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Reforms, H.E. Mr. Kamran Michael, Minister for Ports and Shipping, H.E. Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Water and Power, H.E. Ms. Saira Afzal Tarar, Minister of State for National Health Services,
 - Other prominent dignitaries and officials,
- Have decided as follows:

Political Cooperation

- The HLSCC shall continue to serve as the highest level political forum and provide strategic focus and direction to the relationship in all dimensions.
- The Joint Working Groups shall ensure effective implementation and follow-up of the decisions taken at the HLSCC meetings.
- Intensive exchanges shall be promoted at the leadership, parliamentary, business, cultural, civil society, media and people-to-people levels.

- The excellent mutual cooperation and collaboration in international organizations, particularly in the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as international initiatives such as Istanbul Process-Heart of Asia will be further enhanced and deepened, including extending support for our candidatures, coordinating policies and taking joint initiatives.
- Both sides agree on the need to make the United Nations Security Council more representative, democratic, transparent, effective and accountable, and that UNSC reform should be comprehensive and it should take place by widest consensus possible.
- The next annual consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers shall be held in Turkey, in 2015.
- The next Bilateral Political Consultations at the level of Foreign Secretaries shall be held in Islamabad, before the end of 2015.

Security and Defence Cooperation

- Cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism, organized crime and drug trafficking shall be further intensified.
- Bilateral cooperative endeavours, including police training, capacity-building, personnel exchanges and exchange of experience shall be further enhanced.
- In follow-up of the High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMDG) meeting in Rawalpindi, in October 2014, both sides would intensify politico-military cooperation, while defence-related industries would focus on joint defence production and related research and development activities.
- Additional opportunities shall be pursued for intensified engagement including through joint exercises, increased defence personnel exchanges and defence dialogues.

Finance and Banking Cooperation

- Cooperation in the fields of finance and banking including insurance, capital market, anti-money laundering, budget, financial reporting and audit shall be enhanced.

Trade and Economic Cooperation

- Intensified trade and commercial cooperation matching the excellent political relationship would constitute a central priority. Concerted steps shall be taken for realizing the vast untapped potential for bilateral trade and commercial cooperation.
- Special emphasis shall be placed on further deepening the involvement of the private sector, enhancing business-to-business interface and facilitating transportation of merchandise.
- The two sides agreed to provide favorable investment climate to their respective investors.

- The next session of the Joint Business Council (JBC) shall be held in Turkey in first half of 2015, with both sides ensuring that the JBC's activities fully reinforce the efforts for increased trade and investment promotion.
- The decisions of the 15th Session of Pakistan-Turkey Joint Ministerial Commission for Economic and Technical Cooperation (JEC), held in Ankara, in October 2014, shall be implemented with a view to providing further boost to trade and economic cooperation.
- Building upon their previous efforts and progress achieved for concluding a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), the two sides will consider to commence negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) covering trade in goods, services and investment after completing the compulsory and procedural requirements in both countries.
- The two sides shall also tap opportunities for enhanced cooperation through market access initiatives under regional organizations such as the OIC, D-8 and ECO.

Energy Cooperation

- Both sides express their willingness to improve energy cooperation – with focus on petroleum, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, geo-thermal and renewable resources such as wind and solar power.
- Pakistan side invites Turkish companies to invest in energy sector projects in Pakistan, especially in the field of coal based power generation and power transmission sector.
- Both sides express their willingness for the Turkish Petroleum International Company (TPIC) to trade oil products to private and public companies of Pakistan under prevalent rules/policy.

Communications and Transportation Cooperation

- A meeting of Joint Road Transport Commission shall be organized during 2015 to finalize the modalities involved in enforcement of the Bilateral Road Transport Agreement.
- Efforts shall be expedited to provide capital to finance scheduled service of the ECO Container Train for the first six months (two service per month) as well as sales and marketing expenses in order to generate commercial cargo to sustain profitable operation of the train.
- Possibilities of Joint Ventures between Pakistan Railways and Turkish Railway Machinery Company, Turkish Wagon Industry and Turkish Locomotive Industry shall be explored.
- To enhance cooperation in maritime transportation, a joint meeting of Pakistani Port Authorities shall be organized and Turkish Port Authorities to discuss and formulate a detailed plan for development/establishment of Vessel Tracking System (VTS).
- With a view to strengthening the bilateral relations in the civil aviation sector, the two sides will hold a bilateral civil aviation meeting at the

earliest convenience and consider a further increase in the frequencies of scheduled flights between the two countries.

- The two sides confirm their willingness to encourage cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, broadband and postal services within the framework of equality, reciprocity and common interest in accordance with the legislation and regulations of each country.
- The Postal Authorities shall pursue collaboration in the fields of:
 - a. International and local remittance services between Turkey and Pakistan; and
 - b. Express and Logistic Services and E-commerce through Postal Network for enhancing cooperation in ICT-based postal services between the two countries.

Cultural and Tourism Cooperation

- The two sides shall support organizations which promote cultural events with the participation of cultural delegations, including art and art exhibitions, festivals, meetings and conferences.
- Joint research programmes shall be undertaken in the fields of archeology, conservation of monuments and archeological sites and museums.
- The two sides shall exchange publications and reports on recent research on archeological sites and museums.
- Visits of the delegations consisting of archeologists, museologists and conservationists of monuments and archeological sites to the important historical sites, historical monuments, museums and conservation laboratories shall be exchanged.
- Cultural troupes shall be exchanged for performance in major cities of the two countries.
- The two sides shall expedite the process of establishment of their respective cultural centers.
- The two sides shall hold seminars on Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Mevlana Jalaluddin Rumi on reciprocal basis.
- The two sides shall exchange documentaries to be shown on national Television Networks of Turkey and Pakistan on reciprocal basis for the promotion of culture and heritage.
- Visits of journalists, media representatives, film crews, tour operators, airway company representatives, opinion leaders etc. shall be encouraged to increase tourism demand in both countries.
- Both sides shall exchange information on investment opportunities in the field of Tourism.
- Both sides shall organize cultural activities mutually in 2015-2016 in accordance with internal procedures.

Education and Science Cooperation

- Student and faculty exchange programmes, institutional linkages between higher educational institutions in both countries and holding of Educational

Expos shall be increased.

- The two sides will share experience on the establishment of TVET schools.
- The Turkish side shall provide Training of Trainers (Master Trainers) for general as well as Technical and Vocational Education.
- Sister School on General and Technical and Vocational Education will be declared for sharing experience through diplomatic channels.
- Both sides shall provide teachers, curriculum and training materials for introduction of Urdu and Turkish languages courses on reciprocal basis.
- The Parties shall endeavour to increase provision of scholarships for undergraduate, graduate (Master, PhD), research and language course levels each year in the fields that are needed in their respective countries within the limits of available means.
- Within the existing framework, cooperation shall be intensified in science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and research & development through sharing of information, experience, joint R&D projects, seminars, conferences and mutual exchange of professionals in the agreed areas of mutual interest.

Agriculture Cooperation

- Cooperation in the field of food and agriculture shall be comprehensively upgraded.
- Both sides shall benefit from each other's experience and strengths in diverse sectors including agricultural research, plant and animal health and agricultural infrastructure and irrigation systems.

Follow-up

The six Joint Working Groups of the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council shall continue their work to develop and implement specific programmes and projects.

The next meeting of the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council shall be held in Ankara, in 2016. The dates shall be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Done on 17 February 2015, in Islamabad in English.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic
of Pakistan

Ahmet Davutoğlu
Prime Minister of the Republic
of Turkey

2. List of MoUs/Agreements signed during 4th HLSCC meeting on 17 February 2015 at Islamabad

1. Protocol of Cooperation between Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Ankara Chamber of Commerce.

2. Protocol of Cooperation between Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Ankara Chamber of Commerce.
3. Protocol of Cooperation between Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kaysori Chamber of Commerce.
4. Executive Protocol for Scientific Cooperation between Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Turkish Academy of Sciences.
5. Agreement for Scientific Cooperation between Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Turkish Academy of Sciences.
6. Memorandum of Understanding between Turkish Accreditation Agency (TURKAK) and Pakistan National Accreditation Council.
7. Cooperation Protocol between Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) of Turkey and Intellectual Property Organization.
8. Memorandum of Understanding between Oil and Gas Development Company, Pakistan Petroleum Ltd and Turkish National Oil Company.
9. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Izmir Port of the Republic of Turkey and the Port of the Karachi Port Trust of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Sister Seaports relation and cooperation.
10. Additional Protocol to the agreement concerning the reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investment.
11. Joint Declaration Strengthening Pakistan- Turkey Strategic Relationship.

3. Speech by the Foreign Secretary at the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process Reception

Honourable Ambassador of Afghanistan, representing the fellow co-chair of Afghanistan in the Heart of Asia process,

Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you at the Foreign Office.

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process has undoubtedly evolved as one of the most dynamic Afghan-led regional process. It aims to promote peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and the Heart of Asia region.

With Afghanistan at its center, the process has helped build meaningful linkages across the region. Heart of Asia provides a useful forum to discuss, implement and evaluate development ideas and projects for Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that continuity and success of this process is dependent on clear vision and effective leadership in Afghanistan and commitment and sincere efforts of member and supporting countries.

Our gathering this evening is reflective of our collective resolve to help build a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, which is vital for the security and stability of us all.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan attaches great importance to the common principles and commitments guiding the Istanbul Process. Pakistan supports the goal of regional cooperation, particularly in the context of promoting peace, stability, trade and connectivity. Pakistan has assumed the co-chair of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process at a crucial juncture in Afghanistan's journey towards reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Since last Ministerial Meeting in Beijing in October 2014, we have witnessed monumental changes reshaping the political horizon of Afghanistan and defining its future outlook.

Significant progress has been made in the political, economic and security realms.

As it steps into the Transformation Decade, Afghanistan needs all the support from the international community that it can get.

Regional cooperation is crucial to reinforcing Afghanistan's national efforts for economic development and deeper regional integration.

The time is ripe for imparting momentum to the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process through approaches that respect Afghanistan's sovereign identity and place its priorities at the center of development cooperation.

Distinguished Colleagues!

Pakistan and Afghanistan not only share geographical boundaries but are also connected through an in-dissolvable bond of history, faith and kinship. The relations between the two countries have undergone positive transformation marked by deepened political engagement, expanded economic cooperation and enhanced security coordination.

Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process is one example of our deep desire to see Afghanistan rising as a peaceful and stable nation. Pakistan, as a co-chair of the Process, would endeavour to ensure that this resourceful blend of vision, leadership, efforts and commitment steers Afghanistan towards stability and prosperity generating a domino effect for the region.

Taking the opportunity of your presence here, I would like to share that Pakistan as co-chair will be undertaking a number of activities in connection with Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process.

We are planning to host the first Senior Officials Meeting in May, the programme for which we will finalize in consultation with our co-chair.

The SOM will afford us the opportunity to deliberate upon the ideas to formulate contents of the "Islamabad Declaration" to be adopted at the conclusion of Ministerial Meeting, hopefully in November this year.

It would also be an occasion to take stock of the progress and of activities carried out under the six CBMs.

As co-lead of Disaster Management-CBM, we plan to host the Fourth Regional Technical Group meeting on 1 June 2015.

The invitations for participation are being forwarded to your respective Missions here in Islamabad and we look forward to active participation from the Heart of Asia members and supporting countries and regional and international organizations.

Later in the year, we hope to organize the Heart of Asia Ministerial meeting, for which we will be coordinating as co-chair and identifying a date.

In the end, I would like to reiterate our firm commitment to working closely with the Heart of Asia partners to accomplish the shared goal of regional cooperation in all areas under the Heart of Asia process.

I thank you all!

Islamabad, 28 April 2015.

4. Senior officials meeting of the Heart of Asia- Istanbul Process – Inaugural address by Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Hekmat Khalil Karzai, Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan,

Distinguished representatives of participating countries of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process,
Excellences,

Ladies & Gentlemen!

It is an occasion of great satisfaction for me to inaugurate the first Senior Officials' Meeting of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process at Islamabad along with Afghanistan as the co-chair.

I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all of you. I hope your stay is comfortable and useful.

It is for the first time that the two brotherly countries are jointly leading a regional platform - a platform that is driven by the firm belief that peace and prosperity in the region can only be achieved in an environment of trust and mutual confidence. And peace and security is essential for socio-economic development of our countries.

Afghanistan holds immense significance for us, not only because we share a common border or ethnic affinity, but also because together we can usher in a new era of regional connectivity and regional cooperation in line with the vision of transformation decade enunciated by President Ashraf Ghani.

Inspired by a famous poem by Allama Iqbal the term "Heart of Asia" (Qalb-e-Asya) refers to Afghanistan's location at the intersection of Asia's three regions viz. South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

Iqbal's love for Afghanistan, its scholars and mystics, its rulers and people and its customs and traditions was unlimited. While terming it Heart of Asia, he rightly identified that Afghanistan will be the determining factor in the peace and stability of the region in times to come and that problems in this country, if not addressed effectively, would spread to the whole region.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

You may all know that the Process was initiative of Afghanistan and Turkey that began in November 2011, to provide a platform to discuss regional issues, particularly, encouraging security and economic cooperation among Afghanistan and its neighbours.

It is heartening to note that today this initiative is thriving at a rapid pace and has gained unprecedented momentum within just four years of its inception.

The co-chairs of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process share a vision to build a comprehensive and enduring relationship, based on trust and deeper cooperation in security and counter-terrorism, trade and economic cooperation, energy and connectivity, support for reconciliation and regional cooperation.

We hope to add to the dynamism and depth of the Process by taking some tangible decisions that could help pace up the process of regional growth and prosperity.

We are firmly committed to ensure that the Transformation Phase on which Afghanistan has embarked upon, becomes a harbinger of regional growth and prosperity.

The positive trajectory of our bilateral relations with Afghanistan, particularly since last year, has lent vigour to the initiatives taken at collective fora.

The Prime Minister's visit to Afghanistan in 2013 and visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Pakistan in 2014, proved to be milestones in strengthening our deep-rooted friendship with Afghanistan.

The recent visit of Prime Minister to Kabul has added a new dimension to our mutual commitment for creating a peaceful and prosperous neighbourhood in the region. We see our collective efforts for peace and reconciliation as the ultimate culmination to bring about a lasting settlement of the conflicts that has been raging, in one form or the other, for the last three decades. We have also resolved to eliminate terrorism through coordinated efforts. We have agreed that the enemies of Afghanistan are enemies of Pakistan. We are confident to effectively face the challenges that face us today by mutual cooperation for moving forward on the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

Adding to that, the willingness of participating countries in consolidating their efforts for implementation of projects envisaged for enhancement of economic connectivity would give a boost to regional prosperity.

With such a rich combination of dedication and resourcefulness, I hope that we would be able to collectively continue to drive the Heart of Asia Process on a productive path.

I wish you good luck and success in your deliberations. Thank you.

Islamabad, 25 May 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

J. UNITED STATES

1. Pakistan-US Strategic Dialogue- Joint Statement

Pakistan Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met in Islamabad on January 13, 2015, for the fifth Ministerial level Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue. The last Ministerial level session of the Strategic Dialogue was held in Washington on 27 January 2014.

The Adviser welcomed Secretary Kerry to Islamabad as an old friend of Pakistan. The two leaders reviewed progress made in bilateral relations in the past year, and held wide-ranging discussions on sustaining and further building the momentum in bilateral cooperation. Secretary Kerry conveyed that a strong, prosperous and democratic Pakistan is an essential partner for the United States in advancing the shared goal of a stable and peaceful region. Both sides reiterated their commitment to an enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United States, which is vital for regional security and stability. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of the Pakistan-U.S. Strategic Dialogue for providing vision and direction for a strong and cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Secretary Kerry conveyed condolences on the tragic loss of lives in the terrorist attack on Army Public School in Peshawar on 16th December 2014. He expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan and appreciation for Pakistan's efforts to fight terrorism.

Secretary Kerry expressed appreciation for the sacrifices of Pakistan's military personnel and civilians in the fight against terrorism and extremism, and he commended Pakistan's resolve and the steps being taken to tackle terrorism in a comprehensive and robust manner. He welcomed assurances of Pakistan's intent to dismantle all militant safe havens for terrorist and criminal networks. Building on the concrete results being achieved by operation Zarb-e-Azb, the two leaders discussed Pakistan's efforts to strengthen governance, expand development, and facilitate the return and rehabilitation of temporarily displaced persons in the tribal areas. Secretary Kerry pledged to continue U.S. support for these efforts and has committed approximately \$250 million to assist in the relief, return and rehabilitation of TDPs, and will continue discussions as needs emerge.

The two leaders expressed satisfaction that the Working Groups constituted under the rubric of the Strategic Dialogue contribute to strengthening bilateral cooperation and advancing shared interests, including in Pakistan's economic growth, increased trade and energy cooperation, regional stability, and countering extremism and terrorism. Both sides reviewed the progress made by the Working Groups on (1) Economic and Finance; (2) Defence; (3) Law Enforcement and Counterterrorism; (4) Security, Strategic Stability, and Nonproliferation; and (5) Energy. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to convene the inaugural session of the Working Group on Education, Science and Technology in 2015. They also acknowledged the importance of ongoing cooperation through assistance authorized under legislation known as the

“Kerry-Lugar-Berman” act. Finally, they decided that the Working Groups are to continue meeting according to a mutually determined schedule.

Fostering Economic Growth

Adviser Aziz and Secretary Kerry reaffirmed their shared commitment to expanding and deepening bilateral economic, trade and investment cooperation. The Economic and Finance Working Group reviewed the progress made in promoting bilateral economic relations in October 2014 in Washington. The United States acknowledged the progress made by Pakistan in steadying its economy and advancing the reform agenda defined by Prime Minister Sharif and his government in close cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral institutions. Secretary Kerry welcomed Pakistan’s efforts to improve its anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing framework in cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Both sides acknowledged the importance of expanded trade and investment ties as the key to a sustainable, balanced and enduring partnership. Recalling the deliberations of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council meeting in May 2014 in Washington, the two sides committed to work towards smooth and effective implementation of the Joint Action Plan launched at the TIFA meeting. In this regard, Pakistan, while renewing its desire to seek a relationship based on trade and investment, not solely aid, underscored its desire for greater market access for its products through all means available.

The two sides also renewed their support for the third U.S.-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference and the Pakistan-U.S. Economic Partnership Week to be organized in Islamabad to encourage increased bilateral trade and investment.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the activities of the U.S.-Pakistan Women’s Council and welcomed the forthcoming launch of the Women’s Entrepreneurship Center in Islamabad. In addition, both sides committed to a particular focus on women’s issues in the next meeting of the Economic and Finance Working Group. They also affirmed their commitment to expand the participation of women in the economy under the Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Efforts to Empower Women and Promote Women’s Entrepreneurship.

Secretary Kerry renewed the U.S. commitment to supporting private sector-led growth in Pakistan. Both leaders also welcomed the completion of the cooperative agreements of the Pakistan Private Investment Initiative (PPII) to leverage private equity for small and medium enterprises, and expressed hope that the financial closure of the projects will begin in 2015. The two leaders also welcomed the launch by USAID of four new partnerships with private-sector banks in Pakistan to improve access to finance for small businesses.

Support for Energy Sector

The two sides reviewed the progress of the Energy Working Group since its last

met in Washington in November 2013. Pakistan thanked the United States for the invaluable assistance in supporting Pakistan's efforts to resolve its energy crisis. In this regard, Pakistan also thanked the United States for its support for financing of Dasu Hydropower Project by the World Bank and for funding renewable energy projects through USAID and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

Both countries expressed their satisfaction over the convening of the Diamer Bhasha Dam Project Business Opportunities conference by USAID and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on October 8, 2014, in Washington. The United States reaffirmed its support for exploring the potential of the Diamer Bhasha Project to meet Pakistan's critical energy and water needs. Pakistan looked forward to the completion of the feasibility study of the Diamer Bhasha Project being conducted by USAID.

Pakistan and the United States also underscored the importance of intensifying efforts to facilitate regional energy connectivity and continuing to upgrade Pakistan's transmission infrastructure. Pakistan appreciated the facilitative role of the United States for the Central Asia – South Asia electricity transmission project (CASA-1000).

Both sides expressed support for cooperation in expanding power generation capacity, including hydroelectric and renewable resources to bring additional capacity to the grid while minimizing the energy sector's contribution to global climate change; promoting the efficient use of energy resources; fostering development of Pakistan's gas resources and their efficient utilization; and continuing reforms to the energy sector to ensure its financial sustainability and to attract private sector investment.

Education Sector Cooperation

The two leaders recalled the shared intent expressed by President Obama and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in October 2013 to further promote educational and research opportunities, and they welcomed the creation of the Working Group on Education, Science and Technology. They noted that the Working Group is intended to facilitate greater academic linkages and promote scientific and technological research collaboration between educational and research institutions of the two countries to foster economic growth. They looked forward to the early convening of the Working Group meeting.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the increase in U.S.-Pakistan university partnerships in a range of fields, as well as the wide range of educational exchange programs including the Fulbright Program, to further promote educational and research opportunities for Pakistani students, especially women and girls. Both sides committed to continue working together to increase access and improve the quality of basic education throughout Pakistan.

Defence and Security Cooperation

The two leaders discussed Pakistan's continuing efforts to defeat terrorism. Secretary Kerry expressed support for the Pakistan military's on-going

operations in the tribal areas and the progress achieved so far. Secretary Kerry and Adviser Aziz agreed that U.S. security assistance has been effective and well deployed to assist Pakistan in its counterterrorism efforts.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the 23rd round of the Defence Consultative Group (DCG) held in Washington December 2014 and committed to areas for future defence cooperation. They noted that the DCG Working Group played a role in strengthening cooperation to support both countries' security interests. Both sides renewed their mutual commitment to a strong defence relationship.

Both the Adviser and Secretary Kerry condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The Adviser shared his perspective on effective counterterrorism cooperation and stressed that there is no distinction between good and bad militants. Secretary Kerry emphasized the need for effective action against all violent extremists that threaten regional security. The two Leaders emphasized that no country's territory should be used to destabilize its neighbors. The United States and Pakistan renewed their common resolve to promote peace, stability, and transparency throughout the region and to eliminate the threats posed by extremism and terrorism. Both sides pledged to coordinate and cooperate on UN designations for terrorists.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the Law Enforcement and Counterterrorism (LECT) working group held in Islamabad on January 12. The Adviser appreciated U.S. support to bolster Pakistan's counterterrorism (CT) and law-enforcement capacity. Both sides discussed steps to reinforce counterterrorism cooperation, share best practices towards developing a counter-narrative to militancy and violent extremism, enhance the overall rule of law, ensure ongoing cooperation to counter improvised explosives devices, and continue support for Pakistan's efforts to stabilize the border areas and improve border management.

Pakistan and the United States attach high importance to preventing the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery to states as well as non-state actors. The US and Pakistan stand together in achieving the objectives of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1540, and both have consistently supported and implemented relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions.

The United States welcomes Pakistan's ongoing efforts to harmonize its strategic trade controls with those of the multilateral export control regimes. Furthermore, the United States has full confidence in nuclear security in Pakistan and appreciates Pakistan's proactive engagement with the international community including through its hosting of IAEA training activities at its Nuclear Security Center of Excellence and its active participation in the Nuclear Security Summits.

In this context, the two sides look forward to continuing the bilateral dialogue on Security, Strategic Stability and Non-Proliferation (SSS&NP). Both sides recognize their shared interest in strategic stability and emphasize their commitment to meaningful progress in the future.

Regional Cooperation

Secretary Kerry and the Adviser noted that a peaceful, stable, independent, united and prosperous Afghanistan is vital for peace and stability in the region. Secretary Kerry welcomed the renewed and intensified engagement between Pakistan and Afghanistan, including President Ashraf Ghani's visit to Pakistan. Secretary Kerry encouraged continued dialogue and cooperation between both sides, recognizing the importance of cooperation to the stability of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the broader region.

The two sides recognized that terrorism represents a common challenge to the region that requires common endeavors. They shared their mutual conviction that a stable, well-managed and peaceful Pakistan-Afghanistan border is vital for the success of counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, and counter-IED efforts, with complementary coordinated counterterrorism efforts against militants conducted on both sides of the border. Both sides welcomed the steps being taken to strengthen Pakistan-Afghanistan bilateral mechanisms for enhanced security cooperation, including measures for effective border management and controls.

Both delegations recognized that an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process is vital for achieving long-term peace, stability and progress in Afghanistan and the region. They welcomed the call by the new Afghan government to the Afghan Taliban and all armed opposition groups to resolve differences through political means. The Foreign Affairs Adviser reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to facilitate the efforts of the Afghan government for peace and reconciliation.

The two sides also concurred that regional economic cooperation is crucial to reinforcing Afghanistan's national efforts for economic development and deeper regional integration. Secretary Kerry welcomed Pakistan hosting the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in 2015 and congratulated Pakistan on hosting productive Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Coordination Authority meetings earlier this month.

The Adviser and Secretary Kerry stressed that improvement in Pakistan-India bilateral relations would greatly enhance prospects for lasting regional peace, stability, and prosperity, as it would significantly benefit the lives of citizens on both sides of the border.

Enduring Partnership

The Foreign Affairs Adviser and Secretary Kerry affirmed their commitment to a long-term and strong partnership between Pakistan and the United States anchored in the enduring friendship between their two peoples, which is not only in the interest of the two countries but also vital for the peace, stability and prosperity of the region. Affirming that both the United States and Pakistan are committed to democracy, human rights, freedom, and respect for international law, the two leaders reiterated their commitment to deepen and enhance the relationship between the peoples of the United States and Pakistan. The two sides committed to meet again for the Ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue in 2016.

Islamabad, 13 January 2015.

2. Statement of the Foreign Affairs Adviser on Indo – US Relations

We have taken careful note of statements made and agreements reached between the United States and India on issues having a global and regional impact during President Obama's visit to India. While we are examining the longer term implications of these agreements for Pakistan's security, some comments can be offered straightaway.

Cooperative and collective actions by all member states are required to effectively tackle the global threat of terrorism. Pakistan is a leading partner of the international community in counter-terrorism. We also expect the same commitment from others. Pakistan is also the biggest victim of terrorism, including that sponsored and supported from abroad. Pakistan's contribution and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism have been widely acknowledged. Pakistan rejects any insinuation or aspersion over its commitment to fight terrorism. Condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should not be based on selectivity or double standards. Pakistan reiterates its call on India to bring the planners and perpetrators of the February 2007 Samjhota Express terrorist attack to justice.

We have also noted the Joint Statement suggesting that India is ready for NSG membership and other export control regimes. Pakistan is opposed to yet another country-specific exemption from NSG rules to grant membership to India, as this would further compound the already fragile strategic stability environment in South Asia, would further undermine the credibility of NSG and weaken the nonproliferation regime.

Pakistan remains opposed to policies of selectivity and discrimination. Pakistan is not averse to civil nuclear cooperation and NSG membership for Non-NPT states provided it is based on the principles of nondiscrimination and objective nonproliferation criteria. Pakistan would continue to maintain its constructive engagement with NSG and other export control regimes to build its case for membership.

Moreover, the operationalization of Indo-US nuclear deal for political and economic expediencies would have a detrimental impact on deterrence stability in South Asia. Pakistan reserves the right to safeguard its national security interests.

Pakistan, along with a large majority of UN member states favours a comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make this principal organ of the United Nations more representative, democratic, effective, transparent and accountable. A country, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions on matters of international peace and security, such as the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, by no means qualifies for a special status in the Security Council.

Proposals to add new centers of privilege in the Security Council run counter to the collective objectives of Security Council reform; and have no rationale in this age of democracy, inclusiveness and accountability. Pakistan supports a reformed Security Council that corresponds to the positions and collective interests of all member states, not just a few.

Pakistan values its relations with the United States and expects it to play a constructive role for strategic stability and balance in South Asia.

Islamabad, 27 January 2015.

3. Statement by Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs at the Seminar on ‘US President Obama’s Visit to India and its Implications’, organized by Strategic Vision Institute

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this Seminar and to share my views on a topical subject: “US President Obama’s visit to India and its implications.” Such an interaction provides a useful opportunity to deliberate upon issues of importance and to draw lessons for policy makers.

Before taking up the implications of President Obama’s visit to India, let me refer to the far reaching changes in the geo-political, security, economic and social spheres in South Asia.

We are in fact living in a time of profound transformation in global politics and economy with paradigm changes not only in South Asia but also in Europe, Central Asia and West Asia:

- There is a discernable shift of the economic centre of gravity with rumbles of new alignments in which China and Russia are cooperating in Eurasia through trade and energy connectivity and many new financial institutions and organizations like SCO.
- The “Asian pivot” or “rebalancing” – though primarily focused on the Asia-Pacific – is also generating new dynamics in South Asia.
- The rise of potent non-state actors, like ISIS, has changed the global threat matrix and is beginning to imperil the stability of many states and societies.
- Terrorism, climate change, economic interdependence, regional integration, and a shrinking globe, are all facets of the infinitely complex world that we are destined to grapple with.
- Meanwhile, globalization continues to forge ahead, with all its positive and negative ramifications.

In assessing the longer term implications of President Obama’s visit, it is important to keep in mind, that the situation in South Asia is affected by these phenomena, and is heavily conditioned by the global environment, which itself remains in a state of flux and instability.

Similarly, this visit to India is taking place at a time, when Pakistan’s bilateral relations with USA are witnessing a significant improvement. After the crisis ridden relationship of 2011-2012, the official visit of the Prime Minister to Washington in October 2013 put the relations back on a positive trajectory. This was followed by the two rounds of the Strategic Dialogue that were suspended in 2010, the first in Washington on 28 January 2014 and the second in Islamabad on 12-13 January 2015, just a fortnight before President Obama’s visit to India.

The improvement in US-Pakistan relations is based on several important policy changes and initiatives by Pakistan in the past 18 months. These changes and initiative were motivated by Pakistan's own national interests but they also addressed some of the US concerns and priorities:

First, is the strong commitment to fight terrorism. Starting with the Karachi operation in September 2013, then the operation Zarb-e-Azb in June 2014 and finally the comprehensive National Action Plan launched in December 2014 with the support of all political parties. Intelligence based counter-terrorism operations and non-discriminatory actions against all terrorists are being undertaken in all parts of the country.

Second, there has been a remarkable upgrade in Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan specially after the advent of the new Government under President Ashraf Ghani. This has not only helped to create a conducive environment to facilitate a smooth drawdown of US forces from Afghanistan but also improved the prospects for a stable and peaceful Afghanistan which in turn is also vital for stability in Pakistan.

Third, the comprehensive interactions in 5 Working Groups on the economy, energy, defence, nuclear issues and counter-terrorism have helped to broaden and deepen US-Pakistan cooperation in these areas.

During Secretary Kerry's visit, we shared with him Pakistan's continuing desire to have a peaceful neighbourhood and also our disappointment that India by cancelling Foreign Secretary talks scheduled for 25 August 2014 had not reciprocated in carrying forward the peace process. On the contrary, ominous developments were taking place along the Line of Control and the Working Boundary. In this background, we conveyed our concerns quite forcefully, that US should take a comprehensive view of strategic imbalance in South Asia and avoid any steps that may jeopardize strategic stability in South Asia.

President Obama's Visit

As expected the two day visit of President Obama to New Delhi was marked by a well orchestrated media hype and a carefully laid out programme to demonstrate that the partnership between India and USA, started a few years ago, was now witnessing a "qualitative reinvigoration of strategic ties". The two sides issued a lengthy joint statement, a Declaration of Friendship, a Joint Strategic Vision for Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean Region.

The center piece of this new partnership seems to focus on security and military cooperation based on Defence Technology and Trade Initiative and a framework for US-India Defence Relationship for the next 10 years.

The second important component was the understanding on the implementation of Civil Nuclear agreement finalized in 2006. While details are still unclear, they have agreed to create an Insurance Pool of Rs.15 billion to cover the liability risk of American nuclear companies. It is too early to predict if these companies would find this insurance pool sufficient to facilitate large scale export of nuclear reactors.

The two sides also signed a US-India Investment Initiative, and an MOU on cooperation of many high tech items with \$2 billion private investment in clean energy.

USA also offered its support for India's bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and join the Nuclear Suppliers Group. They also agreed to "work together" on climate change to seek a positive outcome of the Paris Conference by the end of 2015.

From the US perspective, closer relations with India fit in well with its Asia Pivot policy as it tries to boost India's status as a key regional power and a counter-weight to China.

While the final outcome of the visit will unfold in due course, Pakistan has already spelled out its initial concerns and expectations about the visit.

Pakistan's key concern is the paramount importance of strategic stability in South Asia.

India has embarked on a massive military build-up, through sizeable arm purchases both from Russia and USA. This will inevitably worsen the conventional imbalance.

In addition, India is also expanding its fissile material production facilities that would boost its weapons programme and is seeking access to advanced technology in missile and related delivery systems.

These conventional and nuclear imbalances between India and Pakistan are growing at a time when India is accentuating tensions and unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and the Working Boundary. It has also launched a systematic campaign to isolate Pakistan by dwelling on its favourite themes of the past few years and by refusing to acknowledge Pakistan's determined efforts to eliminate terrorism from the region.

While Pakistan reserves the right to safeguard its national security interests, it expects USA to recognize the importance of strategic stability to allow space and resources to focus on the objectives of economic development and poverty reduction and reduce the possibility of a reinvigorated arms race in the sub-continent.

We hope that not only USA but also other important members of the international community will also support this objective of regional balance and strategic stability in South Asia.

Any objective evaluation of this visit would also recognize that while USA is keen to push India towards its Asia Pivot in the Eastern half of Asia, Pakistan is an important player on the Western half of Asia, which includes Afghanistan, Iran and the whole Central and West Asia. As one of the few stable and well functioning states in the Muslim world, Pakistan's role in promoting stability and in facilitating connectivity in this important part of Asia, is indispensable and well recognized not only by USA but also by Russia and China. This should reduce any apparent worries that some observers may have generated after Obama's visit.

K. YEMEN**Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Policy Statement on the Yemen Crisis**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

I have seen many media comments in Pakistan and abroad on the Yemen crisis, particularly after the Resolution passed by the Parliament on 10th April. I think it is necessary to clarify Pakistan's position on different dimensions of the crisis. From the very start, Pakistan's policy was based on the following principles:

- The importance of Saudi Arabia as one of our most important strategic allies;
- The sanctity of the two Holy Mosques and full support to their Custodian;
- Pakistan's long term commitment to Saudi sovereignty, territorial integrity and stability which has been the main pillar of our foreign policy pursued by successive governments;
- Our firm assurance to our Saudi brothers that we shall stand shoulder to shoulder with them;
- Strong condemnation of actions by the Houthis and other non-state actors to overthrow the legitimate government of Yemen and serious concern at the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation; and,
- The urgency of finding a peaceful solution of the crisis through dialogue among the warring factions.

The Resolution passed by the Parliament on 10th April, fully endorses these principles and strengthens the hands of the Government for playing a positive and constructive role. The Resolution has affirmed, in clear and categorical terms, that any violation of the Saudi territorial sovereignty or threat to the two Holy Mosques will evoke a strong response from Pakistan. This assurance has been given despite the massive commitment of our armed forces in the on-going Operation Zarb-e-Azab, in which hundreds of our brave soldiers and security personnel have laid down their lives.

We have already intensified contacts with Saudi Arabia to monitor the ground situation and possible threats to the security and territorial integrity of the Kingdom. We believe that the restoration of President Hadi's government will be an important step forward towards establishing peace in Yemen.

I also conveyed to the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. Javad Zarif during his visit to Pakistan on 8-9th April that the violent overthrow of the legitimate government in Yemen by the Houthis had set a dangerous precedent that was fraught with serious risks for the entire region. I also urged him to use Iran's influence to bring the Houthis to the negotiating table.

We are also in touch with other GCC countries to assure them that their disappointment was based on an apparent misinterpretation of Parliament's Resolution. Pakistan does not abandon friends and strategic partners, especially at a time when their security is under threat.

My government continues to follow the policy of fortifying and strengthening the bonds of friendship with the Gulf countries. There should be no doubt about our policy of solidarity with the GCC States.

Some media reports are speculative and tend to create misunderstanding between Pakistan and its Arab brothers. We have not responded to these speculations because we believe that public comments would be counter-productive.

Pakistan will intensify its diplomatic efforts in the coming days, in consultation with the leadership of Saudi Arabia, to resolve the crisis.

Islamabad, 13 April 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

II: Political Developments

1. Reported version of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Address to the Nation in which he formally announced 20 major points of National Anti-terrorism Plan, finalised with the consensus of political and military leadership

1. Pakistan government ends moratorium on death penalties just after Peshawar school carnage to execute all convicted in terror related cases.
2. Formation of 'special trial courts' led by military officers has been decided which would be formed for specific duration up to next two years. Special amendments will be made in the Constitution to create paths to try terrorists in special courts in the country.
3. No place or permission to form an armed or militant group in the country.
4. Pakistan will activate anti-terrorism institution, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) to end terrorism.
5. Strict actions against culprits involved in spreading extremism, sectarian and terrorism violence.
6. Blocking all financial and media routes that are supporting terrorism.
7. Outlawed organizations would not be allowed to continue working with new names
8. Formation of special anti-terrorism force in Pakistan.
9. Ensuring security of minorities in the country via uprooting extremism and terrorism.
10. Registration of Masdarahs in Pakistan including review of laws and regulations.
11. Ban on print and electronic media sources advertising terrorism.
12. Special arrangements and decision to be finalised to send Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to their homes.
13. Communication system of banned terrorist outfits will be destroyed completely.
14. Special security measures will be taken to seal internet and social media sources that are empower terrorism.

15. Terrorism will not be tolerated in Punjab province (Note: Federal capital is also situated in Punjab province of Pakistan.)
16. Karachi operation will be continued till a logical result. Anti-terrorism solutions will be finalised to counter terrorism in any part of Pakistan especially in Punjab province.
17. Special authorities were given to Balochistan government to endow political understandings in the province. Fast-track reformations in administration and development sectors in Federally Administered Tribal Aread (FATA).
18. Decisive action being taken against terrorism.
19. Policies to send back Afghanistan refugees currently present in Pakistan. Special arrangements to send back Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) of Pakistani tribal part.
20. Provinces will be given special intelligence access to stop terrorism while special reformations in criminal justice system.

Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/2014/12/25/pakistan-pm-addresses-nation-announces-20-major-points-of-anti-terrorism-plan/>

2. *State of Human Rights in 2014* – chapter on Political Development

Political participation

... the state shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people ...

Constitution of Pakistan

Preamble

... the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam, shall be fully observed ...

Preamble

... fundamental rights [shall be guaranteed] subject to law and public morality ...

Preamble

The state shall encourage local government institutions composed of elected representatives of the areas concerned and within such institutions special representation will be given to peasants, workers and women.

Article 32

... it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law ...

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 1

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country. (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 21

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions: 1. To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives; 2. to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors; 3. To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 25

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

a. to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;

b. to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;

c. to participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women**

Article 7

Political participation as a human right

The right to participate in one's political system is fundamental; political participation not only gives citizens a voice in the functioning of their government but also provides support to minority and underrepresented people, including women, and may prevent violent political transitions.

Political participation involves much more than just voting. It encompasses the freedom to speak out, assemble and associate and the ability to take part in the conduct of public affairs. Political participation includes other rights such as the freedom of expression, assembly and association, all of which are prerequisites for democracy to function.

In addition to ensuring that the right to political participation is not impeded by State action, human rights law encourages States to also take measures to overcome difficulties, such as illiteracy, poverty, and violence, that

may hinder political participation and prevent individuals and groups from exercising their rights effectively.

Human rights standards also emphasize that men and women have an equal right to participate fully in all aspects of political life.

Overview

In many ways, 2014 redefined political participation in Pakistan. Ostensibly exercising their right to political participation, the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party held rallies and sit-ins across Pakistan to protest what it called widespread and systematic rigging of the 2013 elections, joined in part by the Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT), who promised a revolution by overthrowing the system. The manner the protests were carried out, as well as the government's action—and at times inaction—highlighted the need to rethink the balance between the right to peaceful participation in political affairs and the State's obligation to maintain law and order.

Anti-government protests

The 2013 general election, which brought the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz to power at the Centre, continued to be a source of controversy. While most national and international observers judged the elections considerably fairer than the previous ones, the PTI said widespread and systematic rigging plagued them, and accused the PML-N, the then Chief Justice of Pakistan, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, the Election Commission, the caretaker setup in Punjab and a powerful media house of 'colluding to steal the people's mandate'.

The PTI gave the PML-N a deadline of August 14, 2014, Pakistan's Independence Day, to carry out an audit of votes in four constituencies and insisted that a Supreme Court commission lead the inquiry. In response to the government inaction, the PTI headed by Imran Khan, as well as Dr Tahir-ul-Qadri's Pakistan Awami Tehreek, having no seat in the parliament but its own agenda to bring about a revolution, started a wave of protests, rallies and sit-ins that captivated and paralyzed the country for more than four months. Qadri's supporters' clashes with police on June 17 had left at least 11 people dead, including one police officer, and hundreds injured during resistance to the police plan for removing barriers outside Qadri's house and the party's secretariat in Lahore's Model Town area. With the incident providing the anti-government protests a spur, on August 14 thousands of people marched from Lahore to Islamabad and eventually camped there.

Call for civil disobedience

Soon after the commencement of the sit-in, PTI announced a countrywide call for civil disobedience to pressurise Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif into resigning. Imran Khan urged his supporters to stop paying taxes and utility bills to paralyze what he called an illegitimate government.

Storming of the Constitution Avenue

On August 20, the PTI and PAT moved their protests into Islamabad's "Red Zone" and gathered outside the Parliament House. To avoid further clashes after the Model Town incident, the government remained passive, and despite heavy deployment of police as well as the armed forces in the Red Zone, the protestors were allowed to stage their sit-ins. On their part, both parties agreed not to enter any high-security building in the Red Zone.

On August 31, however, both parties went back on their word as the protestors tried to storm the Parliament House and the Prime Minister's residence. At least three people were killed and hundreds others injured and as the police clashed with protestors, many of whom were armed with batons and other small weapons. The next morning, clashes once again erupted as some protestors entered the Pakistan Television headquarters, resulting in PTV transmission being temporarily cut off.

Shutdowns

Following its sit-in in the capital and the call for civil disobedience, PTI threatened a countrywide shutdown on December 16 (later changed to December 18) preceded by a periodic shutdown of major cities if its demand for an independent audit of the May 2013 elections was not accepted.

Detention, arrests and use of force

The government responded to the protests in curious ways. Much of Lahore was sealed with containers to prevent protestors from marching to Islamabad on August 14, followed by much of Islamabad being blocked with containers to prevent more protestors from joining the sit-ins. This was coupled with a wave of preventive detention of dozens of PAT and PTI workers.

After the storming of Parliament, the government's misdirected response took new turns. On many occasions, First Information Reports (FIRs) or police complaints were registered against PTI and PAT members, including the leaders of both parties, under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997. Some protestors were also arrested before being released on bail.

Finally, the government relied on the police force to manage the increasingly agitated crowds, despite ample warning signs –including the loss of life in the Model Town incident –that the Punjab police was not trained in the essential skill of peaceful crowd-control. On 8 December, for example, during PTI's "shutdown" of Faisalabad, a PTI worker was killed during a clash with supporters of PML-N. On many occasions, in addition to unarmed protestors, police also attacked journalists and reporters.

PAT announced an end to its sit-in on October 21 in favour of countrywide protests. Imran Khan called off the campaign on December 17 following the massacre of nearly 150 people including 132 students by the Taliban at a school in the northwestern city of Peshawar. His announcement came a day ahead of his party's planned country-wide shutdown intended to force the prime minister into resigning.

The contours of the right to political participation

The second half of 2014 saw active political participation in the form of protests, rallies, sit-ins, social media campaigns, civil disobedience, and finally, countrywide shutdowns. Analysts, regardless of political affiliations, commended the inclusion of women and young people in political activities. A class that previously thought of politics as “dirty” business became a part of politics –albeit on its own terms. Many of their demands embrace the core of a healthy democracy: electoral reforms, an independent and prompt investigation into allegations of rigging, and accountability for loss of life perpetrated by agents of the State. In a vibrant and healthy democracy, such political participation keeps the government of the day accountable to the electorate during its term, as opposed to merely on an election day.

However, the year’s events also illustrated the need for responsible political participation, without which the hard-won right to political association and protest, at least in the Punjab, could lose legitimacy. Law enforcement agencies must be brought to account for their excesses and trained to control peaceful crowds without resorting to lethal force. However, to what extent can protestors who carry batons and other weapons be called peaceful? When thousands of protestors attempt to storm the country’s parliament with the intention of overthrowing the government, where does one draw the line between peaceful protests and acts of terrorism? While the State’s obligations to protect the rights of peaceful assembly, association and political participation must be stressed unconditionally, what about the ensuing duties of the protestors and their leaders to stay peaceful, ensure they refrain from inciting hatred and violence, and keep their demands within the parameters of the constitution?

How the Pakistani State strikes a balance between the right to political participation and the duty to ensure peace, law and order would have far-reaching consequences on mainstream politics in the country.

Marginalized groups and political participation

While the PTI and PAT expanded the right to political participation in Punjab’s political arena in 2014, the year saw the space for marginalized groups in politics shrink even further. With media and public attention focused on PAT and PTI for much of the year, the shrinking of the space for these marginalized groups was mostly ignored.

In October 2014, HRCP’s coordinator in Gilgit-Baltistan, Israruddin Israr, and 10 others were charged with sedition for declaring the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997, a “black law” and holding a protest against the conviction and sentencing of a political rights campaigner, Baba Jan. Following a 2010 landslide in Gilgit-Baltistan, which destroyed scores of villages and left over a thousand people displaced, Baba Jan mobilized local communities to demand compensation for their displacement. The protests turned violent in August 2011 when clashes between the police and protestors resulted in two protestors being killed and public property being damaged. Baba Jan and eleven other activists from Gilgit-Baltistan were arrested and charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act,

1997, and in September 2014, they were all convicted and given life sentences by an anti-terrorism court.

On March 18, the chairperson of Baloch Student Organization-Azad (BSO-Azad), Zahid Baloch, was abducted at gunpoint in Quetta, according to eyewitnesses, by members of the Frontier Corps. His fate and whereabouts still remain unknown. Baloch, like dozens of other activists who have been allegedly subjected to enforced disappearance by agents of the State, was also exercising his right to political participation by demanding justice and equal treatment for the marginalized Baloch community.

Similarly, the year also saw the “kill and dump” policy, previously used against Baloch activists, extended to Sindhi nationalists. HRCP documented a number of cases where men associated with Sindhi nationalist groups were abducted, allegedly by security personnel, with their bodies later found in different parts of Sindh and Balochistan. Similarly, reports of illegal detentions and torture of many activists, particularly those who identified themselves as Baloch nationalists or were close to Baloch separatist groups, also became rampant. Several bodies of Baloch young men were found dumped in Karachi. Legitimate political participation by Baloch and Sindhi nationalists was severely curtailed leading to increased disillusionment with the state.

The protests by these groups, active in the margins of Pakistan that are less open to media scrutiny as opposed to the Punjab, were declared as treasonous and anti-Pakistan, giving State agencies a free hand to deal with them the way they pleased. This can be contrasted with PTI’s at times violent and manifestly unlawful attempts at coercing an elected prime minister to resign and PAT’s rather extravagant demand of toppling the system, lauded as heroic efforts by the media, and evoking sympathy, if not backing, by the establishment. The double standards must be considered when assessing the changing contours of political participation in the country.

Women

2014 was a very interesting year for women’s political participation. On the one hand, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) protests, rallies and sit-ins were celebrated as allowing unprecedented participation of women in political movements, a development that was mocked at as immoral by some reactionary and retrogressive forces in the country. On the other hand, there were allegations that women were being used as protective shields, and that women’s participation was reduced to attending protests and sit-ins rather than being given any meaningful say in decision-making.

Hundreds, if not thousands of women came out on the streets to participate in the rallies of both the PTI and PAT. Like their male counterparts, they too were seen listening, cheering, and marching as well as dancing to the music played during the rallies. Very disturbingly, the sight of women at public gatherings brought out the deep-rooted misogyny in Pakistani society. The media flashed pictures of young women for much too long; religious and conservative parties condemned women’s presence at the rallies as immoral; and

detractors of PAT and PTI derogatively referred to the rallies as social events where men go only to ogle at women, reducing women to mere showpieces. All these reactions highlight the hurdles to women's full political participation.

The PTI and PAT leadership touted the numbers of women attending their rallies as a revolutionary change, bringing men and women one step closer to equal political participation. However, the stark difference in numbers of women on the stage and in the crowds in both PAT and PTI gatherings dispels the myth of equality. While it is certainly a positive development to see women attend political rallies, their contributions have to be more than cosmetic to establish that protests are radically changing women's role in politics. To have any long-term impact, women's political participation has to be empowering, allowing women's voices to be heard rather than being lost in chants of hero-worship. Unfortunately, there was little evidence of any such change in women's political empowerment in 2014.

In May 2014, Search for Common Ground Pakistan launched a report titled "Strengthening Women's Political Participation and Leadership for Effective Democratic Governance in Pakistan: A Baseline Research Study". The study identifies strengths and challenges related to the role of women parliamentarians in the democratic politics and governance of Pakistan.

The study found that women parliamentarians were competent and possessed an adequate level of knowledge for making legislation, but they were a less popular choice of political leaders as well as the voters as compared to their male counterparts largely due to deep-rooted gender inequality and bias. The report found that most women were allowed to run for elections because they were from a political family. The study recommended assigning leadership roles to women leaders within political parties, allocating increased seats to women on general seats, and electoral and legislative reforms to provide level playing field to women as essential steps to realising the rights of women to full political participation.

At a conference on "Increasing Women's Technical Capacity to Participate in the Political Process" organized by the Forum of Federations, an international governance organization, participants highlighted many barriers impeding women participating in politics. These included ideological barriers, based on a general mindset that the "rightful" place for women was not in politics; social and cultural barriers, which included women's disproportionate burden in work and domestic sphere; economic barriers, which included poverty contributing to exclusion of women; and political barriers, which included economic and social criteria for political candidacy, the level of availability which political activity demands as well as the stigma that politics is "dirty". An increased ability and capacity, and equal opportunities for women to run for elections were recommended for better political participation of women.

According to a Free and Fair Election Network report issued on International Women's Day, women legislators performed impressively during the nine sessions of Parliament in the first parliamentary year.

Female parliamentarians played an active role in the lawmaking process by submitting 12 private member bills, six singly and six jointly with other parliamentarians. These bills focused on governance, human rights, democracy and political development. Women parliamentarians singly submitted 20 resolutions, 14 call attention notices, 1,383 questions, 22 motions under rule 259 and raised 64 points of order during the period.

The annual Global Gender Gap Report, published by the World Economic Forum in October 2014, placed Pakistan in the 141st spot out of 142 countries surveyed for gender equality worldwide.

The report seeks to measure the gap between women and men across health, education, economy and politics. According to its findings, Pakistan's performance was assessed to be the best out of the four areas in political empowerment. Pakistan ranked 141st in terms of economic participation and opportunity for women, 132nd in terms of education attainment, 119th for health and survival and 85th for political empowerment.

Youth

Pakistan is home to one of the largest youth populations in the world. Out of a population of 180 million, 59% are below the age of 24 and 67% are under 30.

According to various surveys held in the last few years, young people saw little point in being politically active because they perceived the political system as being inherently corrupt and felt that Pakistan's power structures prevented participation by those who came from outside the nepotistic and closed system.

Since most of the Pakistani young people of voting age were born in the 1980s or later, in an era when student politics was banned by military ruler General Zia-ul-Haq and a state-sponsored campaign maligned public institutions as corrupt and incompetent, they remained deprived of experiencing student politics and understanding the link between students and national politics.

Political parties too failed to encourage the youth to fully participate in politics and their policies, such as the Punjab government's laptop scheme, had been hollow, aimed at co-opting the youth rather than empowering it politically.

The PTI emerged as the one party that went beyond cooption and sloganeering in reaching out to the youth. The party targeted youth participation by aiding them in procuring party's membership. The Insaf Student Federation was setup as the official student wing of the PTI with youth representatives from all provinces. Forums were set up on social networking sites to encourage youth to use social media to participate and express their views. This resulted in widespread participation of young people, largely belonging to urban, middle-class Pakistan, in PTI's brand of politics.

While ensuring youth participation in the democratic process is a key factor in cementing the future of the democratic process in Pakistan, the involvement of the youth in politics cannot be taken as an absolute good. While 2014 saw a large number of students and young people come out in the street to

support Imran Khan and PTI, the same people continued to show immense disdain for the political class and of democratic norms.

Their legitimate desire for change was often expressed as a self-righteous disdain for those who disagreed with their party's course of action. News channels, journalists and media houses that were perceived as less sympathetic to their cause were frequently subjected to harassment, abuse and attack, both on social media and in the streets. It appeared that the newly politicized class of young people was too impatient to work for long-term political and democratic gain.

Young people were also seen at the forefront of another very different kind of political movement. The Voice of Baloch Missing Persons that started a Long March from Quetta in October 2013 to raise awareness about human rights violations in Balochistan and demand the recovery of their "missing" relatives, reached their destination, Islamabad, in March 2014. Another young person, Lateef Johar, a 22-year-old Baloch student, went on hunger strike in front of Karachi Press Club for 46 days to protest the abduction of Zahid Baloch, BSO-Azad's chairperson.

The year ended with yet another kind of political movement. In the wake of the December 16 attack on the Army Public School, there were widespread calls urging the government to ensure that extremism and sectarianism in madrasas and mosques was curtailed, and those who instigated violence and hatred were brought to justice. Maulana Abdul Aziz, a cleric associated with the Lal Mosque in Islamabad, refused to condemn the attack on the school on a television show.

This was followed by a stream of protests outside the Lal Mosque, later called the "Reclaim Your Mosque" campaign, demanding that Maulana Abdul Aziz apologize. The police filed charges against the protestors for "disturbing the peace, and the next day, five of the protestors were arrested. The protests, however, continued, and a few days later, the main organizer of the campaign got a threatening phone call allegedly, from Ihsanullah Ihsan, spokesman of the Taliban splinter group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, to stop the protests or he and his family would face consequences. Maulana Abdul Aziz also used his Friday sermon to threaten suicide-bombings if any harm came to him. On 26 December, an FIR was registered against Maulana Abdul Aziz under section 506 (2) of the Pakistan Penal Code for criminal intimidation or threats. The protests continue, struggling to reclaim mosques as places of worship and prayer as opposed to sanctuaries for extremists, and also challenging mainstream narrative by highlighting the role of various state actors, including the armed forces and religious elite, in the rise of religious extremism and terrorism in the country.

These different kinds of youth movements illustrated that Pakistan remained a fragmented country—religiously, ethnically, across class and gender lines. This fragmentation was also visible in the youth, which was not a homogenous group as it is referred to in everyday parlance.

Religious minorities

Violent attacks against religious minorities continued to hinder every aspect of their lives, including political participation. The insecurity experienced by religious minorities not only exposes them to the threat of death and injury, but also reinforces their exclusion from political activity, basic services, education and employment. (*See chapter on religious minorities*).

Institutional discrimination against religious minorities' participation in politics also remained unchanged. Articles 41(2) and 91(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan, for example, bar non-Muslims from holding the positions of the head of state, the president, and the head of government, the prime minister. Such restrictions in the Constitution of Pakistan prove that the right to full political participation is not guaranteed to non-Muslims.

This exclusion is most evident in case of Ahmadis, who continue to appear on a separate electoral list even though all other religious minorities have been added to a common list of voters. To register their votes, Ahmadis must provide their address and dissociate themselves from Islam, which has meant that Ahmadis have long been deprived of an opportunity to vote.

A report titled "Searching for Security: The Rising Marginalization of Religious Communities in Pakistan", released in December 2014 by the Minority Rights Group International, expressed concern at the growing exclusion of religious minorities from the political process. The report found that political parties rarely offered minorities the opportunity to contest elections to general seats, and even on the rare occasion when they do or when minorities run as independent candidates, they often meet with other forms of resistance. For instance, during the recent election of May 2013, in a district where the PPP awarded party tickets to Hindu candidates, a local madrasa distributed leaflets that cautioned Muslims against voting for non-Muslim candidates, labeling Hindus as "infidels".

The report further highlighted that even when efforts were made on the part of majority candidates to reach out to voters belonging to religious minorities, many were still ignored, even in areas with large non-Muslim populations. For example, in Mirpurkhas district few attempts were made by candidates to approach the 40% Hindu population for support. However, since the community belonged to lower castes and worked for feudal landlords, candidates called on these landlords to secure minority votes instead of attempting to access the minority groups directly.

Devolution of power and local governments

Local government, being the nearest to the grass roots, is considered an essential component of participatory democracy. In Pakistan various manifestations of local governments have historically served only one purpose: to legitimize and strengthen the control of despotic regimes, in particular military rulers. Even subsequent civilian governments have either failed to revive elected local governments or have been unable to fulfill their real purpose.

Local government elections were held in Balochistan in December 2013. During 2014, the province held second and third phases of the election and was due to have local governments installed in January 2015 and become the only province in the country to have complied with a Supreme Court order on local bodies elections. The first phase of the election was held on December 7, 2013. The process had been delayed in the province due to amendments to the law on the LB polls. The local governments' term in the province had expired in 2009.

Other provincial governments dragged their feet on fulfilling the legal and administrative requirements to hold elections.

In March 2014, the Supreme Court declared that provisions of provincial local government laws that empowered provincial authorities to make delimitations of local government constituencies was unconstitutional and void. The court ordered the federal and provincial legislatures to amend the laws to empower the Election Commission (ECP) to make the delimitations by October 30, 2014.

On 20 October, the Sindh Assembly approved the Sindh Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 2014, empowering the ECP to carry out the delimitation process. On October 27, 2014, the Punjab Assembly adopted Punjab Local Government (second amendment) Ordinance, making a similar provision.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PTI-led coalition government had long demanded that local government elections be conducted through biometric electronic thumb verification machines to ensure greater transparency. The ECP responded with saying that it would only be able to hold the elections in November 2015 by using biometric system. In November 2014, the PTI agreed to hold local government elections without the biometric thumb verification system in April 2015.

Gilgit-Baltistan

In 2009, President Asif Ali Zardari had passed the Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-governance Order, 2009, providing a limited chance to the locals to govern some affairs of the region for the first time. Following the first elections held after this presidential order, the PPP won a majority of seats and became the single largest party in the legislative assembly.

Governance in Gilgit-Baltistan, however, failed to offer a sense of empowerment to the local population, and according to activists and political analysts, the limited self-rule and continued deprivation of fundamental rights in the region was tantamount to treating Gilgit-Baltistan as a colony.

2014 saw ongoing popular protests that reflected the growing sense of alienation experienced by the people of the region. Thousands took to the streets, with major sit-ins taking place in Gilgit and Skardu. The trigger for the protests appeared to be the government's withdrawal of the subsidy on wheat, but the political subjugation and denial of basic rights were also brought to the fore.

An HRCP report, “Caught in a New Great Game”, based on observations of a fact-finding mission sent to the region in October 2013, highlighted that the people of Gilgit-Baltistan suffered greatly due to their anomalous constitutional and legal status, as well as the incompetence of the Gilgit-Baltistan Council, which had only met once during the last four years. The fact-finding mission revealed that no stakeholder expressed satisfaction with the Empowerment and Self-Governance Order, 2009. Additionally, the people of the region believed that their right to political participation was severely impeded, and the issues they raised locally did not get attention at the national level.

On December 10, the legislative assembly’s term came to an end. Elections for the new assembly were expected to take place in March 2015.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif approved the appointment of a retired judge Justice Tahir Ali Shah as the Chief Election Commissioner. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf challenged Justice Shah’s appointment in the Supreme Court, claiming Justice Shah was unsuitable for the position given his close ties with the PML-N.

Recommendations

- 1. The government must ensure that the right of political participation is guaranteed across the board, without discrimination based on class, ethnicity, gender, ideology, religion or any other reason. Measures should promptly be taken to curtail the unlawful use of force by law enforcement and security agencies that impinge on the right to political participation and perpetrators must be brought to account;*
- 2. Political parties should establish targets or adopt internal quotas to ensure a specified minimum number of women and members of religious minority groups are put forward as candidates. They should also provide support and resources to secure the election of women and religious minority candidates, and also make sure that they are fully represented in party leadership and policy committees;*
- 3. The Election Commission must be strengthened as an independent, effective body with adequate powers to conduct free and fair elections. Reforms of the electoral system, including strengthening the Election Commission, must be undertaken after a collaborative and consultative process involving all political parties, within and outside of parliament, as well as civil society groups;*
- 4. All legislation and policies that prohibit the operation of student unions and limit the participation of students and youth in politics must be amended or repealed;*
- 5. Religious minorities should be provided opportunities for full political participation, which includes: ensuring that all citizens enjoy equal voting rights and that Ahmadis are not obliged to vote on separate electorate rolls; allowing non-Muslims to occupy all levels of government by amending discriminatory restrictions such as Articles 41(2) and 91(3) of the*

Constitution, which bar non-Muslims from the positions of president and prime minister; and taking steps to stop violence against all religious communities and providing them effective protection, particularly in areas where they are vulnerable to militant attacks.

6. *The anomalous constitutional status of Gilgit-Baltistan must be corrected urgently, after consultation with all stakeholders from the region. A provisional or permanent provincial status should be considered, and fundamental rights guaranteed to those living in other provinces in the country should also be extended to the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.*

Source: State of Human Rights in 2014, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Lahore, March 2015, pp.183-98.

III: Economy

1. Excerpt from Pakistan Economic Survey highlights

Growth and Investment

- Global economic growth during the outgoing year has witnessed some continuing signs of improvement with a pick-up in high-income economies along with some improvement in developing countries.
- China and Pakistan have made agreements to establish China Pakistan Economic Corridor between the two countries. The corridor will serve as a driver for connectivity, trade in the world is expected to increase and Pakistan will take benefits through multiple dimensions.
- Major trading partners of Pakistan are growing with better outlook, which will certainly have positive impact on the economy of Pakistan and provides an opportunity to uplift socio-economic condition of common man in the country.
- Pakistan is improving quantitatively and qualitatively as growth achieved 4.24 percent is broad based and is the highest achievement since 2008-09.
- Major success of the outgoing fiscal year includes: picking up economic growth, inflation contained at lowest level since 2003, improvement in tax collection, reduction in fiscal deficit, worker remittances touches new height, successful launching of Sukuk, foreign exchange reserves significantly increased and stock market created new history.
- The GDP growth accelerates to 4.24 percent in 2014-15 against the growth of 4.03 percent recorded in the same period last year. The growth momentum is broad based, as all sectors namely agriculture, industry and services have supported economic growth.
- The agriculture sector accounts for 20.9 percent of GDP and 43.5 percent of employment, the sector has strong backward and forward linkages. The

agriculture sector has four sub-sectors including: crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

- The industrial sector contributes 20.30 percent in GDP; it is also a major source of tax revenues for the government and also contributes significantly in the provision of job opportunities to the labour force.
- Industrial sector continued growth process and recorded growth at 3.62 percent as compared to 4.45 percent last year.
- The manufacturing is the most important sub-sector of the industrial sector comprising 65.4 percent share in the overall industrial sector. Growth of manufacturing is registered at 3.17 percent compared to the growth of 4.46 percent last year.
- Manufacturing has three sub-components; namely the Large-Scale Manufacturing (LSM) with the share of 80 percent, Small Scale Manufacturing with the share of 13 percent and Slaughtering with the share of 7 percent.
- Small scale manufacturing witnessed growth at 8.24 percent against the growth of 8.29 percent last year and slaughtering growth is recorded at 3.32 percent as compared to 3.40 percent last year.
- LSM has registered the growth of 2.38 percent as compared to the growth of 3.99 percent last year.
- The share of construction in industrial sector is 12 percent and is one of the potential components of industries. The construction sector has registered a growth of 7.05 percent against the growth of 7.25 percent of last year.
- Mining and quarrying sub-sector contains 14.4 percent share of the industrial sector. This sub-sector witnessed a growth of 3.84 percent as compared to 1.65 percent growth of last year.
- Electricity generation & distribution and Gas Distribution is the most essential component of industrial sector. This sub-sector has registered growth at 1.94 percent as compared to 5.57 percent in last year.
- The share of the services sector has reached to 58.8 percent in 2014-15. Services sector contains six sub-sectors including: Transport, Storage and Communication; Wholesale and Retail Trade; Finance and Insurance; Housing Services (Ownership of Dwellings); General Government Services (Public Administration and Defense); and Other Private Services (Social Services).
- The Services sector has witnessed a growth rate of 4.95 percent as compared to 4.37 percent last year. The growth performance in services sector is broad based, all components contributed positively in growth, Finance and Insurance at 6.1 percent, General Government Services at 9.4 percent, Housing Services at 4.0 percent, Other Private Services at 5.9 percent, Transport, Storage and Communication at 4.2 percent and Wholesale and Retail Trade at 3.4 percent.

- Three main drivers of economic growth are consumption, investment and export. Pakistani society like other developing countries is a consumption oriented society, having high marginal propensity to consume.
- The private consumption expenditure in nominal terms reached to 79.20 percent of GDP, whereas public consumption expenditures are 11.84 percent of GDP. Total consumption expenditures have reached to 91.04 percent of GDP in outgoing fiscal year compared to 91.46 percent of last fiscal year.
- Per capita income in dollar terms recorded a significant growth of 9.25 percent in 2014-15 as compared to 3.83 percent last year. The per capita income in dollar terms has reached to \$1,512 in 2014-15.
- Total investment is recorded at 15.12 percent of GDP, Fix investment is registered at 13.52 percent of GDP. Private investment witnessed at 9.66 percent of GDP. Investment has been hard hit by internal and external factors during the last few years but now situation is improving.
- Total investment witnessed a growth of 10.21 percent as compared to 8.4 percent last year. Public investment recorded an impressive growth rate at 25.56 percent as compared to 6.82 percent last year.
- Total investment which was recorded at Rs.3756 billion in 2013-14 increased to Rs.4140 billion for 2014-15.
- Public investment which was recorded at Rs.842 billion in 2013-14 is reported at Rs.1057 billion in 2014-15.
- Public investment as a percent of GDP increased to 3.86 percent against the 3.36 percent last year.
- During July-March, 2014-15 credit to private sector flows increased to Rs.228.2 billion against the expansion of Rs.305 billion in the comparable period last year.
- National savings are 14.5 percent of GDP in 2014-15 compared to 13.7 percent in 2013-14. Domestic savings is witnessed at 8.4 percent of GDP in 2014-15 as compared to 8 percent of GDP in 2013-14. Net foreign resource inflows are financing the saving investment gap.
- Present government has launched comprehensive plan to create investment friendly environment and to attract foreign investors in the country. As is evident, the capital market has reached to new height and emitting positive signals for restoring the investor's confidence.
- Pakistan's policy trends have been consistent, with liberalization, deregulation, privatization, and facilitation being its foremost cornerstones. Board of Investment (BOI) under the Prime Minister's office has approved investment policy to provide more investment friendly environment to investors.
- Foreign private investment has reached to \$1666.2 million during July-April 2015 as compared to \$1050.3 million showing 58.6 percent higher as compared to last year. Out of total foreign investment, the FDI inflow has reached to \$2057.3 million.

- The major inflow of FDI is from US, Hong Kong, UK, Switzerland and UAE. Oil & gas exploration, financial business, power, communications and Chemicals remained major recipients.
- The government is also aiming to explore new markets to export its manpower as well as incentives for the remittances to further enhance its growth. The available data suggest inflow of the remittances for the period of July-April 2014-15 stood at \$ 14969.66 million compared to \$ 12897.91 million during the corresponding period last year, which is 16.06 percent higher over the previous period.

* * * * *

Public Debt

- Public debt was recorded at Rs.16,936 billion or 61.8 percent of GDP as at end-March 2015 compared with 62 percent during the same period last year.
- Public debt recorded an increase of Rs.940 billion during first nine months of current fiscal year as compared with Rs.1,272 billion during the same period last year.
- The primary source of increase in public debt was in domestic debt that positioned at Rs.11,932 billion representing an increase of Rs.1,012 billion, whereas, external debt posed at Rs.5,004 billion representing a decrease of Rs.72 billion as compared to end June 2014.
- Government made progress in achieving the targets set under Pakistan's first Medium Term Debt Management Strategy (2013/14 - 2017/18) as the government was able to reduce its refinancing risk by re-profiling its domestic debt and increasing the external inflows.
- Pakistan successfully returned to the International Islamic Bond market in November 2014 with the issuance of US\$ 1 billion Pakistan International Sukuk.
- Pakistan has become eligible for concessional IBRD funding which will be used to fund priority infrastructure / development projects.
- During July-March, 2014-15, public debt servicing was recorded at Rs.1,193 billion against the annual budgeted estimate of Rs.1,686 billion. Public debt servicing consumed nearly 44.5 percent of total revenues during first nine months of current fiscal year against a ratio of 47 percent during the same period last year.
- EDL stock was recorded at US\$ 62.6 billion as at end March 2015 out of which external public debt was US\$ 49.1 billion. Public external debt witnessed a decline of US\$ 2.3 billion during first nine months of current fiscal year.
- During first nine months of 2014-15, disbursements including loans and grants stood at US\$ 4,001 million compared with US\$ 2,301 million during the same period last year.

- Pakistan also received US\$ 2,106 million from the IMF. Importantly, net inflows from the IMF stood at US\$ 1,041 million during first nine months of current fiscal year compared with net outflow of US\$ 861 million during the same period last year.
- Servicing of EDL fell by US\$ 1,282 million in first nine months of current fiscal year as compared to the same period last year and recorded at US\$ 5,303 million. Out of this total, principal repayments were US\$ 3,291 million and interest payments were US\$ 812 million, whereas an amount of US\$ 1,200 million was rolled over. Among the principal repayments, US\$ 935 million of multilateral debt and US\$ 1040 million of IMF accounted for most of the share.

* * * * *

Transport and Communications

- Pakistan's total road network is around 263,942 Kms which carries over 96 percent of inland freight and 92 percent of passenger traffic.
- Length of NHA road network is around 12,131 kms comprises of 39 national highways, motorways, expressway and strategic roads.
- During 2014-15, NHA executed 72 development projects costing Rs. 1,342 billion. Government of Pakistan has allocated Rs. 111.56 billion in the Federal PSDP 2014-15 for NHAs development projects.
- Government of Punjab and the Federal government have jointly completed twin cities Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metro-Bus service project with a total cost of Rs. 44.21 billion. Metro bus project will be fully functional after May 30, 2015.
- The entire length of 8.6 Km of Metro Bus corridor in Rawalpindi area shall be of elevated structure where as 14 Km in Islamabad shall be at-grade.
- The network of Pakistan Railway comprises of 7,791 route kilometres, 452 Locomotives, 1,732 passenger coaches and 15,948 freight wagons.
- The government is taking new initiatives to improve the performance of Pakistan Railways by repairing/purchasing of locomotives, enhanced HSD oil reserves up to 12 days to streamline the train operation.
- During financial year 2014-15, 90 Kms of track has been rehabilitated besides doubling of 57 kms track.
- During 2014-15, Pakistan Railways procured and assembled 202 passenger coaches, rehabilitate 27 locomotives and repaired 150 locomotives at the cost of Rs.11.289 billion.
- During 2014, PIA management embarked upon a mission of "Revival of PIA" under new initiatives/steps to improve the performance of PIA by contracts re-negotiation, route rationalization, re-deploying aircrafts on more profitable domestic and international routes. Due to these steps PIA expenditure decreased by 38 percent and its operating revenue increased from Rs. 95.771 billion to Rs. 99.519 billion in 2014.

- Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) provides transportation services for crude oil requirements of the country comprises of nine vessels of various types/size with a total deadweight capacity of 681,806 tonnes.
- During July-March, 2014-15, PNSC companies earned revenue of Rs.12.20 billion as against Rs. 11.37 billion over the corresponding period of last year.
- During July-March 2014-15, Port Qasim Authority handled 21.618 million TEUs (Twenty Equal Units) of container traffic which is 14.0 percent higher over the corresponding period of last year.
- At Gwadar Port, 5,315.5 million tons Urea import was handled during July-March 2014-15.
- During July-March 2014-15, the total cargo handled at Gwadar Port stood at 6.279 million tons against 5.764 million tons over the corresponding period of last year showing a growth of 8.9 percent.
- Telecom revenues during Jul-Dec 2014-15, amounted to Rs.299.0 billion which made this sector very attractive for further investment.
- Teledensity has been improved and facilities have reached to 75.2 percent of population.
- The introduction of 3G/4G spectrum would help in expediting socio-economic progress of the country. Auction of 3G /4G spectrum is the major achievement of the government in Telecom Sector and has brought an investment of US\$ 1790 million.
- During July-Dec, 2014-15, Telecom sector contributed 73.22 billion to the national exchequer in terms of taxes etc.
- Cellular Mobile subscribers reached to 134.9 million at the end of March, 2015.
- During the period July-March 2014-15, an amount of Rs. 126 billion has been collected through National saving Schemes and Pakistan post has earned commission amounting to Rs.630 million.

Energy

- During the recent visit of President of China, Pakistan and China signed 51 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) relating to diverse aspects of bilateral relations, including the Pakistan China Economic Corridor and series of energy projects. Thus almost \$15.5 billion worth of coal, wind, solar and hydro energy projects will come online by 2017 and when mature will add 10,400 megawatts of energy to Pakistan's national grid.
- Asian Development Bank has approved assistance packages to help Pakistan to undertake key reforms in the power sector. This included funding to ensure energy delivery to industrial and private consumers. The Jamshoro Power Generation Project, which on completion in 2018, will add 1,300 megawatts (MW) to the country's electricity grid. Reliability of the power distribution network is also being enhanced through the investment of \$167.2 million to upgrade 284 grid stations.

- The World Bank also approved a financing package from the International Development Association (IDA) to help expand hydro-electricity generation in Pakistan through the development of the Dasu Hydropower Stage-I Project (DHP-I). The package consists of an IDA Credit of \$588.4 million and an IDA Partial Credit Guarantee (PCG) of \$460 million to help mobilize commercial financing for the project. DHP-I would have 2,160 megawatt (MW) hydropower plant on the main Indus River, which can be expanded to 4,320 MW in future with less additional cost.
- During July-March FY 2015, primary energy supplied increased to 50.9 million TOE compared to 48.8 million TOE showing a growth of 4.4 percent while energy consumption increased to 25.1 million TOE compared to 24.6 million TOE in same period last year showing a growth of 2.0 percent.

Pakistan Energy Sources

- Transport and power sectors remained the highest sector in the usage of oil / petroleum products.
- The longer term trend suggests that composition of energy consumption, the composition is changing by substituting the gas as cheaper source compared to oil being expensive. However due to gas load management, share of oil has again started rising.

Natural Gas

- With respect to gas, Pakistan has one of the most developed gas transmission and distribution network in the region but on account of its increased share in energy consumption, the gap between its demand and supply is widening.
- The gas load management is mostly restricted to Punjab Province as its share in gas supply is about 5 percent while it has a share of almost 46 percent of national gas consumption.
- SNGPL is meeting the requirement of more than 4.8 million consumers of domestic, commercial, CNG and industrial categories through its distribution network. All categories of consumers are fed through a common distribution network. There is a continuous extension in SNGPL's network. On an average, there has been an increase in gas demand by 40-50 MMCFD (based on average consumption during summer months) and 80-100 MMCFD (based on average consumption during winter months) each year.
- Government of Pakistan is taking following steps to overcome the shortage of natural gas in the country:
 - Contain the natural gas demand at current level
 - Increase indigenous gas supplies
 - Promotion of LPG air mix
 - Import of LNG

- Import of Gas from Iran
- Import of Gas from Turkmenistan
- Today Pakistan is the world leading CNG user country with more than 3 million NGVs (Natural Gas Vehicles) plying on the roads. The choice of conversion is mainly due to the fact that prices of CNG is significantly less than petrol price. Currently there are more than 3,414 CNG stations in the country fulfilling the fuel need of the NGVs.
- The Government of Pakistan is now successful to import 500 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d) of LNG from Qatar. As per LNG Policy in 2006/2011 the project structures can be (i) integrated, in which the terminal developer arranges LNG imports as well as its buyers and (ii) unbundled, in which the terminal developer, LNG importer and LNG buyers are different
- The current 400 MMCFD of Regasified LNG (RLNG) will be provided to the power sector including Nine (9) gas-based Independent Power Plants (IPP) - KAPCO, Fauji Kabirwala, Rouche, Halmore, Orient, Saif Energy, Sapphire, Altern Energy, and Davis Energen for replacement of Diesel or LSFO consumption. This RLNG will allow these power plants to generate an additional 9 Billion KWh per annum, equivalent to an additional 10 percent of total current annual power generation, without investment in any new generation capacity.

Coal

- The Government considers Thar coal development as a flagship project. Thar Coal Projects have been enlisted as early harvest projects by the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor), Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMS) and Sino Sindh Resources (Pvt.) Limited (SSRL) have been prioritized as top priority projects to be financed by Chinese institutions. There is a complete synergy between the Federal and the Provincial Government of Sindh. Total power generation anticipated from these three projects is 2400 MW by 2018.

Electricity

- The installed capacity of PEPCO system was 20,850 MW at the end of June 2013 which has gone up to 22,104 MW by the end of June 2014 with hydro and thermal capacities occupying 7,097 MW and 15,007 MW respectively. Out of aforementioned thermal capacity, 5,458 MW is owned by ex-WAPDA GENCOs, 650 by PAEC and rest by IPPs/Rentals. There is also 55 MW of isolated generation capacity at Pasni & Punjgoor areas in Baluchistan. The installed capacity of PEPCO system has gone up to 22,577 MW by the end of March 2015 with hydro and thermal capacities occupying 7,097 MW and 15,480 MW respectively.
- It is also mentionable that the village electrification program is an integral part of the total power sector development program. It is important for not only to raise the productivity but also to raise socio-economic standards of

the population living in rural areas. The progressive number of villages electrified has increased from 1, 89,018 on 30th June 2014 to 1, 93,511 at the end of March 2015 while As of March 2015, the number of consumers has risen to 23.258 million.

- To mitigate the impact of rising cost of thermal power and narrow down the demand-supply gap, the work on mega projects like Neelum-Jhelum (969 MW) and DiamirBasha (4500 MW) hydropower projects is under way.:

Alternative Energy Sources

Wind

- There are almost thirty one (31) wind power IPPs (1810 MW) holding LOIs issued by AEDB are at various stages of project development while following projects are under construction:
 - 50 MW Three Gorges First Wind Farm Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., Jhampir Sindh.
 - 50 MW Foundation Wind Power-I Ltd. Khuttikun, Gharo, Sindh.
 - 50 MW Foundation Wind Power-II (Pvt.) Ltd., Khuttikun, Gharo, Sindh.

Solar

- On May 5, 2015, the Prime Minister inaugurated 100MW solar energy project which will generate 100 MW electricity. In Solar Energy, 33 LOIs for cumulative capacity of approximately 888.1 MW On-Grid Solar PV power plants have been issued

Biomass / Waste-to-energy

- Following Biomass/ Waste-to-Energy projects are in various stages of implementation under IPP mode:
 - M/s SSJD (12 MW) Sindh
 - M/s Lumen Energia (12 MW Shahkot) Punjab
 - M/s Biomass Power Generation Limited (12 MW), Faisalabad
 - M/s Green Sure Environmental Solutions (12 MW), Mardan, KPK

Social Safety Nets

- The government is fully committed to follow a sustained poverty reduction strategy and allocate a minimum of 4.5 percent of GDP to social and poverty related expenditures. The government prioritized 17 pro-poor sectors through the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) in the PRSP-II.
- Expenditure on pro-poor sectors in 2010-11 stood at 13.24 percent of GDP. In 2011-12, these were 11.55 percent of GDP and in 2012-13, 13.10 percent of GDP. During 2013-14, total expenditures for these sectors were slightly increased and amounted to Rs 1,934.095 billion, which was 14.16 percent of GDP.

- During July-December 2014-15, Rs. 667.47 billion expenditures have been made in these sectors.
- BISP is continuing to eradicate extreme poverty through provision of cash transfers. The present government increased the cash benefit for the poorest of the poor up to 25 percent from Rs 1200/- to Rs 1500/- per month.
- The present government increased BISP budgetary allocation to Rs. 97 billion in 2014-15 from Rs.75 billion in 2013-14. Total expenditure of BISP during the current fiscal year is projected to cross Rs. 90 billion.
- The number of BISP beneficiaries is expected to increase from 4.6 million in 2013-14 to 5.0 million by the end of this financial year.
- BISP is expected to enroll 500,000 children in school during the current financial year under its Waseela-e-Taleem initiative. The government has increased the monthly stipend under the Waseela-e-Taleem initiative to Rs. 250 per month per child from Rs. 200.
- Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) also provides assistance in microcredit, water and infrastructure, drought mitigation, education, health and emergency response interventions. During the period of July 2014 to March 2015, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund has managed to disburse an amount of Rs 9.8 billion to its various on-going projects.
- Under the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the subject of Zakat has been devolved to the Provinces/Federal Areas. A total amount of Rs. 4778.18 million is distributed in bulk amongst the provinces and other administrative areas for the year 2014-15.
- Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is also making efforts for eradication of poverty by providing assistance to destitute, widows, orphans, invalid, infirm and other needy persons through different initiatives. During July 2014 to March 2015, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has managed to disburse an amount of Rs. 2.28 billion to its core projects.

Environment

- An action plan for implementation of National Climate Change Policy has been finalized and requires adequate sharing of responsibilities at all levels for its implementation.
- National Impact Assessment Program (NIAP) conducted by Pakistan Environment Protection Agency is aimed to contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan through strengthening the environmental impact assessment process introducing Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in national development planning.
- Access to an adequate supply of water for all (agriculture, industry and domestic users) is one of the absolute priorities of Vision 2025. Top five goals for water security are:-
 - Increase water storage capacity, applicable to the requirements of each province in line with defined strategic needs and international

benchmarks: from currently 30 days to 45 days by 2018 and 90 days by 2025.

- Invest in proven methods and technologies to minimize wastage (e.g. in the agriculture sector), promote conservation and gain efficiencies through rationalization of pricing.
 - Enable more effective allocation with direct reference to national & provincial priorities and related social and economic considerations.
 - Establish institutional mechanisms e.g. a National Water Commission to effectively manage all resources of water (surface, subsurface ,rain) and their sectoral and regional allocations
 - Provision of access to a minimum baseline of suitable water to every person in Pakistan.
- The recommendations that can be considered for the improvement of solid waste management in Pakistan include:-
- Raising awareness about consequences caused by solid waste pollution.
 - Collective role of government sector, NGO's, Private sector for solid waste management.
 - Legislation should be done which would be effective and find ways to implement its effectively application of 3 R's (Reduce, Recycle and Reuse) concept in solid waste management system.
 - House to house collection of solid waste should be organized.
 - Littering of solid waste should be prohibited in cities, towns and urban areas. Proper segregation would be vital for scientific disposal of waste.
 - Developing legal framework and national guidelines for solid waste management that includes waste management and basic recycling rules.
- In order to build the momentum and accelerate the progress on sanitation and hygiene in the country, Pakistan Conference on Sanitation (PACOSAN) was held in February, 2015 in collaboration with the key development partners working in the country. Pakistan government is committed to save its children from death, living with disabilities or not achieving their potential physical and mental growth to compete with other nations in the world.

2. *Pakistan Economic Survey Annex-III*

Pakistan: Flood Impact Assessment

In September 2014, severe and late monsoon spell, coupled with major water discharges through the eastern rivers, especially in Chenab, resulted in massive floods in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K), Punjab and landslides in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) at an unprecedented scale, both in terms of volume and spatial coverage. Despite forecasts of below-average rainfall, heavy downpours began in first week of September 2014, which damaged crops, infrastructure and human settlements, thus adversely affected national economy directly and indirectly.

According to available estimates, 367 persons lost their lives, more than 2.5 million people were affected by the floods and rains, and 129,880 houses were partially damaged or fully destroyed. Over 1.0 million acres of cropland and 250,000 farmers were affected, in most cases resulting in the loss of standing food, fodder or cash crops. The estimated cost of the recovery effort was US\$439.7 million. The total flood damages/losses estimated for 2014 are presented in Table-1.

Table 1: Flood Damages

Province/Area	Damages (Rs. billion)	Damages (US \$ billion)	Damages (in percentage)
Punjab	41.15	0.41	94.74
AJ&K	2.85	0.03	5.26
Total	43.90	0.44	100

Source: NDMA Damages & Recovery Needs Assessment Report (2014).

This table indicates that Punjab suffered the highest losses at 94.74 percent followed by Azad Jammu & Kashmir 5.26 percent of the total damages.

Housing

Around 101,515 houses were affected in 16 districts of Punjab and some 28,365 houses were affected in the 10 districts of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Impact on Agriculture, Crops and Livestock

Agriculture is one of the most flood affected sector. At the time of the flood, crops especially cotton, rice and sugarcane were ready to harvest. According to National Disaster Management (NDMA), around 1 million acres of standing crops were destroyed. Extensive damages were reported in Jhang, Muzzafargarh, Multan and Sargodha Districts. Loss of standing crops not only affected the income bases of farmers, but also impacted overall production. SUPARCO estimates indicated around a 217,000 ton reduction in rice production, 726,000 tons in sugarcane production and 250,000 bales of cotton were lost due to the 2014 floods. Along with this, loss of seed stocks and agricultural tools, destruction of irrigation channels and land erosion further deteriorated the agriculture sector.

Livestock is considered a secondary source of income and also fulfills household food and nutrition needs. Significant losses in the livestock sectors were also observed due to the floods. Overall 1,925 small and large ruminants were reported to be lost due to floods, with higher losses in Neelum, Bhimber Haveli and Kotli districts in AJ&K and Sialkot, Gujranwala, Hafizabad and Gujrat districts in Punjab.

Household food security

Household food security was also affected by the floods, mainly due to the loss of food stocks. Multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) findings indicate that 37 percent of households lost most of their food stocks. Livelihood losses further reduced their economic access to food and 62 percent of households

didn't have sufficient resources to buy food after the floods. The fishery and forestry sectors also suffered losses, which impacted house hold food security.

Non-Farm Livelihoods

Floods in September 2014 have damaged the non-farm livelihoods due to loss of assets, damage to infrastructure and disruption due to non-accessibility to market and loss of services. The Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) of September 2014, conducted jointly by NDMA and the UN indicates the following situation on ground:

- Around 40 percent of the markets across the impacted areas were not functioning.
- Only around 38 percent of the households surveyed have adequate resources to buy food.
- 55 percent of the households reported agriculture as their primary source of income. 12 percent have livestock as their main source of livelihoods. Non-farm livelihoods comprise 33 percent of total affected population.

The sector wise breakups of the estimates of flood damages during 2014 are reported in Table-2.

Table: 2: Flood Damages by Sectors

Sectors	Damages (Rs. billion)	Damages (US \$ billion)	Damages (in percentage)
Community Physical Infrastructure	17.16	0.17	39.09
Housing	12.59	0.13	28.67
Crops	10.91	0.11	24.85
Livelihoods	2.74	0.03	6.24
Disaster Risk Resilience	0.35	0.003	0.80
Livestock	0.23	0.002	0.53
Total	43.9	0.44	100

Source: NDMA Damages & Recovery Needs Assessment Report (2014).

It reveals that Community Physical infrastructure sector suffered the major losses at 39.09 percent followed by Housing sector 28.67 percent, Crops 24.85 percent and Livelihoods sector 6.24 percent of the total damages. It is also observed that Livestock sector suffered the lowest losses at 0.53 percent.

3. Pakistan Economic Survey Annex-IV

Impact of War in Afghanistan and Ensuing Terrorism on Pakistan's Economy

The conflict and instability in Afghanistan in the aftermath of 9/11 attacks and their regional implications had very negative repercussions, for the years

following the US invasion of Afghanistan not only saw a huge influx of Afghan refugees across the border into Pakistan but also witnessed a sudden spike in the frequency and scale of terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The cumulative impact of these developments adversely impacted the overall growth rate in all major sectors of the economy. Pakistan continues to pay a heavy price both in the economic and security terms due to this situation and a substantial portion of precious national resources both men and material, have been diverted to address the emerging security challenges for the last several years. The rise of violent extremism and increase in terrorism in Pakistan due to instability in Afghanistan not only caused serious damage to Pakistan's economy but has also been responsible for wide-spread human suffering due to indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population.

This situation disrupted Pakistan's normal economic and trading activities which not only resulted in higher costs of business but also created disruptions in the production cycles, resulting in significant delays in meeting the export orders around the globe. As a result, Pakistani products have gradually lost their market share to their competitors. Consequently, economic growth could not picked up as planned. Investment outflow and negative trends of out sourcing of capital in Pakistan has further added to the woes of dwindling performance of the export-oriented industry.

In order to assess the impact of the incidents of terrorism on the economy of Pakistan during the past several years, the estimates for FY15 has been prepared in consultation with all relevant Ministries / Departments / Provincial Governments / Autonomous bodies etc. Summary of year wise losses is presented in Table -1.

Table 1: Summary of Losses Due to Terrorist Attacks (US \$ billion)

S.No.	Organization	Years		Total
		2013-14	2014-15*	
1.	Exports	0.53	0.73	1.26
2.	Compensation to Affectees	0.04	0.01	0.05
3.	Physical Infrastructure	0.42	0.50	0.92
4.	Foreign Investment	2.01	0.09	2.10
5.	Privatization	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Industrial Output	0.03	0.02	0.05
7.	Tax Collection	2.52	2.00	4.52
8.	Cost of Uncertainty	0.07	0.002	0.07
9.	Expenditure Over run	0.29	0.62	0.91
10.	Others	0.72	0.55	1.27
Total Losses		6.63	4.53	11.16

*: Estimated on the basis of 9 months actual data (July-March)

Source: M/o Finance, M/o Interior, M/o Foreign Affairs, Joint Ministerial Group.

During the last 14 years, the direct and indirect cost incurred by Pakistan due to incidents of terrorism amounted to US\$ 106.98 billion equivalent to Rs. 8,702.75 billion. Detail is given in Table-2.

Pakistan needs enormous resources to enhance productive capacity of the economy by repairing damaged infrastructure and to create a favorable investment climate. The security situation will be the key determinant of future flow of the investment. After adoption of National Action Plan by the All Parties Conference (APC) and its subsequent implementation which is overseen by the apex committees of the provinces. There have been improvements in the overall security situation in Pakistan in the recent months as a result of concerted actions by the Government of Pakistan. However, peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region are vital for the complete revival of Pakistan's economy and to keep stability in the system.

Table 2: Estimated Losses-(2001-2015)

Years	\$ Billion	Rs. Billion	% Change
2001-02	2.67	163.90	—
2002-03	2.75	160.80	3.0
2003-04	2.93	168.80	6.7
2004-05	3.41	202.40	16.3
2005-06	3.99	238.60	16.9
2006-07	4.67	283.20	17.2
2007-08	6.94	434.10	48.6
2008-09	9.18	720.60	32.3
2009-10	13.56	1136.40	47.7
2010-11	23.77	2037.33	75.3
2011-12	11.98	1052.77	-49.6
2012-13	9.97	964.24	-16.8
2013-14	6.63	681.68	-33.5
2014-15*	4.53	457.93	-31.7
Total	106.98	8702.75	

* Estimated on the basis of 9 months actual data

Source: MoF, M/o Interior, M/o Foreign Affairs Joint Ministerial Group.

Source: Pakistan Economic Survey 2014-15, www.finance.gov.pk

IV: Human Rights

Excerpt from *State of Human Right* in 2014 – chapter on Social and Economic Rights

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Refugees

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 1

Pakistan remained home to millions of displaced persons at the end of 2014. These included refugees – Afghan nationals, who had fled their country during various phases of armed conflict since 1979 — and internally displaced persons.

At the end of 2014, Pakistan was host to the largest number of refugees worldwide, nearly all from Afghanistan. These included around 1.5 million Afghans registered with the authorities and roughly a similar number of unregistered Afghan nationals, illegally staying in the country. A number of deadlines have been set for the complete repatriation of these refugees. The last deadline was given in June 2013 when registered refugees were allowed to remain in Pakistan until the end of December 2015. The situation in Afghanistan at the end of 2014, and the pace of repatriation during the year under review did not offer substantial basis to believe that this latest deadline for repatriation would be met either.

2014 was another year of multiple displacement crises in Pakistan and another year when the country chose not to incorporate into legislation or otherwise benefit from Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the non-binding guidelines drafted by the United Nations in 1998. The bulk of millions of internally displaced Pakistanis during the year under review were uprooted amid military operations against militant extremists in FATA and in massive floods in September in Punjab, and Gilgit-Baltistan. Some displacement occurred in the Thar and Cholistan deserts, where severe drought forced tens of thousands of citizens to migrate.

The number of conflict displaced, from North Waziristan Agency in FATA in particular, appeared to surprise even the authorities and exposed widespread lack of preparation to support and protect the uprooted populations.

The population affected by the creation of Attabad lake in the Gilgit-Baltistan region remained displaced for the fifth year and cracks on mountain slopes raised fears of more villages being affected and their population uprooted. Some residents of Dera Bugti in Balochistan were able to finally return home, even though it took a court order and a rather long sit-in on a key national highway to draw attention towards their plight.

Although the uprooted population was the first to suffer as a result of displacement, they had little or no influence over the decisions that affected them. Even among this population, women and children were the most vulnerable, and had even less say or control over the decision-making process. Understanding the disaster from an identity and gender perspective remained missing and conflict displaced women were restricted from receiving relief goods on account of lack of identity documents or under a jirga pronouncement.

The long wait of hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis, who have been stranded in Bangladesh since 1971, to be brought back to their country continued without an end in sight. The only worthwhile attention paid to their continued plight in 2014 was the Supreme Court of Pakistan admitting for regular hearing a petition seeking their repatriation from Bangladesh.

Afghan refugees

Pakistan is a signatory neither to the 1951 UN refugee convention nor the 1967 protocol to that convention. A tripartite agreement among Pakistan, Afghanistan and the UN refugee agency, the UNHCR, regulates the presence of registered Afghans in Pakistan and a programme for their voluntary repatriation.

In 2005-06, a one-off registration exercise for Afghans in Pakistan was conducted. All those who registered with Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) received Proof of Registration (PoR) cards. The holders of these cards were facilitated by the UNHCR and protected against expulsion. Since then, no new registration has taken place except for children born to registered Afghans. After a federal cabinet's decision in 2013 the deadline for repatriation of registered Afghans was extended until the end of 2015.

With the exception of a few specific scenarios, NADRA, with support from UNHCR, concluded in December 2014 the PoR card renewal project for registered Afghan refugees, whose cards had expired at the end of 2012. The renewal exercise was expected to close by mid-February in 2015. The renewed PoR cards were valid until 31 December 2015, as was the Tripartite Agreement on the Voluntary Return of Afghan Refugees signed by the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan and UNHCR, which emphasised the principle of voluntariness of return.

HRCP acknowledges UNHCR's support in providing the statistics on refugees and in facilitating understanding of the refugee issues in Pakistan. According to the year-end statistics, based on the data of renewed PoR cards, some 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees still remained in Pakistan. A similar number of unregistered Afghans were also believed to be in the country.

Until the end of the year, NADRA registered 30,913 new-born children to PoR cardholders and more than 8,454 Afghan children below the age of eighteen received birth certificates. Recently simplified procedures for the grant of birth certificates were expected to lead to an increase in the issuance of this important document.

A little over half a million registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan lived in 76 refugee camps, or refugee villages, as UNHCR called them, while the rest lived outside those camps. Of the refugee villages, 65 were in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 10 in Balochistan and one in Punjab.

The unregistered Afghans did not enjoy any protected status in Pakistan and were dealt under the scope of the provisions of the 1946 Foreigners Act.

The UNHCR-facilitated voluntary repatriation programme, which only assisted registered Afghan refugees holding valid PoR cards, continued throughout 2014. During the year under review, 12,991 registered Afghan refugees (2,684 families) went back home under the voluntary repatriation programme. This was the lowest number of UNHCR-assisted annual returns in the past 11 years. The previous lowest figure was recorded in 2013 when 31,800 Afghans had returned under the repatriation programme.

UNHCR-assisted repatriation from Pakistan to Afghanistan (2004-2014)

Year	Repatriated Individuals
2004	383,598
2005	449,520
2006	133,015
2007	364,476
2008	282,496
2009	51,290
2010	109,383
2011	52,096
2012	83,423
2013	31,800
2014	12,991
Total	1,954,088

Source: *UNHCR*

From the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which hosted close to one million registered refugees, only 5,320 Afghans (1,096 families) left for their country in 2014. This was a figure lower even than 16,250 refugees who went back in 2013, already the lowest number in the last few years.

The low numbers reflected the refugees' assessment that the condition on the ground in Afghanistan had not improved, especially in the east and south

of the country, for them to return home. Besides poverty, natural disasters, lack of security and political instability in Afghanistan swayed their decision.

There were no reports of Pakistan forcibly sending any registered refugee to Afghanistan during the year under review.

UNHCR's mandate did not cover unregistered Afghans. However, individuals who claimed to be at risk of human rights violations or other serious harm in case of return to Afghanistan could apply for refugee status with UNHCR. During 2014, UNHCR received 5,702 applications from Afghan asylum-seekers. The government of Pakistan had agreed to issue PoR cards to those Afghans that UNHCR recognizes as refugees during its refugee status determination (RSD) procedures. This decision was to be implemented in 2015. UNHCR Pakistan was also assisting some 666 non-Afghan asylum-seekers and refugees, mostly from Somalia, Iran and Iraq.

UNHCR-assisted repatriation of Afghan Refugees in 2014

Province/Region	Families	Individuals
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	1,096	5,320
Balochistan	1,088	5,359
Sindh	256	1,141
Punjab	225	1,076
Islamabad	19	95
Total	2,684	12,991

Source: *UNHCR*

The presence of the large number of Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan fuelled discussions on its impact on the country's resources and law and order. A brutal attack on a school in Peshawar by the Taliban in particular brought the focus firmly on early repatriation of Afghans from Pakistan.

The usual suspects

The December 16 Army Public School attack in Peshawar, the capital of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, negatively impacted the asylum space in Pakistan and soured the general sentiment even against registered Afghan refugees.

In the last two weeks of December, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government asked the federal government to expedite the return of Afghan refugees and, in the meanwhile, impose curbs on their movement, and house them outside the province.

In the week following the attack, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government said the terrorist attack had been planned in Afghanistan and added that Afghan refugees had a month to leave the province.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister called the "presence and unrestricted movement of Afghan refugees... a constant source of crime" and worsening law and order situation in the province. He said the main factor behind the province being affected the most in the war against terrorism were

the Afghan refugees. He said that the provincial cabinet had unanimously agreed on sending Afghan refugees back because “they are not only a burden on our economy but have also caused increase in heinous crimes”. He demanded the federal government change the timeframe for the repatriation of Afghan refugees, saying the provincial government could not wait for another year. He said until repatriation, the Afghans should be confined in camps outside Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Addressing a news conference alongside a UNHCR representative on December 23, the minister for states and frontier regions (SAFRON) rejected the notion that Afghan refugees would be sent back to their country against their wishes after the Peshawar school attack. He said the registered Afghan refugees had never been found involved in terrorism-related incidents in the country and that they “will be sent back respectfully on a voluntary basis and according to the timeframe decided upon”.

A spokesman for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government later stated that the province was considering the establishment of around five camps in various cities of the province and limiting the registered refugees to these camps.

Curbs in Haripur

In one of the first signs of action against Afghan nationals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police in Haripur district were reported in the last week of December to have asked both registered refugees and unregistered Afghan nationals living in the city limits to relocate to designated camps and restrict their movement to the camps at night.

Police were reported to have made announcements over loudspeakers in various localities in Haripur, asking any Afghan refugees who had rented accommodation within the city limits to vacate the houses within three days and move to a camp located outside the city. They also asked owners of houses rented by Afghans to evict them within three days if they did not want criminal cases filed against them.

The Haripur district police chief said the restriction on the movement of Afghans had been placed around a year ago under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the police had merely renewed the previous order. He said a decision had been made to restrict the movement of Afghan refugees from 8.00 pm until 8.00 am and the order would apply to both registered and unregistered Afghans. The police officer said Section 144, which restricted the assembly of five or more persons at a place, would be applicable to PoR card holders also.

Afghan businessmen were reportedly permitted to visit the city after 8 am but had to leave the city area before 8 pm.

Afghan refugees gathered at a central location in the city to protest as the deadline ended. They said the three-day deadline was insufficient as hundreds of Afghan families had been living in rented houses for years. They said some families had established their businesses and relocating to camps without proper facilities would expose them to a variety of problems. They said

their children were studying at different schools and were not accustomed to living in camp conditions. The protesters asked the administration to review its decision or at least extend the deadline to allow them to settle with their families in the designated areas.

The provincial authorities later said that under the federal government policy, registered refugees could stay in the province, so the police would not arrest them.

It was not just the provincial government, but others, including speakers at a Qaumi Jirga in Peshawar later in December, which called, in the same breath, for action against terrorists and sending Afghan refugees back to Afghanistan without delay.

Internal displacement

2014 was another year when the number of internally displaced persons was higher in the country than the number of Afghan refugees. Armed conflict and natural disaster were the main causes of displacement. Around two million citizens were displaced by two military operations in Khyber and North Waziristan agencies of FATA even as tens of thousands of IDPs languished in districts bordering the tribal areas following previous military operations against the Taliban. The figures did not include thousands of families that were not registered with the authorities and lived with host families or relatives.

Military operations against militant extremists in North Waziristan Agency in June and Khyber Agency in October accounted for almost all the conflict-induced displacement in 2014. Hundreds of thousands of citizens displaced from FATA amid military operations against the militants in previous years also remained displaced.

Women among the displaced population were reported to have faced a lot of problems in accessing relief and not much appeared to have been done to address those problems.

On their own

The exodus from North Waziristan Agency of citizens fearing a military operation had started much before the actual operation started in June. Families leaving the area to seek sanctuaries elsewhere had started surfacing as early as January 2014. Close to the launch of the June 15 military operation, the affected population had to face a lot of difficulties on account of closure of roads, suspension of electricity and lack of means of transport. Thousands of people were reported to have walked tens of kilometres because they could not afford the inflated transport cost.

The displacement from North Waziristan exposed lack of preparation and even elementary things such as the precise number of the affected population, exposing the uprooted citizens to much more suffering than they should have suffered on account of leaving their homes.

According to the last population census, in 1998, the population of the entire FATA region, of which North Waziristan Agency was a part, was 3.1

million. The figure was understood to not count a large number of women as tribesmen were generally reluctant to provide information about women family members. North Waziristan's population was over 360,000, according to the 1998 census. The population at the time of the operation was assumed to be half a million.

However, the scale of the exodus far exceeded the assumed numbers. Nearly 400,000 displaced individuals from North Waziristan registered with the authorities within a week of the operation starting and the number exceeded one million in the first month. Towards the end of June, the defence minister had said that the government expected the number of displaced persons from North Waziristan to be around 700,000. In November, another minister said the number was around two million, including 1.5 million registered and half a million unregistered individuals.

The exodus from North Waziristan added a fresh layer of displacement on top of the crises from Bajaur, Kurram and South Waziristan where the affected population was yet to be repatriated because peace could not be restored to their areas.

In October, the security forces launched an operation against an outlawed militant group in Khyber Agency. In the first three weeks of the operation, the number of displaced persons (34,054 families) from both Tirah and Bara had reached 245,482. By mid-December, 597,386 displaced individuals from Khyber Agency had been registered.

The Fata Disaster Management Authority staff said with most of the new displaced families already registered with them since 2009 and 2010, they were providing one time cooked food and free transport to the new families. Thousands of families who shifted to Jalozai camp near Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa complained of little or no assistance from the authorities. Some spoke of living under the sky with very little food and medical care available to them. The camp had already been housing 5,000 Bara families for the last five years. Many families that could not afford to rent a house said that they had come to Jalozai for temporary shelter.

Not welcome

Just as the conflict-affected North Waziristan displaced started leaving their homes ahead of an operation against the militants, reports emerged of some provincial authorities opposing entry of the displaced citizens from FATA. In June, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial assembly criticised what it saw as a ban on IDPs' entry into other provinces. A day earlier, the provincial governor had expressed concern over Sindh and Balochistan 'banning' IDPs from North Waziristan.

In mid-June, the Sindh information minister stated that individuals coming from outside Sindh would be registered at the inter-provincial borders and allowed entry only after satisfying the authorities about the purpose of their visit and giving the name of the person they intended to visit. However, the leader of opposition in the National Assembly, who was from the ruling party in

Sindh, stated in early July that no one could bar displaced persons from any part of the country. The Punjab government also rebutted an earlier impression of barring access to the internally displaced.

Starting in July, a number of Sindhi nationalist parties launched ‘Sindh Bachao’ (Save Sindh) movement against IDPs’ entry into Sindh. They also tried to block traffic between Punjab and Sindh for a couple of days. The protesters stopped traffic entering Sindh from Punjab through a major route for one whole day. The following day they staged sit-ins at Ghotki and Kandhkot bypasses. However, on that day the protesters only stopped buses and trucks carrying the IDPs, while allowing all other vehicles to pass through.

Some commentators suggested that the FATA displaced needed to feel that they were taking refuge within their own country and also called upon advocates of curbing IDPs’ movement that they were not coming out in droves because they wanted to live in camps in Peshawar, Karachi or Lahore.

No timeframe

On November 20, the federal minister for state and frontier regions said that over 90 percent area of North Waziristan Agency had been cleared of terrorists in the military operation, but no timeframe could be given for the return of around two million internally displaced persons from the tribal agency. He said the government did not want to allow the terrorists an opportunity to use the population as human shields by sending the displaced home amid an ongoing battle.

Throughout the year, citizens displaced from other parts of FATA during security forces’ earlier operations against extremist militants demanded that they should be allowed to return to those parts of the tribal agencies that had been purged of the militants. However, only small numbers of displaced from some parts of FATA trickled back to their native areas during 2014.

Overshadowed

The displaced persons from North Waziristan and those forced to flee the conflict in Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber and Orakzai tribal agencies were very critical of a lack of attention to their needs by both the federal and provincial government after August, when two separate but somewhat coordinated *dharnas* (sit-ins) converged on the federal capital. The displaced persons felt that the ruling and opposition politicians in both the federal and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government were busy in power wrangling rather than attending to their needs. They complained that the *dharnas* had occupied not only the attention of the government but also pushed IDP concerns out of the media focus and perhaps also official priorities.

War of words

After the launch of the North Waziristan operation, tens of thousands of residents were reported to have fled across the border into Afghanistan. Responding to the Afghan authorities’ statements that they would welcome the

displaced from Pakistan, Pakistani authorities said that instead of tempting displaced families from North Waziristan, Kabul should focus its energies on honourable repatriation of the millions of Afghans living in Pakistan for several decades. The Ministry of States & Frontier Regions (SAFRON) in June rejected Kabul's claim that 100,000 persons from North Waziristan Agency (NWA) had migrated to Afghanistan. It said 33,000 residents of North Waziristan had crossed back into Pakistan after the armed forces launched the military offensive.

Protection concerns for the displaced

Besides being forced to leave their homes, the internally displaced persons also faced threats and attacks from the militants in their camps and at locations established by the authorities for their registration. At times it seemed that the very threats which these people had fled from had followed them.

The deadliest attack against displaced persons occurred in Hangu on September 28, when eight persons, including three children, were killed and 12 others injured in a bomb explosion inside the Muhammad Khwaja Camp for internally displaced persons from Orakzai Agency of FATA. All the casualties were individuals displaced from Orakzai after a military operation was launched against the militants in 2008. Around 1,100 families from Orakzai had been staying in the camp, while many others had rented houses or were staying with relatives or in rented accommodation, mainly in Hangu and Kohat.

On June 10, militants had attacked the same camp with rockets and hand grenades, following earlier threats asking the affected population to leave the camp by June 11 or face the consequences. A large number of the displaced persons had left the camp following the June attack. However, some of the displaced persons were reported to have told the media at the time that they did not have any money for travel and if they had been condemned to dying at the hands of the Taliban then they could not change that.

Five persons were killed and 10 wounded when a suicide bomber targeted a registration centre for internally displaced persons of Khyber Agency in Peshawar on May 11. The displaced persons planning to return to their homes in Tirah Valley and Bara in Khyber were being registered at the camp and given Rs.25,000 in cash and ration for six months.

In June, families uprooted from North Waziristan were reported to have refused to stay in a camp set up by the government in the Bakkakhel area in the Frontier Region (FR) Bannu as the militants had threatened them through leaflets.

The affected families stated that security for their families was their priority and that was why they had left their villages. They called upon the government to open a relief camp for them in either Bannu or Lakki Marwat districts rather than in Bakkakhel where they had already been threatened by the militants.

Exodus averted

A reportedly impending security forces operation in Bajaur Agency of FATA was said to have been called off in July, after the local Mamond tribes' jirga and the security forces agreed that the jirga would support the forces' efforts against the militants by denying them shelter and joining the forces in attacking the militants.

Vulnerabilities of displaced women

In their flight, much as had been the case during their stay in their native area, women were the most vulnerable section of the displaced population. They were not consulted on decisions that affected their lives the most and their special needs were neglected almost without exception.

Because of the local norms in FATA that restricted women's mobility, education and social interaction, the displaced women were said to lack confidence to access relief goods. The female literacy rate in the area was reported to be only 3 percent. A large number of women did not possess national identity cards, which made access to relief goods impossible. There were no separate registration points for women.

Even those who had identity cards found their path to relief blocked. Under a Jirga decision endorsed reportedly by some political parties as well, women residing in the camps for North Waziristan IDPs were barred from receiving the relief goods. This severely affected women who had no adult male family members, as well as female-headed households of widows or women whose husbands, brothers, or fathers were working abroad.

The young women in the camps were also reported to be facing sexual harassment, which was said to be forcing minor girls' families to marry them.

Civil society organisation highlighted the fact that the relief organisations' staff and the camps lacked basic facilities for women, partly because men organised and managed them and struggled to comprehend women's needs in displacement settings.

These factors made the suffering of displaced women much more acute than the situation of men.

Education and children

In September, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government decided to enroll all displaced children from Waziristan in government schools. Some tented schools were also opened for the IDPs. However, one of the general complaints of the displaced persons was that the existing educational infrastructure simply did not have the capacity to cover the displaced population. Reports of children from displaced families standing at the back of the class or at the door because of lack of seating capacity also surfaced.

There were also accounts of children being unable to resume their education after their displacement, because they were expected to, or felt compelled to, support their families.

In a further challenge to education, in September when the schools were about to open after vacations, North Waziristan IDPs were yet to vacate 572 schools where they had been accommodated.

Displaced in Sialkot

Around 40,000 people had to leave their homes in dozens of villages in Sialkot, after cross-border shelling by Indian forces. Many started living with relatives in nearby villages. Hundreds of houses were damaged or destroyed in the shelling.

Finally heading home

A convoy of 100 members of the Bugti tribe reached Dera Bugti district in Balochistan in early February after being displaced from their homes about nine years ago. They had tried to move to the district about two weeks earlier, but the security forces had not allowed them through. The displaced Bugtis had blocked a major inter-provincial highway in protest and had ended the protest eight days later. Later on they moved the Balochistan High Court which allowed them and thousands of other displaced individuals from the district to return to Dera Bugti after registering themselves with the authorities.

Challenges and opportunities

The massive population movement overwhelmed the healthcare infrastructure in host communities. In Bannu district, the health department officials said that the district had never hosted such a large displaced population and that its health facilities were unable to cope. World Health Organisation was reported to be helping the authorities build capacity. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa health department was sending doctors from teaching hospitals on rotational basis.

The exodus from Waziristan allowed an opportunity to administer oral polio vaccine to children, who had not been unimmunised for two years in North Waziristan. Recent massive movements of IDPs combined with displacement by the floods had increased the risks of the polio virus spreading.

Protesting for equal treatment

In August, the displaced in Jalozei Camp, Nowshera district, set up a protest camp outside the Peshawar Press Club that continued for over 50 days. Their main demand was that they should be given ration and compensation package equal to that being provided to the IDPs from North Waziristan.

They stressed that the government should not discriminate between the IDPs hailing from North Waziristan and those who were displaced earlier from other tribal agencies and were still staying in camps or in rented houses or with relatives.

Natural disasters

In the first week of September, late and concentrated monsoon rains resulted in flash floods in Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K), with more than 2.5 million people affected. Besides partial or total damage to

thousands of homes, significant loss of livestock and crop damage at the height of the harvest period affected livelihoods.

The National Disaster Management Authority said that 23 districts in Punjab, five in Gilgit-Baltistan and 10 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir had borne the brunt of the floods.

The Punjab government called the floods the worst to hit the province in five decades, destroying 3,450 villages and displacing over half a million people.

In early October, the federal government appealed to the international community for help to rehabilitate the people displaced by floods and the military operation in North Waziristan.

The 2014 floods represented the fourth year in a row that Pakistani citizens had been affected on a large scale by flooding, highlighting absence of effective prevention and control measures. While some reports acknowledged that floods were a recurring natural phenomenon, they hesitated to call the subsequent displacement a 'natural' disaster, because of poor planning and preparedness. Media reports showed evidence of the flood victims becoming desperate and raiding aid trucks.

Homeless in Hunza

Thousands of people remained displaced in Hunza in Gilgit-Baltistan five years after a massive landslide which destroyed three villages—Attabad, Sarat and Ayinabad. Another three villages—Shishkat, Gulmit, Ghulkin—were submerged when the debris from the landslide blocked the flow of the Hunza River. The affected villages had a combined population of over 7,400 people. Around 3,000 continued to live in three temporary camps established for them since January 2010. The camps lacked basic facilities and the shelters built for the people grew too hot in the summer and too cold in winter. An early return for these people did not appear to be a priority with the authorities.

In October, it was reported that nearly 5,000 people could lose their homes and lives as land around Gulmat village on the slopes of the nearby Nagar Valley mountain had developed cracks and had started sliding towards the Hunza River. Gulmat was not far from Fakar village—also in Nagar and also facing a similar situation. In mid-September, a large portion of Fakar had collapsed and landed in the river, blocking its flow temporarily.

The local residents' demand for an immediate survey by experts to avoid further disaster was yet to be heeded at the end of the year.

Marooned in the desert

Thousands of residents of the Thar desert in Sindh and Cholistan desert in Punjab were forced to leave their homes amid drought-like conditions on account of prolonged absence of rain. The desert inhabitants had to relocate because of a shortage of drinking water and fodder for their cattle as rainwater ponds dried up. In Cholistan, disease among cattle was also said to have caused displacement in the last quarter of the year.

According to media reports in March, tens of thousands of Thar residents had migrated after Tharparkar witnessed a third consecutive year without rain. Wind-swept sand covered whatever little grass had survived. The cattle herders were reported to have migrated along with their stock to areas with water and fodder, while many young men were reported to have moved to big cities like Karachi and Hyderabad to look for work as in the desert absence of rain generally meant absence of work.

Stranded in Bangladesh

There was little hope in sight for an early end to the de facto statelessness of hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh since 1971. Also known as Biharis, an Urdu speaking community, they lived in refugee-like conditions and faced discrimination. They maintained that they were Pakistani nationals when Bangladesh emerged as a separate country and should be repatriated. However, Pakistan had declined citizenship and repatriation to them.

In the last few years, Bangladesh granted the right to vote to the Biharis who were minors at the time of the 1971 war or were born later. There was still no legal recognition for people who were adults in 1971. They lacked access to government jobs, schooling or even access to many basic facilities.

The only worthwhile attention paid to the continued plight of these stranded Pakistanis in 2014 was that the Supreme Court accepted for regular hearing a petition filed in 2009, seeking repatriation of the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh.

The petitioner said the Pakistan government had no right under the constitution and the law to withhold repatriation of its citizens. The petition also requested the court to order the government to look after the stranded Pakistanis living in camps and provide food and medicines till the time they were repatriated to Pakistan.

The matter was pending at the conclusion of the year 2014.

Recommendations

1. *Pakistan, Afghanistan and the international community must speed up efforts to find lasting solutions to the prolonged displacement of the millions of Afghans. For as long as they are in Pakistan, effective steps must be taken to ensure respect for their rights.*
2. *Emergency response should only be seen as an initial part and not as a solution of problems associated with internal displacement. More thought needs to be given to the recovery and development stage in the displacement cycle.*
3. *Participation of displaced persons in the decision-making process must be ensured to mitigate their plight. They must have a say in how camps, registration and returns are managed. The challenge of forced displacement should be used as an opportunity to address social norms that discriminate against women, in order to ensure that customs are not used as a fig leaf to deny women their rights.*

4. *Registration of internally displaced persons must be made simple and easy and treated as an entitlement rather than as a favour.*
5. *The disproportionate effect of displacement on women and children, including health, education and economic issues, must be taken into account and addressed. Assistance and healthcare should also include psychological counseling.*
6. *Immediate and meaningful action must be taken without further delay to end more than four decades of de facto statelessness of Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh.*

Source: State of Human Rights in 2014, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Lahore, March 2015, pp.335-51.