

Documents

January-June 2011

I. Foreign Policy

A. PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN RELATION

1. Pakistan-Afghanistan Joint Statement issued in Islamabad on the occasion of the visit of Afghan Foreign Minister, Mr. Zalmay Rassoul

On the invitation of Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Zalmay Rassoul visited Islamabad on 27-28 January, 2011. During his visit, Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul met President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and held talks with Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The visit of the Afghan Foreign Minister to Islamabad forms an integral part of the process of consultations between the two countries to take joint steps for further enhancing their bonds of fraternal cooperation in a comprehensive manner. It was agreed to take pragmatic steps to translate the sentiments of goodwill, love and affection between the peoples of the two countries into tangible cooperation for progress and development. Both sides reaffirmed the importance they attach to implementing the new Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement and decided to establish a Joint Working Group, comprising of their respective Trade officials to meet in Islamabad in the near future. It was also agreed to establish a process of consultations between the respective authorities of the two countries to initiate and take required steps to enhance connectivity; upgrade rail and road links and build requisite infrastructure; improve communication facilities; advance the process of implementation of several socio-economic projects sponsored by Pakistan for development in Afghanistan, including schools, hospitals and other facilities. The authorities of the two countries would also study the modalities for establishing a Joint Consultation, Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism with a view to devising Framework Agreements for cooperation in the fields of joint development especially in energy, agriculture, mines and minerals and for establishment of Vocational Training Centres and Special Industrial Zones to promote common development and shared prosperity. Both sides agreed to establish a bilateral mechanism for cooperation and consultation between their respective authorities for mutual legal assistance, including the issue of prisoners and consular matters. Both sides reaffirmed that abiding friendship, geographical proximity, shared culture and traditions provide a solid foundation

for uniting their strengths and efforts to realize the aspirations of the two peoples for peace and prosperity. The two Foreign Ministers agreed that both Afghanistan and Pakistan will join hands in writing a new chapter in their bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to make coordinated efforts for promoting peace, security, stability and prosperity for their peoples and in the region as a whole. It was agreed that both had suffered enormously from terrorism. Both sides expressed their firm determination to eliminate terrorism from the region and to enhance mutual cooperation to this end. Pakistan supports the ongoing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan under the leadership of President Hamid Karzai for promoting reconciliation and peace and welcomed the establishment of the High Peace Council under the chairmanship of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani. This process must be Afghan-owned and Afghan-led. Pakistan was prepared to extend assistance, as may be required, to facilitate and promote this process. Both sides agreed on the creation and operationalization of a two-tiered joint body headed by Foreign Ministers and Deputy Foreign Minister/Foreign Secretary to support the peace and reconciliation process. Both sides welcomed the Afghanistan-Pakistan-United States Trilateral Dialogue which will be held on 22-24 February 2011 in Washington D.C. and emphasized on a common approach towards priority areas. Both sides agreed that it was of utmost importance that the international community as a whole and in particular immediate neighbours and regional states, respect the principles of sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and the principle of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Both sides emphasized the importance of promoting regional cooperation for development. In this context, they attached special significance to the early realization of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline as well as the establishment of electricity transmission lines from Central Asia over Afghanistan to Pakistan. On behalf of President Hamid Karzai, Foreign Minister Zalmay Rassoul extended a cordial invitation to Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani to visit Afghanistan at his earliest convenience. The Foreign Minister of Afghanistan also invited Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi to visit Kabul at his earliest convenience. The Foreign Minister accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Islamabad, 27 January 2011.

2. Statement by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs at the meeting of International Contact Group on Afghanistan and Pakistan at Jeddah

Your Excellency,
Ambassador Michael Steiner,
Chairman, International Contact Group,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a matter of great honour for me to address this august gathering of the International Contact Group. We have assembled here for a common cause i.e. restoration of peace, security and stability in Afghanistan. Your Chairmanship reflects the love for peace and the intellectual vigor of the German people.

Mr. Chairman,

The three decades old conflict, instability and human tragedy in Afghanistan has had colossal impact on our social and economic fabric. It has also given rise to serious and common challenges. Its fallout continues to haunt us today.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan lauds international community's role in Afghanistan. Its efforts have contributed significantly towards promoting stability in Afghanistan.

We have followed with keen interest the recent developments on Afghanistan including the NATO Summit in Lisbon, which was a landmark event. We note the Declaration on NATO's Enduring Partnership with Afghanistan, especially endorsement of the transition process and NATO's long-term engagement with Afghanistan in the post-transition phase.

However, despite significant presence of the coalition in Afghanistan for over seven years and gains made by it, there are still concerns about the security situation. We are keen to see the security situation further improve in Afghanistan.

The international community in the past has paid scant attention to poppy cultivation and drugs trade in Afghanistan. Illicit drugs trade has been a major source of terror funding in Afghanistan with serious implications for peace and stability in the whole region. It is, therefore, imperative to target narco trade with sharp focus and determination.

It is equally important to focus on choking funding and supply of weapons to terrorist outfits.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen

In Afghanistan we continue to be faced with complex problems. Sadly enough, there is no quick fix.

Seeing the complexity of the situation, it is reasonable to believe that transition will be a gradual process. The Afghan security forces have to be enabled to take upon themselves the security responsibilities before the transition is complete. Pakistan reiterates its commitment to help Afghanistan build its capacity.

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transition is complete. Pakistan reiterates its commitment to help Afghanistan build its capacity.

Pakistan attaches top priority to the development dimension in the region. The region's economic potential is enormous. To realize this potential, massive investments are required in socio-economic sector, especially in areas on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and in trans-border infrastructure and energy projects.

Mr. Chairman,

There should be no doubt that no solution devised outside Afghanistan or imposed upon the country will work, unless it has full ownership and endorsement of the Afghans themselves. Pakistan, therefore, has extended assurances of its full support to an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process of reconciliation and Afghans' own efforts to this end.

Mr. Chairman,

Under the present democratic Government there has been a sea change in Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan. Intensive interaction at the leadership and official levels in the recent past has bolstered mutual trust and confidence to unprecedented levels.

Apart from a series of high level visits to and from Afghanistan in recent months, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, Chairman, High Peace Council visited Pakistan in January this year. At the initiative of Afghanistan, we agreed in principle, to create a joint mechanism in support of the reconciliation process. We are happy that the Government and the people of Afghanistan have appreciated this approach. For us the bottom line is a peaceful, stable, prosperous and developed Afghanistan. Of course, Pakistan desires the best of friendly and brotherly relations with Afghanistan.

We support the effort of President Hamid Karzai and Chairman of the High Peace Council Professor Rabbani as well as the Government and people of Afghanistan for reconciliation and peace.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community must learn from history. It is clear that Afghanistan needs great attention in terms of moral and material support. All that Afghanistan needs now and in the near future is sustained engagement of the international community for peace and development in the country.

Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The international community especially Afghanistan's immediate and far neighbours must support an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led effort for reconciliation and peace. We all must respect the fundamental principles of interstate relations. Most notably respect for the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. We must also respect the

principle of non-interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. It is further incumbent upon all not to allow their territories to be used for activities against the interests of Afghanistan and those of the other countries in the region. I underscore, in most unequivocal terms, Pakistan's commitment to these principles in letter and spirit.

Our desire is to see a transition that is irreversible, a peace that is durable and a development that is sustainable. We all must work together towards this end. Pakistan shares the international community's vision for a better future of Afghanistan.

I thank you.

Islamabad, 3 March 2011.

3. Transcript of the press encounter following the trilateral meeting between Pakistan, Afghanistan and the USA

Statement by Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Bashir

Bismillah-ar-Rehman-Niraheem

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to welcome all honorable members' of the press and media to the Foreign Office. May I also just make a few welcome remarks. We are delighted to have with us here today the Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Mr. Lodin, who is a friend and a brother and of course Ambassador Marc Jaweed Grossman the US Special Representative. I welcome them both.

We have had a very good and useful engagement. The first of its kind in what we call the Trilateral Process. We have had very deep conversation and frank exchange of views and I think what I would like to say here is that Pakistan looks forward to engage deeply with our friends and brothers in Afghanistan and our friends in the US with a view to promote and achieve the shared objectives of peace and stability within our respective countries and the region as a whole. I would just like to add one line that we think this is a good beginning and we are looking forward to write a new chapter of stability and prosperity for our respective people. With these remarks I would request my friend Mr. Lodin to say a few words.

Statement by the Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Jaweed Lodin

Bismillah-ar-Rehman-Niraheem

Warm greetings to my friends from the media. Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir, thank you very much for welcoming us to the beautiful city of Islamabad. I am delighted to be in Islamabad after a number of years. I am very pleased and honored to meet you and to have some in depth conversations with you and Ambassador Grossman about the future of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mr. Foreign Secretary, I think that our two countries are bound by history, by geography, by common heritage and by many many other bonds and I think we

are also bound by common friends and the United States in one of them. We held some talks today in a very friendly environment. The Trilateral Process is not a new one. It has also existed between our countries in the past. I am very pleased that today's trilateral meeting hosted by Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir very ably, gave a new impetus to the Trilateral Process and I think that this is an important step. Our region is going through historical transformation. We have an emerging vision of this region. These are the visions of prosperity, peace and stability. We also face some common challenges and obstacles that stop us from realizing these visions. To talk about the mechanism that can help us overcome these challenges is a welcome step. We look forward to engage with Pakistan to overcome these challenges.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have an extensive dialogue on a number of levels and in a number of foras. But this particular one, the Trilateral Process is the one that brings our three countries together is an important mechanism. We are also certain that some of the major issues of concern for the three countries will find their way to our agenda as we continue to meet as part of the Trilateral Process.

Let me also express my confidence and promise of working together, sharing concerns and working towards the future by taking the success that we have had and translating it into action. Afghanistan needs this because, while I think we share a lot of challenges, Afghanistan, in particular, is compelled by time to achieve a vision of peace and prosperity for our people. We as you know, in the last 10 years have been the centre against the ongoing war on terrorism. We hope that the aspirations of Afghan people for peaceful existence will be achieved soon. This year I think we are closer than ever to that vision. We need the continuous support of our friends all over the region and of our brothers and friends in Pakistan to achieve that vision.

Let me once again say that I am very pleased to be here. Thank you, Mr. Foreign Secretary for being a generous host and for a delightful lunch that we have just had.

Statement by Ambassador Marc Grossman

Thank you Mr. Foreign Secretary and thank you Mr. Lodin.

Let me begin as Deputy Foreign Minister of Afghanistan did by thanking Foreign Secretary Bashir for hosting this Trilateral meeting today and also, Mr. Lodin I thank you very much for traveling all the way from Kabul to here. From my side may I also express appreciation for Ambassador Munter and Ambassador Eikenberry who join me here today. I must also say that I look forward towards future meetings of this group.

Before I make a comment or two about this particular meeting we had, I would like to make a comment about the death of Osama bin Ladin because the three countries that are here today share the commitment to end violent extremism and the three countries that are represented here today consider that the end of Osama bin Ladin on Monday was a shared achievement of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the US. Of course it's the end of some one who was

violently subverting the democratic governments in the region, who was notorious for murderous acts against civilians that made him an enemy not only of the United States but also of Pakistan and Afghanistan. One of the things that is so clear is that our three countries have this commitment to bring an end to extremism. This effort is far from over. You don't have to look any further than the statement issued by the Taliban on May 01 about their spring offensive in which they have among other things indicated the use of suicide bombers, as young as 12 years old.

The only thing I want to say is that as we focus on this issue of extremism and to bring an end to extremism, it does not in any way alter our commitment to our long term efforts to promote economic and political success and prosperity in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

I join both of my colleagues in saying what I would consider to be a very productive session today. For the three of us this was a way that we could consult, that we could coordinate and cooperate. For me it is the outcome of the speech that Secretary Clinton gave in February in New York saying that we want to use more diplomacy for an Afghan-led reconciliation process and to use more diplomacy behind the regional efforts to support a safe, secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan and since our discussions focused on how we could make an Afghan reconciliation successful.

This process needs to have support of so many regional countries but specially the support of Pakistan. Foreign Secretary Bashir who was nice enough to come to Washington a few weeks ago conveyed to me on how important it was to Pakistan to support this Afghan-led reconciliation process and in that we are in complete agreement. One more thing that came back a number of times in our discussion today and I think that is worth mentioning is that globally peaceful and prosperous South Asia is very much dependent upon the success of trade and economic integration. How to create more jobs, how to grow the economy? This is one of the reasons that all of us talk about the process of completing the Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement as soon as possible. So Foreign Secretary I thank you very much for your hospitality and I look forward to the questions now.

Q:Thank you so much Mr. Grossman. This is Sumaira Khan from Express 24/7. My question is very specific, related to the issue of drone strikes. When and how this issue will be addressed by the United States as it is now producing a drone-hardened generation in the tribal region.

My second question is to the Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Bashir Sir, can you please tell us from where and how these drone strikes are taking place?

Ambassador Marc Grossman

First of all thank you for your question. It won't surprise you because I do this every time I am asked about this issue whether in Islamabad or Washington, I am not going to discuss drone strikes one way or the other. We don't discuss it in public and I don't intend to do so. What I have done though and I will do so again with the Foreign Secretary as I did in Washington is to ask you to consider

the purpose of Pakistan-US cooperation on counter terrorism. Thousands and thousands of Pakistanis have been the victims of terrorism. Thousands of Pakistani soldiers have also been the victims of terrorism. So our coordination efforts with Pakistan, as President Obama and Secretary Clinton declared the other night is to bring safety and security to Pakistanis, to Americans and to the people all over the world. And I think that's quite a noble cause. We have coordination so that people could have a safe life, a prosperous life and a life where they could make decisions about their lives. We are proud of this coordination with Pakistan and we look forward to continuing this.

Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir

Well on the second part of your question, I can say that this is an issue that has been the subject of our ongoing discussion with the US. We, of course, have made our point of view on this particular aspect quite clear. The main purpose of today's meeting was as I said to move towards a new beginning and I think that is what we are focused on and that is what is important. I think we got to look towards the future, the future of our present and coming generations and building a secure stable and prosperous region.

Q: Sir, my questions are to the honorable envoy of the US. One is regarding the death of OBL. There are conspiracy theories emerging regarding the death of OBL because we haven't seen any video of Osama bin Laden that assures Pakistan and Afghanistan that the leading terrorist from Al-Qaida died in Pakistan as a result of US Special Forces operation.

My second question is

Please address that after the drone attacks it seems that the US continues to violate Pakistan's sovereignty and integrity. How long would it take before these actions are stopped and what about the drone technology as the spying technology, was promised by United States but not the one related to the predator drones?

Well let me talk again on the second part of your question as I answered in the first question, we are not going to talk about any particular operation in one way or the other. That's what I said before and that's what I will say again here.

Second, I can't answer every conspiracy theory that rise in every place. I can tell you that OBL is dead. He was killed by Special Forces here. That's what President Obama said, that's what the Secretary of State said, that is what the statement, a very good statement actually, by the Government of Pakistan said yesterday. So I can't do anything more than that. You can have as many conspiracies as you wish. He is dead. It is good. We still have to fight extremism and as Foreign Secretary Bashir said, do not please lose sight of the fact that we have had here a trilateral meeting about peace in Afghanistan.

Q: In the light of OBL death 24 hours ago in a solely US led Military operation conducted on the Pakistani soil less than a 100 miles from this capital. How wide is the trust deficit between your two countries considering that the

Secretary of State talked about cooperation in this operation with Pakistan and the President of Pakistan says that he knew nothing about it, and the PM says that yes we did not know something about it. But it is very vague on who was involved?

Supplementary question please,

Q: Another one Sir, please don't you think that the way this operation was conducted very near the Pakistan Military Academy, doesn't this reflect that it was a staged CIA drama to find another reason for suppression of Pakistan.

Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir

Let me just be very explicit. I think there is no point as far as I can see getting the forensics of this operation. Who did what, I think is besides the point. We are here today with our brothers from Afghanistan and our friends from the United States to, as I said, start working a new beginning and if we succeed, and we are very confident that we have the ability to do so. In fact we have no other option. I think what we are trying to do here is look to the future. The issue of OBL is history and we do not want to keep ourselves mired in the past. Pakistan has a robust cooperation on counter terrorism. Pakistan has sacrificed immensely in this campaign against terrorism. It has been our number one priority. It is our determination that we will not allow our soil to be used by anyone for terrorism. Terrorism has no faith, no religion and no denomination. Killing of innocent persons is not justified and cannot be justified by anyone. So I think what we are trying to do together with our brothers from Afghanistan and our friends in the US and the international community as a whole is to try and work out a scenario for realizing the immense potential that our region has and our respective countries have for development and prosperity of this region as a whole. So I think it is much more important to focus on the future than to talk and keep on analyzing the past.

Ambassador Marc Grossman

Let me just answer the first question here first. I think if you take what President Obama said the other night, and the two or three statements Secretary Clinton has made and if you take the very important statement made by the Government of Pakistan, you can very clearly see what Foreign Secretary Bashir is talking about which is cooperation which existed in the past, cooperation which exists today and the kind of cooperation we would like to be there in the future. Pakistan and America are the victims of terrorism and we ought to keep that point in mind and if we do we will find ways to cooperate. And again just to join hands in saying, as you consider this story, you will also consider the fact that our friend from Afghanistan is here and this is not a small matter that a Trilateral meeting about Afghan-led reconciliation has taken place.

Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir

And I just want to add one thing. We are looking towards the future. It is important that we stop drowning ourselves in the old way of thinking and the

old rhetoric. I think let us try to detach ourselves from the past and start looking at things a little bit differently now, because that is where the future lies. We ought to turn a new page and this is what this meeting was all about.

I am sure my Afghan colleague will like to add some thing.

Mr. Jaweed Lodin

No, I think it has been a pleasure listening to you two. If I may add from an Afghan perspective, the guy who was killed in the last 24-36 hours was someone who had the blood of innocent Afghans on his hands. He had the blood of many thousand innocent Muslims on his hands. So its not that he was an enemy of the US only. I think justice was served on behalf of millions of Muslims. This person brought shame on his family, on his own country where he was disowned and to many Muslims around the globe. So this is how we should see it. We should also see it as a very very significant milestone in the war against terrorism. However we have to move forward and plan accordingly. I don't think we are under any illusion that there will be a significant change in the war. We have to keep vigilant.

Q:Don't you think Mr. Foreign Secretary that actions like this may give India a justification to carry out operations of similar nature on Pakistani territory? We have already seen some statements to this effect in the Indian media?

Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir

A. Well that's a familiar line. I think it is a little outdated. I have seen this line that you are referring to. I think this is some part of some system there repeating the old rhetoric. We have just had a very good meeting of the Secretaries Interior and Home of the two countries. It had a very positive outcome. We are talking about cooperation from counter terrorism to counter narcotics. I think this line of thinking is really mired in a mind set that is neither realistic nor desirable. So I would say that as far as Pakistan is concerned we think that our dialogue process with India is moving in the right direction and that such statements as we have seen being made or being attributed to the Indian side are really not helpful. Nevertheless Pakistan would continue to approach these issues with confidence in itself and in the spirit of enlightened national and regional interest.

Thank you very much.

Islamabad, 3 May 2011,

4. Trilateral senior officials meetings between Pakistan, Afghanistan and the United States

1. Foreign Secretary Mr. Salman Bashir on the invitation of Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Javid Lodin is visiting Kabul for bilateral consultations

and for the second meeting of the senior officials of the Trilateral between Pakistan, Afghanistan and United States. Trilateral meeting will be held on 24th May, 2011.

2. Foreign Secretary met the Chairman of High Peace Council Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani today and conveyed the greetings of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani and appreciated the work of the High Peace Council. Foreign Secretary also conveyed the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation and peace process. The Foreign Secretary also stressed that as agreed by Pakistan and Afghanistan, it is important to support the development track in Afghanistan. Professor Rabbani appreciated the commitment made by Pakistan and Pakistani leadership and requested Pakistan to continue its support to achieve the objectives of peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.
3. Foreign Secretary addressed a group of Afghan Editors and Anchorpersons in the Embassy. He briefed them on bilateral relations and on the objectives of Trilateral Dialogue.

Islamabad, 25 May 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*.

B. PAKISTAN & ASEAN

Foreign Office report on the meeting of Pakistan-Asean Joint Sectoral Dialogue Cooperation Committee (APJSCC)

The fifth Meeting of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Dialogue Cooperation Committee The fifth Meeting of the ASEAN-Pakistan Joint Sectoral Dialogue Cooperation Committee (ASJSCC) will be held in Jakarta on 31 May 2011. Additional Foreign Secretary (Asia Pacific) Syed Hasan Javed will lead the Pakistan delegation. The Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Bagas Hapsoro will lead the ASEAN delegation, which will include members from 10 ASEAN countries.

Pakistan was accorded the Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN status in July 1993. Cooperation between ASEAN and Pakistan extends to Trade, Industry, investment, Environment, Science and Technology, Tourism, Drugs and Narcotics Control, and Human Resource Development.

Pakistan is a signatory to the Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat Terrorism with ASEAN. We actively participate in ARF, ASEM and other related fora. Since 2006, we have executed an ASEAN-Pakistan Fund. Pakistan's trade with ASEAN region has crossed US \$ 5 billion and the results of a feasibility study for ASEAN-Pakistan FTA have been encouraging.

Pakistan places great emphasis on its relations with ASEAN and has been endeavouring to enhance mutually beneficial collaboration with the dynamic economies of South East Asia.

The Fifth APJSCC meeting will provide Pakistan an opportunity to strengthen its relations with ASEAN countries.

Islamabad, 28 May 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

C. PAKISTAN & CHINA

1. Message from Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Salman Bashir on the occasion of the commencement of the ‘Pakistan-China Friendship Year’

On the auspicious occasion of the commencement of the ‘Pakistan-China Friendship Year’, it gives me immense pleasure to convey to our Chinese friends warm greetings from all men and women of the Foreign Service of Pakistan. Having served as Ambassador of Pakistan to the People’s Republic of China, I and my family will never forget the kindness, love and affection that we received from our Chinese friends. The beautiful memories of those days are deeply etched in our hearts and minds. Beyond China’s splendid economic transformation, we were privileged to witness a veritable renaissance of the great Chinese civilization, characterized as it is by ancient Chinese wisdom, instinctive passion and poise, that blends beautifully into harmony in all spheres. It is this essence of harmony that the great Chinese Nation offers to the troubled world today. Pakistan-China friendship is legendary – a fascinating romance between our two peoples, deeply rooted in our national ethos, since times immemorial. The leadership, the Government, the Armed Forces and, above all, the people of Pakistan and China are united in their resolve to safeguard their national interests, uphold national dignity and frustrate and defeat any evil designs against their motherland. Our two peoples will continue to march, hand-in-hand, on the high road to peace and prosperity.

Islamabad, 01 January 2011.

2. Remarks of the Prime Minister at the reception to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China

We are gathered here today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People’s Republic of China.

This is a momentous occasion; a moment to rejoice on our shared accomplishments; to celebrate the true friendship between our two peoples; to take inspiration and draw strength from our common ideals and goals and the great talent and genius of our peoples.

It is also a moment to renew our common resolve to impart a new dynamism to take our all-weather friendship and strategic cooperative partnership to ever new heights.

This is also an occasion to pay tribute to the wisdom and foresight of the architects of Pakistan-China friendship. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the founder of the Pakistan People's Party and Chairman Mao Zedong and Premier Zhou Enlai were the ones who visualized and, indeed, grasped the essence of threads of history, spanning several millenniums of interaction between our peoples, gave a brilliant new context to the relations between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China.

Successive generations of leaders of both countries and millions of men, women and young people have shaped the discourse and the reality of this abiding friendship between our peoples, which is manifested in abundant goodwill, spontaneous affinity, inestimable love and affection, an enduring romance that transcends all other considerations.

Premier Wen Jiabao, in his address to the joint sitting of the Parliament in Islamabad in December 2010, speaking of China-Pakistan friendship, stated that 'this friendship is in our blood.' The people of Pakistan feel the same.

China is, indeed, our true and most reliable friend and partner. We are like one nation and two countries.

We share common mountains and rivers. We share each other's joys and sorrows. We have a common dream and both China and Pakistan are together engaged in transforming their dreams and visions for shared peace and prosperity into a living reality.

On this historic occasion, I would like to convey the warm greetings of the people of Pakistan for their Chinese brothers and sisters. I would like to assure the great Chinese Nation that you will always find Pakistan by your side under all circumstances.

We will together march forward hand-in-hand to take our friendship and partnership to new heights and to ensure for our succeeding generations a glorious future of peace and prosperity.

I would also like to convey to you our sincere sentiments of deeply-felt admiration of the people of Pakistan on the national accomplishments of the Chinese people, under sagacious and wise leadership. China's economic and technological transformation is unprecedented in history.

China's economic advancement, in a very short timeframe, evokes admiration and respect. A new awakening of the glorious Chinese civilization is being manifested in the realm of thought, philosophy, intellect, arts and crafts as well as in scientific and technological disciplines.

As your closest friend, we in Pakistan truly share the sense of pride on these achievements.

We are convinced that China's economic rise; technological prowess; ancient wisdom; philosophy and thought will have a profound and most beneficial impact for humanity and mankind at large.

Our two peoples have, since times immemorial, stood together and, from the same vantage point, witnessed the transformations in the global and regional landscape. We have stood together, sure-footed, with full confidence in defending what is just and in upholding the noble values of humanity.

We have not only stood and watched but have marched hand-in-hand together to resist and defeat the designs of those who wish to transgress against the values of humanity.

We have worked together steadfastly for safeguarding our sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and for promoting peace and stability in the world and in our region.

Once again, in these troubled times, we collectively face new challenges with the firm conviction in our belief that truth and justice will prevail.

In these turbulent times, the only voice of reason in international affairs is that of China. China is making a splendid contribution towards the making of the twenty-first century.

Today, China is not only respected but emulated by developing countries. The people of Pakistan salute the Chinese Nation for holding high the banner of peace and justice in the world.

Pakistan will always and, under all circumstances, support and defend the just cause and core interests of the Chinese Nation – be it Taiwan or Tibet or the struggle against the ETIM.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to express, on behalf of the people of Pakistan, our gratitude to our Chinese friends for their solid and unstinted support to Pakistan at all times.

We can never forget that when natural catastrophe struck as it did in the 2005 earthquake and the devastating floods of 2010, China was the first to offer help and support.

Pictures of Chinese rescue and medical teams, working day and night in the mountains of Azad Kashmir and the delta region of the mighty Indus in full fury, helping their Pakistani brothers and sisters, have become indelible in the minds and hearts of our people.

In other domains – be it economic, or trade; science and technology; defence; culture; arts; and education, we have enjoyed tremendous cooperation.

From the friendship highway, called the Karakoram Highway in the North to the Gwadar deep seaport in the South, all major economic projects in Pakistan were built with Chinese assistance. Even today, hundreds of Chinese corporations and thousands of Chinese men and women are working tirelessly together with the Pakistani brother and sisters on major economic and development projects. For all this, we are truly grateful.

Friendship with China is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. In recent times, the leadership of our two countries has taken the decision to enhance our cooperation, especially in the domains of economy and technology, trade and defence.

We are giving special importance to enhancing connectivity and have already established frameworks of cooperation in economy, trade, energy, minerals as well as defence and defence production.

The Free Trade Agreement; the Joint Five Year Economic and Trade Programme; the Joint Investment Company; our ongoing cooperation in the financial and banking sectors; greater interaction between our capital markets; robust defence and defence production cooperation are but a few examples of the direction that our strategic cooperative partnership has taken.

We are determined to take all necessary measures for closer economic integration. In this context, establishment of the Trans-border Economic Zones; instituting Integrated Border Management System; working together the intra-regional and trans-regional economic and development agenda; corporate sector interaction in joint projects; opening of the ICBC bank branches in Pakistan; finalization of the Currency Swap Arrangement; cooperation in earth, space and marine sciences; and expanding educational contacts will undoubtedly contribute to further cementing our mutually beneficial all dimensional partnership.

We also acknowledge, with gratitude, the support that China has extended to Pakistan in our efforts to safeguard national sovereignty and Pakistan's core national interests.

Pakistan is a resilient nation. Our people are proud and confident of a bright future. We have, with courage and fortitude, overcome many challenges. We see in every challenge new opportunities, which we are determined to avail for not only promoting Pakistan's national interests but also for advancing the cause of peace and prosperity in our common region.

Pakistan-China friendship and strategic cooperative partnership is an indispensable and critical factor in ensuring regional and global peace and security.

Geography and history and, above all, the pure and true sentiments of friendship and brotherhood between our peoples impel us to march forward, together, to realize a glorious future for China, Pakistan and Asia as a whole.

Long live Pakistan-China friendship

Islamabad, 21 May 2011.

3. Remarks of the Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani at the Pakistan-China entrepreneurs forum

Chief Executive Officers,
Captains of Chinese Business and Industry,
Ladies and Gentleman

I am delighted to meet the corporate leaders of China. I also bring to you the warm greetings of the people of Pakistan.

Pakistan and China are good friends and close neighbours. Our all-weather friendship is deeply imprinted on the hearts and minds of our people.

We are celebrating the 'Pakistan-China Friendship Year' and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic relations. We do so in the spirit of brotherhood and to renew our resolve to taking our friendship and strategic cooperative partnership to ever new heights.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The bonds that tie our two peoples together have withstood the test of time. While strong winds of political change have swept across our region and beyond, Pakistan-China friendship has stood steady as a rock.

Pakistan-China friendship continues to strengthen with every passing day. Our partnership has assumed a regional and international dimension. We consult, cooperate and coordinate our respective endeavours for the cause of global peace and prosperity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Pakistan and China rightly take pride in how far we have come together. The enthusiasm on display in both countries, as we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, is genuinely felt and expressed by our two peoples.

As close neighbours, it is our sincere desire to continue to work towards closer economic integration between Pakistan and China. This is, indeed, not only a strategic imperative but accords fully with the dictates of geography; the concept of shared prosperity; and, above all, the ethos of our peoples.

We take inspiration from China's economic transformation that is unparalleled in human history. It has been brought about by the genius and hard work of the talented Chinese people under their wise and sagacious leadership.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that economy, technology and trade cooperation between our two countries has witnessed new dynamism. These are the three most important drivers in the robust growth of our friendship and all-dimensional cooperative partnership.

Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Pakistan in December 2010 was another landmark in the long and glorious history of Pakistan-China friendship. We were able to take important decisions and set out a shared economic and trade agenda.

It was agreed that corporate sector must play a leading role and the two governments must provide a facilitative framework for the flourishing of a mutually-beneficial economic partnership.

We have touched several important landmarks in the development of our economic and trade relationship. In the area of trade, we have the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement, which is comprehensive, covering goods, services and investments. Our bilateral trade touched dollars 9 billion last year. However,

the scope of further growth is immense. Our two countries have set a target of attaining dollars 15 billion trade in the coming years.

The establishment of Pakistan-China Trans-border Economic Zone; upgrading avenues for trade, overland across shared mountains and rivers; steps being taken towards integrated border management; and other related measures, including customs harmonization would enable both Pakistan and China to bring to play and optimally utilize the natural economic complementarities of the two countries.

We admire the accient and glorious Chinese civilization. This is evident in the domains of art and crafts, literature, science and technology and multiple disciplines.

In the domain of finance and banking, we have established the Pakistan-China Investment Company. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is beginning its operations in Pakistan and has opened branches in Islamabad and Karachi. Our Central Banks are now discussing concepts such as the Currency Swap Arrangement. This and other related measures will not only facilitate economic interaction but also provide the requisite incentives for the corporate leaders to enter into mutually-beneficial joint ventures.

As China diversifies its economy, with special emphasis on the development of its Western regions as well as shifts to high technology, the economic factors would make it attractive for the Chinese industry to relocate and establish their manufacturing base in Pakistan.

Pakistan is a developing country. Our strategic priority is development. We are developing our infrastructure that includes not only upgrading our rail and road links but also building new cities, airports and expressways.

We are rich in natural resources, which we ought to explore and develop for our economic growth. Our economic fundamentals and growth potential are enormous.

Hundreds of Chinese corporations and thousands of Chinese friends are already working in Pakistan. We highly appreciate their endeavours and hard work that is contributing immensely to Pakistan's economic development.

There is great potential for the participation of Chinese corporations in the development of the energy sector in Pakistan. This includes hydel, thermal and renewable. Joint ventures, with equity participation of Chinese corporations and financial institutions, can transform Pakistan's economic landscape and would certainly prove to be a win-win scenario.

I would urge Chinese corporations to focus on Pakistan in their strategic business plans. The idea is not only to develop mutually-beneficial bilateral economic cooperation but also to jointly promote intra-regional and trans-regional development partnerships.

Pakistan and China have renewed the Pakistan-China Joint Five Year Economic and Trade Programme. Projects, which are commercially feasible, would qualify for easy credits and such facilitation, as may be required, by both governments. I would strongly urge that the whole range of facilitative frameworks already agreed between our two governments, may be studied

closely by the Chinese and Pakistani entrepreneurs so that they could avail themselves of the immense possibilities of cooperation that is mutually advantageous.

For China doing business in Pakistan should be easy. The sentiments of friendship that so deeply exist between our two peoples, make living and working in Pakistan, both comfortable and rewarding.

I am sure that the corporate sectors of the two countries will join hands and work closely together to impart a new dynamism to our partnership and thus lead the process for taking our friendship to ever greater heights.

I welcome the establishment of China-Pakistan Entrepreneurs Forum. This will further strengthen and facilitate exchanges between our business communities.

I wish the Forum every success.

Islamabad, 21 May 2011.

4. Joint Statement issued on the occasion of Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani's visit to the People's Republic of China

1. At the invitation of HE Wen Jiabao, Premier of the state council of the People's Republic of China, H.E Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China from 17-20 May 201. The visit was held in the context of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan and celebration of the year 2011 as the year of China-Pakistan friendship.
2. Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Gilani held formal talks. President Hu Jintao, Chairman Jia Qinglin of the National Committee of the CPPCC and State Councilor Liu Yandong met with Prime Minister separately. The in-depth exchange of views by the leaders of the two countries was held in an atmosphere of warmth, understanding, trust and respect. The two leaders reached broad agreement on continuing to work to promote China-Pakistan strategic partnership of cooperation. Prime Minister Gilani attended the reception to celebrate the 60th anniversary of China Pakistan diplomatic relations and the inaugural meeting of China Pakistan entrepreneurs Forum. He delivered a speech at the Peking University, visited Shanghai, and attended and addressed the opening ceremony of the Taihu Cultural Forum in Suzhou.
3. Leaders of the two countries reviewed with immense satisfaction the growth of China Pakistan relations from strength to strength in the past 60 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations and agreed that the all-weather and time tested friendship and all dimensional cooperation have become the defining features of these relations. The leaders are firmly

committed to expanding and deepening the strategic partnership, economic collaboration and people-to-people contacts.

4. The leaders agreed that China-Pakistan Friendship Years is an occasion to celebrate the friendship between the two countries and an opportunity to advance practical cooperation and make our strategic partnership more extensive and productive. They also reviewed with satisfaction the momentum of the activities being held in the political, economic, trade, military, cultural, sports and educational fields in both countries to commemorate the year.
5. Both side agreed that friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan serves the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, and contributes to peace, stability and development in the region and beyond. The two sides shared the view that against the background of a complex and ever changing international and regional situation, it is of high significance to consolidate and deepen the China-Pakistan all weather strategic partnership of cooperation in line with the principles and spirit of the treaty of friendship, Cooperation and Good-neighborly relations between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan signed in 2005.
6. The Chinese side reiterated that the Chinese government always places high on its diplomatic agenda, consolidating and developing relations with Pakistan and is firm on the policy of pursuing friendly ties with Pakistan. The Chinese side expressed appreciation for the longstanding, firm support of Pakistan on issues that concern China's core interest. The Pakistani side stressed that pursuing friendship with China is the bedrock of Pakistan's foreign policy and enjoys national consensus. The Pakistani side appreciated the strong support and selfless assistance of the Chinese government and people for its economic and social development. The Pakistani side thanked the Chinese side for its assistance for the relief efforts during the severe floods and post-disaster reconstruction in Pakistan.
7. The Chinese side reiterated that it believes that Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity should be respected and its efforts for promoting peace and stability in South Asia should be recognized and supported. The Pakistan side reiterated its firm commitment to the one-China policy and support for the cause of China's reunification.
8. The two sides agreed to further intensity cooperation in infrastructure development, energy and agriculture on a priority basis in line with the decisions taken during the visit of Premier Wen Jiabao to Pakistan. The two leaders also noted the recent progress in mutually beneficial cooperation in the financial cooperation in the financial and banking sectors. The two sides are in negotiations of a currency swap agreement and the ICBC will soon open its branches in Pakistan. The two sides reiterated that they will continue to enhance mutual trust and cooperation in the military and security fields for peace, security and stability of the two countries and the

region. The two sides also agreed to give further impetus to the exchanges and cooperation in the field of maritime security.

9. The two sides noted the excellent framework for bilateral trade and economic cooperation in the form of the Five Year Development Programme on Trade and Economic Cooperation and the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement. The establishment of the China-Pakistan Entrepreneurs Forum will further strengthen exchanges between their business communities.
10. The two sides shared the view that terrorism, separatism and extremism pose serious threats to regional peace, stability and security. They reaffirmed their resolve to undertake substantive cooperation under bilateral and multilateral frameworks, and jointly fight the above mentioned three forces. The Chinese side recognized the tremendous efforts and the great sacrifice that Pakistan has made in fighting terrorism, and reiterated its respect and support for the efforts of Pakistan to advance its counter-terrorism strategy and safeguard its security. Pakistan reiterated that it would never allow its territory to be used to attack any country and will continue to support international counter-terrorism cooperation.
11. The Chinese side held the view that Pakistan is an important state of the region and plays a vital role in safeguarding peace, security and stability in the region. The two sides agreed to strengthen communication and coordination in regional affairs, on hot spot issues such as the issue of Afghanistan and regional cooperation. The two sides agreed to commit to stronger solidarity and cooperation among developing countries and agreed to step up communication and cooperation on major international issues such as climate change, food and energy security and the UN reform.
12. The two sides signed three Agreements/Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation in the fields of economic assistance, finance and mining.
13. Prime Minister Gilani expressed appreciation to Premier Wen Jiabao and the government and people of China for the warm hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. Prime Minister Gilani invited Chinese leaders to pay official visits to Pakistan at a mutually convenient time. The two sides agreed to discuss this matter through diplomatic channels.

Islamabad, 22 May 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

D. PAKISTAN & FRANCE

Joint Statement on Pakistan – France comprehensive partnership

1. At the invitation of the French Government, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, visited France on 3-6 May 2011.
2. During the visit, Prime Minister Gilani held detailed discussions with President Nicolas Sarkozy and his cabinet. Prime Minister Francois Fillon

held a working dinner in his honour. Prime Minister Gilani, also interacted with heads of important French business corporations at MEDEF.

3. Prime Minister Gilani and President Sarkozy decided to further strengthen bilateral relations for a comprehensive partnership based on mutual interest and mutual respect.
4. The two parties expressed satisfaction at the Foreign Secretary-level dialogue held in Islamabad on April 12 and underscored the need for regular high-level exchanges, including interactions among their respective parliamentarians. It was also agreed to hold regular in-depth exchanges on matters of mutual interest in the areas of economy, security and government-business dialogue.
5. Prime Minister Gilani appreciated France's role as a key trade and investment partner. The Prime Minister also expressed gratitude for the valuable flood relief assistance by France in the wake of the devastating floods in Pakistan last year. The two parties acknowledged the importance of sharing experience on, and taking measures for, disaster risk reduction.
6. The two parties agreed to expand mutually beneficial economic and trade interaction by promoting and devising appropriate means to facilitate private sector cooperation for bilateral, regional and trans-regional projects and joint ventures.
7. President Sarkozy expressed appreciation and support for Pakistan's democratic transformation. He also acknowledged the geo-political importance of Pakistan and appreciated the significant contributions being made by Pakistan in promoting global and regional peace, security and stability.
8. The two parties emphasized the importance of promoting stability and peace in Afghanistan and, towards this end, agreed to enhance their consultations and cooperation. The two parties reaffirmed their commitment in curbing the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and, inter alia, resolved to deal with it through enhanced security and counterterrorism cooperation.
9. President Sarkozy acknowledged immense sacrifices Pakistan has made both in human and material form in the fight against extremism and terrorism. Prime Minister Gilani reaffirmed Pakistan's resolute determination in this regard.
10. The two parties welcomed the establishment of the Pakistan-France Business Council which will provide vast opportunities to the Pakistani and French entrepreneurs for collaboration in strategic economic sectors, including energy, infrastructure development and agriculture. The Government of France and Pakistan will extend full cooperation to the Council in discharge of its activities.
11. The two parties also decided to establish a joint Administrative Economic and Trade Committee to promote bilateral trade.

12. The two parties underscored the need to enhance bilateral relations in the areas of culture and science and technology including through promotion of student exchange programmes.
13. They expressed satisfaction over their defense and security cooperation, and agreed to strengthen cooperation in the field of security through training and cooperation between their respective institutions. They welcomed the establishment of the Joint Commission on Security.
14. The two parties stated that they share the global objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation and agreed to enhance cooperation in these areas through dialogue.
15. Prime Minister Gilani expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of France for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation. Prime Minister Gilani extended an invitation to President Sarkozy and Prime Minister Fillon to visit Pakistan. The two leaders accepted the invitation with deep appreciation. Done in Paris on 5th May 2011 On behalf of Pakistan Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani Prime Minister On behalf of France Francois Fillon Prime Minister.

Islamabad, 05 May 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*.

E. PAKISTAN & GCC

1. Press Statement on first joint ministerial meeting on GCC-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The 1st Joint Ministerial Meeting on Strategic Dialogue between the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan* was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on 8 March 2011. The GCC was represented by His Highness Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council; His Excellency Dr. Nizar Madani, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, President of the next session of the GCC Ministerial Council; and His Excellency Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, GCC Secretary General. Pakistan was represented by Her Excellency Mrs. Hina Rabani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

The meeting underscored the historical links, shared faith, geographical proximity, common destiny of the GCC countries and Pakistan, and the establishment of institutional links as a further manifestation of these special links.

The two sides agreed that the GCC-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue constituted a momentous step forward to forge a comprehensive partnership for progress, peace and development and realize the shared aspirations of their peoples. They welcomed the holding of the first GCC-Pakistan Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in which

they signed the Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a mechanism for this dialogue.

Under the terms of the MoU, the two sides agreed to hold annual meetings at Foreign Ministers level to be held on alternating basis between the two sides. The MoU reaffirms the two sides' desire to enhance and develop existing friendly relations in all fields, hold consultations over regional and international issues of mutual concern, and establish the structural mechanism for mutually beneficial cooperation in a wide range of areas including trade and investment, services sector, banking and finance, energy and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, agriculture and food processing, cooperation in mineral development, as well as the environment and climate change within the UN conventions.

They expressed determination to conclude the Free Trade negotiations between Pakistan and the GCC, and hold the third round of negotiations as soon as possible.

They two sides stressed the need for full implementation of the Framework Agreement for Economic Cooperation, the formation of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation, and the encouragement and facilitation of cooperation between corporate sectors, as stipulated in that Agreement. Pakistan offered to host the first meeting of this Committee in the near future.

The GCC side reiterated its full support for the security, stability and development of Pakistan, and solidarity with the people of Pakistan.

The two sides reiterated that relations between countries of the region should be based on adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, good neighborliness, and full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the countries of the region, and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs.

The two sides reviewed the global and regional situation. In this context, the need for maintenance and promotion of stability and peace were underscored. Both sides agreed to intensify the process of mutual cooperation, coordination and consultation at the regional and global levels to promote peace, security, development and prosperity.

The two sides observed with concern the ongoing events in the Arab and Islamic arenas and expressed their hope for adopting the language of dialogue and wisdom, rejection of all forms of violence in order to ensure national unity and territorial integrity, preservation of the national accord, as well as refraining from division and dispute with a view to support efforts of reforms and development to fulfill the aspirations, and ensure the security and safety of Arab and Islamic peoples.

The two sides valued the reform initiative of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifah, King of Bahrain, aimed at reinforcing state institutions, rule of law, and dialogue, led by H.H. the Crown Prince, with all parties without exceptions.

The two sides stressed the importance of preservation of Iraq's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. They reiterated their full support to the

successful conclusion of the political process in this country. In this connection, they expressed their hope that the government-formation process would produce an effective government that is inclusive of all sects, and at peace, and on friendly terms with all regional countries. The two sides underscored the importance of implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions by Iraq relating to the identification of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing Kuwaitis and other nationals, return of Kuwaiti property and national archives to Kuwait, and maintenance of Kuwait-Iraq border signs.

Regarding, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian issue and the peace process in the Middle East, the two sides held the Israeli government responsible for the halt of the direct negotiations due to its continued illegitimate settlement policies and the serious consequences thereof. The two sides further reiterated that just and comprehensive peace with Israel can be achieved only by full withdrawal of Israel from the Arab occupied lands back to the demarcation line of June 1967, including the occupied Syrian Arab Golan and the lands still occupied in south of Lebanon and the establishment of an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and resolving all final status issues in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, the Madrid Principles, the Road Map, the principle of land-for-peace and the Arab Peace Initiative. The two sides called for an immediate halt of the Israeli policies of home demolitions, building the apartheid wall, forced evictions and land confiscations and condemned all Israeli discriminatory legislative attempts. They called for the prompt and complete implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 calling for lifting the siege imposed on Gaza.

The GCC side welcomed the resumption of the dialogue between Pakistan and India, including all issues, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and underscored that dialogue was the only way forward.

The Pakistan side conveyed to the UAE leadership that the people of Pakistan remembered with great admiration the role played by His Highness the late Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan and Shaikh Khalifah bin Zayed Al Nahyan President of the United Arab Emirates, President of the GCC Supreme Council, for their unwavering supporting for Pakistan.

The Pakistan side expressed, on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, profound gratitude and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and the government and people of Saudi Arabia for their eminent contributions to upholding all Islamic causes and in particular to demonstrate at all times the sentiments of brotherhood and solidarity between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and their generous support to the people of Pakistan.

The Pakistan side conveyed the profound gratitude of the leadership, the government and people of Pakistan for the continued, generous and genuine friendship demonstrated by the leadership, people and governments of all member states of the GCC for Pakistan.

The Pakistan side expressed its appreciation for His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahman bin Hamad Al-Attiyah, the GCC Secretary General, for his personal interest and support as well as of the GCC Secretariat for the promotion of GCC – Pakistan cooperation which holds great promise for the optimal realization of the immense potential of cooperation between GCC and Pakistan.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two sides expressed their gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates, current President of the GCC Ministerial Council, for hosting the first Ministerial Meeting of the GCC – Pakistan Strategic Dialogue. They agreed to hold the next Joint Ministerial Meeting on Strategic Dialogue between the Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2012. Islamabad, 8 March 2011.

2. Pakistan-GCC joint statement on strategic dialogue

1. Pakistan and the GCC countries issued a press statement on the conclusion of the First Joint Ministerial Meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, today. The press statement underscored that the Strategic Dialogue constituted a ‘momentous step forward’ to forge a ‘comprehensive partnership for peace, progress and development’.
2. According to the press statement, Pakistan and GCC agreed to hold annual meetings of the Strategic Dialogue at Foreign Ministers level. They also expressed the determination to conclude Free Trade negotiations between Pakistan and the GCC as soon as possible. They stressed on the full implementation of the Framework Agreement for Economic Cooperation.
3. Pakistan and GCC reviewed the global and regional situation and agreed to intensify consultation, coordination and cooperation at the regional and global levels.
4. The GCC countries reiterated full support for the security, stability and development of Pakistan and expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan. GCC countries welcomed the resumption of the dialogue between Pakistan and India on all issues, especially on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and underscored that dialogue was the only way forward.
5. On the sidelines of the Pakistan-GCC Strategic Dialogue, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar had a detailed meeting with H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of UAE.
6. The two Ministers expressed satisfaction over the existing close fraternal relations between the two countries. With regard to the Pakistan-GCC Strategic Dialogue, they underscored that the launching of the GCC-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue, would help strengthen further relations between Pakistan and the GCC.
7. The two Ministers exchanged views on issues of bilateral interest including UAE investments and development projects in Pakistan, the regional situation with particular focus on Afghanistan and Pakistan-India relations.

Sheikh Abdullah assured Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar of his country's continued support to Pakistan.

Islamabad, 9 March 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*.

F. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE & SECURITY COUNCIL REFORM

Statement of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Hina Rabbani Khar, at the ministerial meetings on 'Global Governance and Security Council Reform at Rome

Foreign Minister Franco Frattini,
President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to congratulate you on organizing this important Conference and on the very strong political participation by Member States here today.

Cooperative arrangements and inclusive approaches are required to effectively address the diverse and complex global challenges of today. We can succeed by promoting common good and global cohesion instead of furthering individual agendas.

The United Nations is indispensable in advancing this collective objective. It is therefore imperative to reinforce the world body's central role in global governance. The UN must also adapt to the evolving challenges and realities. A positive and sustainable transformation of UN institutions necessarily entails enhanced participation and transparency in their composition, as well as work and decision making. A change based on inclusive democratic principles will transcend present and emerging realities alike.

These principles also apply to the reform of the UN Security Council, an objective that Member States have actively sought for many years. While there remain many divergences in positions, general agreement has emerged among Member States on some fundamental objectives and principles. Let me enumerate three of them:

- i. First, on the need for a comprehensive reform of the Security Council encompassing all key inter-linked issues.
- ii. Second, that the reform must make the Security Council more equitable, diverse and plural in terms of representation; as well as more open and accountable to reflect the aspirations of the general membership.
- iii. Third, that this reform should be in conformity with the overriding principles of the Charter, particularly sovereign equality of Member States.

Our challenge is to translate this broad political agreement into a tangible reform outcome for today and for the future. This requires consensus-building and that has all along been our approach including in the Inter-governmental Negotiations. The dynamic and flexible proposal put forward by Pakistan, along with other UfC colleagues, are practical demonstration of our political will to build bridges, avoid deadlock and make difficult compromises for the common good.

On the other hand, the futility of unilateral and piecemeal initiatives based on rigid positions has been amply proved in the past as also in the prevailing scenario. If anything, such moves deepen divisions and breed mistrust which only perpetuates stalemate and delays the reform process at large.

We hope that this Meeting will unite the membership and reinvigorate the discourse, for which the three identified themes serve a useful purpose. Let me share a few thoughts on these themes.

Regional Representation is not only a concept conforming to the principles of reform but also an emerging norm in the conduct of multilateralism. Its potential in enhancing the credentials of the Council in terms of representation and accountability is clear as opposed to the drawbacks of individual permanent membership. It can also serve the dual purpose of a modest expansion of the Council while also ensuring wider representation to regional, sub-regional and cross-regional groups, some of which like the African Union and the OIC have important stakes in the Council and whose quest for adequate representation we support.

A discussion on the Criteria for Representation is inevitable to ensure that the Council's membership, which entails both rights and obligations, can effectively contribute to its primary responsibility of international peace and security, in a democratic and accountable framework. This discussion should also cater to the interests of Small States whose participation would certainly add value to the work of the Council. On its part, Pakistan supports a dedicated arrangement such as that proposed in the Italy-Colombia paper to ensure the presence of small States in the Council.

Much of the criticism of the Council is attributed to its exclusive and opaque nature of working and decision-making. While the responsibility of improving Methods and Procedures lies with the Council, this objective is intrinsically linked to other areas of comprehensive reform, including through increased proportion of 'elected members' vis-à-vis 'permanent members' and enacting checks and limitations on the use of the veto.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last fifteen years, many models of Security Council reform have been presented. A fundamental question that we, as Member States, should pose ourselves is how a given model corresponds to our legitimate interests including chances of serving at the Council.

There is no doubt in our mind that in order to move forward, we need to arrive at a workable middle ground that caters to the interests of the large majority of members and not just of a select few. Such an outcome will certainly be at some distance from our original positions, but it will be a win-win for all. We are ready, willing and able to achieve this objective. This is the message that should go out from this Meeting.

Thank You

G. PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS

1. Foreign Office report on Agreed outcome of India-Pakistan Foreign Secretary level talks in Thimphu

In pursuance of the mandate given by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, following their meeting in Thimphu in April 2010, the Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan had met in Islamabad in July 2010 to review the current state of the bilateral relationship and discuss steps to promote trust and confidence between the two countries. The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in Thimphu on February 6, 2011 to carry forward this process. They briefed their respective Governments. The two sides have agreed on the following: (i) They have agreed to resume dialogue on all issues following the spirit of the Thimphu meeting between the two Prime Ministers. (ii) The Foreign Minister of Pakistan will visit India by July 2011 to review progress in the dialogue process with his counterpart. This will be preceded by a meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries. (iii) They have agreed that prior to the visit of the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, meetings at the level of respective Secretaries will be convened on Counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial); Humanitarian issues; Peace & Security, including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; promotion of friendly exchanges; Siachen; Economic issues; Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project; and Sir Creek (at the level of Additional Secretaries/Surveyors General). (iv) Dates of the aforementioned meetings will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Islamabad, 10 February 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*.

2. Pakistan-India Home/Interior Secretary level talks in New Delhi

1. The India-Pakistan Home/Interior Secretary level Talks were held in New Delhi on March 28-29, 2011. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Gopal K. Pillai, Home Secretary of India, while the Pakistan delegation was headed by Mr. Qamar Zaman Chaudhary, Interior Secretary of Pakistan.
2. The meeting was held in pursuance of the decision taken in Thimphu (Bhutan) in February 2011 by the Governments of Pakistan and India, to resume the dialogue process and in the backdrop of Bilateral meeting between the Home Minister of India and the Interior Minister of Pakistan held in Islamabad on June 25-26, 2010.
3. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.
4. Both sides exchanged views on the decisions taken in the last round of Talks held in Islamabad in 2008. It was agreed that it was important for both sides to remain engaged on outstanding issues and henceforth the Home/Interior Secretary level Talks would be held bi-annually.

5. Both sides agreed to set up a Hotline between Home Secretary of India and Interior Secretary of Pakistan to facilitate real time information sharing with respect to terrorist threats.
6. Both sides reiterated their commitment to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirmed the need to bring those responsible for such crimes to justice.
7. Pakistani side provided updates on the ongoing trial and investigation in Pakistan on the Mumbai Terror Attacks. Pakistan conveyed its readiness, in principle, based upon the principle of comity and reciprocity, to entertain a Commission from India with respect to Mumbai Terror Attack investigations. Modalities and composition in this connection will be worked out through diplomatic channels. Dates for the visit of the Judicial Commission from Pakistan in connection with Mumbai attack trial will be conveyed by India within four-six weeks. NIA and FIA will continue to cooperate in the Mumbai Terror Attack investigations.
8. India provided information on the on-going Samjhautha Express blast case investigation. It was also agreed that after filing of report in the court, updated information will be shared with the concerned Pakistan authorities.
9. Both sides noted and welcomed the release of prisoners and fishermen by each other since the last round of Talks. It was agreed that both sides would release by April 15, 2011 those civilian prisoners/fishermen who have completed their sentence, whose nationality status has been confirmed by the respective Governments and whose travel documents have been received. Complete list of prisoners in each others' custody will be exchanged by both sides on July 1, 2011.
10. Both sides agreed that the problem and issues of the inadvertent crossers should be viewed sympathetically, and in a focused and sensitive manner. Accordingly, both sides also agreed to task the Coast Guard of India and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to work on setting up a mechanism for release of inadvertent crossers (fishermen) and their boats on the same lines as the inadvertent crossers on land. The Group will submit its report to the Home/Interior Secretaries before the next round of Talks.
11. Both sides commended the work done by the Judicial Committee on Prisoners for the release, repatriation and humane treatment of prisoners and agreed on the need for its continuation. The next meeting of the Judicial Committee would be held from April 19-23, 2011 in Pakistan.
12. Both sides shared the concern of the growing menace of Narcotics/Drugs and agreed that cooperation between NCB of India and ANF of Pakistan should be enhanced to ensure an effective control on drug trafficking. It was further agreed that Talks between DG, NCB and DG, ANF would be held annually. Indian side accepted the invitation for DG NCB to visit Pakistan in May 2011 for talks with DG, ANF.
13. The 'MoU on Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs/Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and

related matters' as finalized will be formally signed at the next DG level meeting of NCB-ANF in May 2011.

14. It was decided that CBI and FIA will schedule a meeting to work out the technical details of moving forward on issues of, human trafficking, counterfeit currency, cyber crimes and Red Corner Notices (RCNs).
15. Both sides agreed to set up a Joint Working Group to examine the modalities for streamlining the visa procedure/modalities and for giving a final shape to revision of the Bilateral Visa Agreement.
16. The Interior Secretary of Pakistan invited the Home Secretary of India for the next Home/Interior Secretary level Talks in Pakistan. The invitation was accepted.
17. Both sides agreed that the visit of the Interior Minister of Pakistan to India will take place on mutually convenient dates, to be decided through diplomatic channels.

Islamabad, 30 March 2011.

3. Foreign Office statement on 5th round of talks on commercial and economic cooperation between commerce secretaries of Pakistan and India

1. The 5th round of India-Pakistan talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation was held on 27-28 April 2011, in Islamabad.
2. The Indian delegation was led by Commerce Secretary, Rahul Khullar and the Pakistan delegation was led by Zafar Mahmood, Secretary, Commerce. List of participants is annexed.
3. Both sides agreed that increase in trade and economic engagement would help not only in the mutual quest for national development, but also contribute to building trust between the two countries. The discussions were guided by the mutual desire to realize the full potential of bilateral trade. To facilitate this objective, they agreed to make efforts to create an enabling environment for trade on both sides. The two sides also agreed to encourage greater engagement between the private sectors of the two countries.

With this in view, the following decisions were taken:

- (i) To build confidence, dispel misunderstandings and allay any misapprehensions, it is essential that governments in both countries support the business communities in promotion of bilateral trade. Further efforts would be made to make the bilateral trading environment more business friendly. Necessary outreach activities would be undertaken to bridge information gaps relating to the trade environment and economic opportunities.
- (ii) To promote trade, both tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) need to be reduced/removed. It was decided to establish a Working Group (WG) specifically dedicated to address and resolve clearly identified

sector-specific barriers to trade. The WG would comprise technical experts and representatives of regulatory bodies directly concerned with the clearly identified barriers. The first meeting of the WG shall be held by September 2011.

- (iii) Both sides appreciated the significant progress made in developing physical infrastructure for trade through the Wagah-Attari land route. Closer coordination needs to be ensured to open the second gate and new dedicated roads for passenger and freight traffic. The Indian side intimated that its new Integrated Check Post is expected to be fully functional by October, 2011. To facilitate the coordinated effort of both sides, it was agreed that the Joint Technical Group for promotion of trade and travel would meet in June 2011 and thereafter every month to ensure adherence to the October 2011 timeline on both sides.
- (iv) Both sides agreed to expand trade through Wagah-Attari by inter-alia (a) increasing trading hours taking advantage of the new infrastructure (b) expeditious clearance of cargo and (c) facilitating movement of large vehicles and containerized traffic.
- (v) It was also agreed that Pakistan side would remove its present restrictions on trade by land route as soon as the infrastructure to facilitate mutual trade is completed. The timeline for this purpose would be before October, 2011.
- (vi) It was noted that an informal and effective Customs Liaison arrangement is already operating at Wagah-Attari. It was decided to formalise the arrangements in the form of a Customs Liaison Border Committee which would meet at least once in two months to resolve any operational issue at the field level.
- (vii) For harmonization in customs procedures, facilitation of trade consignments, exchange of trade data and information, both sides agreed that the Sub Group on Customs Cooperation would meet in New Delhi before 15th June, 2011. Nodal officers shall be notified by both sides before 15th May, 2011- to establish regular direct contact by email/fax/telephone on all matters relating to delay in clearance of trade consignments, trade document requirements, and other customs cooperation. It was agreed that Pakistan would send a draft Customs cooperation agreement within a month.
- (viii) It was decided to undertake a new initiative to enable trade of electricity between both countries. To this end, a group of experts from both sides would examine feasibility, scope and modalities of such trading. Inter alia, the group may also address itself to issues such as suitable site(s) and routes for transmission lines, funding mechanisms and other related issues. The composition of the Group would be finalised before the end of June 2011 and the first meeting would be scheduled by October 2011.

- (ix) Both sides also agreed to work out how to initiate and substantially expand trade in all types of petroleum products. A group of experts from both sides would be set up for this purpose before 15 June 2011. The Group would inter alia discuss trade arrangements, building of cross border pipelines and use of road/rail route, including the Munabao-Khokrapar route. The Group's first meeting would be held before September 2011.
- (x) A new initiative to promote bilateral trade in Bt. cotton seeds was identified. This would help Pakistan's farmers and its textile industry by significantly raising cotton yields and ensuring better cotton security. It was agreed to take this process forward by enabling Business-to-Business contact and governmental regulatory clearances.
- (xi) Cooperation in the Information Technology (IT) sector would be encouraged through the private sector route.
- (xii) Pakistan recognized that grant of MFN status to India would help in expanding the bilateral trade relations. Both sides also agreed to remove the NTBs and all other restrictive practices which hamper bilateral trade.
- (xiii) It was informed by Pakistan side that it would take immediate necessary steps to ensure that non-discriminatory trade regime is operationalized at the earliest. The consultative process in this regard has been set in motion and information from all stakeholders including business chambers and trade bodies is being collected to replace the present 'Positive list' with a 'Negative list'. It was agreed that this process would be completed by October, 2011.
- (xiv) Both sides expressed the intent to explore the possibility of entering into a mutually agreed preferential trade arrangement to further promote bilateral trade by extending tariff concessions on products of export interest to both countries.
- (xv) Both sides agreed that facilitating grant of Business Visas was essential to expansion of trade. It was noted that during the recent meeting of the Home Secretaries, it was decided to set up a Joint Working Group to look at the Visa regime. Suitable inputs would be provided by both sides to this JWG, to realise the goal of easier access to Business Visas. In this regard the possibility of effective involvement of private sector through officially recognised joint chambers would be explored.
- (xvi) While appreciating the need for business- to- business contact, both sides desired to create an enabling environment and encourage Chambers of Commerce and Industry on both sides to form officially recognised Joint Chambers at the apex and regional levels.
- (xvii) Both sides agreed on the desirability of promoting bilateral investments and removing any impediments for such investments.

(xviii) On opening of bank branches in each other's countries, both sides agreed that banking channels are important and the process needs to be fast tracked.

(xix) Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and its counterpart organisation, India Trade Promotion Authority (ITPO) will collaborate on trade promotional activities. TDAP will send a draft MOU to ITPO for mutual cooperation by June 2011.

A Joint Working Group on 'Economic and Commercial Cooperation and Trade Promotion' will be co-chaired by the Joint Secretaries of the respective Departments of Commerce. Implementation of decisions taken in this round and any other trade promotion issues that may arise from time to time will be reviewed by this JWG.

Commerce Secretaries of both countries would meet bi-annually to oversee the functioning of this JWG.

The talks were held in a very cordial and constructive atmosphere.

Islamabad, 29 April 2011.

4. Joint Statement on meeting between the foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India, Islamabad

1. Under the resumed dialogue process, the Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India met in Islamabad, on 23-24 June 2011 for bilateral talks on Peace and Security including CBMs, Jammu and Kashmir and promotion of friendly exchanges. Three sessions of talks were held.
2. The talks were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. Both sides reiterated their intention to carry forward the dialogue process in a constructive and purposeful manner.
3. The issues of Peace and Security, including CBMs, were discussed in a comprehensive manner. Both sides emphasized the importance of constructive dialogue to promote mutual understanding.
4. They noted the ongoing implementation of various Nuclear and Conventional CBMs. They also decided to convene separate Expert level meetings on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs to discuss implementation and strengthening of existing arrangements and to consider additional measures, which are mutually acceptable, to build trust and confidence and promote peace and security. The dates for the Expert level meetings will be determined through diplomatic channels.
5. The Foreign Secretaries noted that both countries recognize that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and they reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations. They agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism.

6. The Foreign Secretaries exchanged views on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir and agreed to continue discussions in a purposeful and forward looking manner with the view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences.
7. Both sides agreed to convene a meeting of the Working Group on Cross-LoC CBMs to recommend measures for strengthening and streamlining the existing trade and travel arrangements across the LoC and propose modalities for introducing additional Cross-LoC CBMs. The Working Group will meet in July 2011.
8. Both sides agreed to the need for promoting friendly exchanges between the two countries. They noted with satisfaction the progress made towards finalization of the Visa Agreement which will help liberalize the visa regime and facilitate people-to-people, business-to-business and sports contacts.
9. The two sides also discussed measures for promoting cooperation in various fields including, facilitating visits to religious shrines, media exchanges, holding of sports tournaments and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other.
10. The Foreign Secretaries agreed that people of the two countries are at the heart of the relationship and that humanitarian issues should be accorded priority and treated with sensitivity.
11. The Foreign Secretary of India called on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar.
12. The Foreign Secretaries will meet again in New Delhi, on a date to be decided through diplomatic channels, to prepare for the meeting of the Foreign/External Affairs Ministers in New Delhi in July 2011.

Islamabad, 26 June 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*.

H. PAKISTAN & JAPAN

Condolence message to Japan from the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Excellency,

I am deeply grieved and shocked at the terrible news of the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami.

Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with its Japanese friends and is ready to extend all possible assistance in helping Japan overcome the effects of this calamity.

Our heartfelt sympathies and condolences go out to the bereaved families and all those affected.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.
(Hina Rabbani Khar)

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Islamic Republic of Pakistan
His Excellency,
Mr. Takeaki Motsumoto,
Foreign Minister of Japan, Tokyo. Unquoted

Islamabad, 13 March 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

I. PAKISTAN AND LIBYA

Remarks of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar on developments in Libya

Pakistan is following, with serious concern, the developments in Libya in the wake of the military strikes. The loss of precious human lives is indeed regrettable. Peaceful political solution needs to be evolved by the Libyan people themselves in the spirit of mutual accommodation and national reconciliation. Stability, peace and unity of Libya are of paramount importance.

It is imperative that humanitarian norms are respected by all concerned in letter and spirit. Reports of civilian casualties are extremely distressing and raise serious questions and could have far-reaching implications about interpretation and implementation of humanitarian principles.

Pakistan has always upheld the principles of respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of States as well as the principles of non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs. These principles are universal and must be respected in Libya. It is imperative that all sides adhere to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and relevant norms of international law.

Pakistan enjoys close fraternal relations with the Libyan people and fervently hopes that they would succeed, sooner rather than later, in restoring stability and peace, and establishing a societal equilibrium that accords fully with their national aspirations.

There is a large Pakistani community in Libya. Pakistan remains mindful of the safety and security of its nationals. Our Embassy in Tripoli and the Special Task Force in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are working round-the-clock to ensure the safety of our nationals.

The Government of Pakistan has so far, arranged evacuation of more than five thousand Pakistanis from Libya.

Islamabad, 22 March 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

J. NAM

Foreign Office report on XVI ministerial conference of the Non Aligned Movement held in Bali, Indonesia, 25-27 May 2011

Pakistan today reiterated its eight point action programme for revitalizing the Non Aligned Movement to effectively address the new and emerging global challenges in the areas of peace, security and development in the 21st Century.

This vision of a new and reinvigorated NAM was originally outlined by Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani at the XV NAM Summit in Sharm el Sheikh Egypt in 2009 and was reaffirmed by Federal Minister of Textile Industry Makhdoom Shahabuddin, Head of Pakistan delegation, in his statement at the XVI Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held at Bali, Indonesia on May 25-27, 2011.

The Ministerial meeting was inaugurated by the President of Indonesia and attended by Ministerial and other senior level representatives from the 120 NAM member states as well as observers and guest countries especially invited for the occasion.

The Ministerial Conference was convened to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of NAM and to reflect on the contributions that NAM can make over the next fifty years. To this end, the NAM Ministers adopted a comprehensive outcome document outlining a shared vision of NAM for the next 50 years and a commemorative declaration marking the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Non Aligned Movement.

Makhdoom Shahabuddin also reiterated Pakistan's proposal for the establishment of a NAM Ad Hoc Working Group for discussing and forging a draft common vision statement on New Multilateralism and the role of the Movement in the 21st Century.

‘Today, in this increasingly divided and fragmented world where foreign occupation, unilateral use of force, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and non-fulfillment of nuclear disarmament obligations are still living realities, the principles and ideals of NAM are ever more relevant and critical,’ he stressed.

He also emphasized that NAM should reenergize its efforts to uphold and strengthen the timeless principles of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-intervention, and peaceful co-existence.

Islamabad, 28 May 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

K. PAKISTAN & RUSSIA

Joint Statement issued by President Asif Ali Zardari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and President Dimitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation

At the invitation of President Dimitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation, President Asif Ali Zardari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan paid an official visit to the Russian Federation on May 12, 2011.

During the visit, the two sides held an in-depth discussion on the status of, and prospects for, the development of their bilateral cooperation, as well as on a number of regional and international issues.

President Zardari, on behalf of the people of Pakistan, expressed gratitude to the Russian authorities for the timely humanitarian assistance provided to Pakistan in the wake of the devastating floods last year.

The Presidents commended the considerable progress made in the political and security dialogue between Pakistan and Russia, including at the top level. There has been a notable intensification of contacts on a wide range of topics between ministries and departments of the two countries.

The Presidents emphasized the importance that they attached to promoting stability and peace in the broader region and, in this regard, to continue to enhance contacts, consultations, cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

The Presidents agreed that there exists large potential for further enhancing bilateral cooperation. The two sides agreed to focus on promotion trade, investment and pursuing joint projects, particularly in energy, infrastructure development, metal industry and agriculture. This enhanced cooperation will help develop a strong bilateral relationship based on mutual respect and mutual interest.

The two sides welcomed the signing of the Agreement between Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Government of the Russian Federation on Air Transport, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation.

The Presidents emphasized the importance of developing mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the two countries, which is to be promoted by the Pakistani-Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation that held its first meeting in Moscow in September 2010.

They commended the Russian business community's interest in participating together with the Pakistani Government and businesses, in a number of economic, infrastructural and banking projects. The Russian side reaffirmed the willingness of Russian companies to cooperate with Pakistan. In particular, the state-owned enterprise Tyazhpromexport is ready to take part in the modernization of the Pakistan Steel Mills in Karachi, while the INTER RAO UES would contribute to the building of energy generating facilities and Gazprom Zarubezhneftegaz to the development of gas fields in Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to promote finance and banking sector cooperation and enhance bilateral trade and investments. In this context, they agreed to study the concept of currency swap/barter arrangements, as well as of an incentives-based regime/mechanism to promote joint ventures.

The two sides also agreed to promote cooperation in the field of education, including student and academia exchanges; science and technology; health science; earth and marine sciences. They also agreed to promote cultural and increase people-to-people and parliamentary contacts and exchanges.

Discussing regional issues, the Presidents underscored the importance of stability and peace in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their support for Afghan-led and Afghan-owned efforts towards promoting national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The Presidents expressed their deep concern about the threat of terrorism and drug-related crimes persisting in the region.

The Presidents underlined the importance of joint efforts to fight terrorism as well as drug-related crimes-representing a serious challenge to the international peace and stability – along the whole chain of illegal production and distribution of drugs. The two sides welcomed the signing, in October 2010, of the Agreement between the Ministry of Narcotics Control of Pakistan and the Federal Drug Control Service of Russia on Cooperation in Combating illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their precursors.

The President recognized the need for promoting trans-regional economic and trade cooperation. Regional development projects would ensure prosperity for the peoples of the region, and it was important to optimally utilize national economic complementarities. They agreed to coordinate their efforts bilaterally, as well as through regional multilateral cooperative mechanisms.

In this regard, the two sides expressed keen interest in the implementation of projects related to the creation of a system to transmit electric power from Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan (CASA-1000) and to the building of a gas pipeline between Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The President of Pakistan supported Russia's offer to participate in those projects and underscored the need for early realization of these projects.

The Russian side welcomed Pakistan's involvement in the activities of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Russia's support for Pakistan's joining the SCO along with other candidates was reaffirmed subject to the consent of all its members.

The Presidents reiterated the importance that two countries attached to the quadrilateral process (Russian Federation, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan) and reaffirmed their commitment to further interaction in this format in close cooperation with the SCO.

President Medvedev accepted with appreciation President Zardari's invitation to visit Pakistan on mutually convenient dates.

Signed on May 12, 2011 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

Islamabad, 12 May 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

L. SCO

President Asif Ali Zardari's statement at the 10th Anniversary of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Your Excellency Nur-Sultan Nazar-Bayev,
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Heads of SCO Member States,
Heads of Delegations of SCO Observers and Guests,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.
Asslam-o-Alaikum,

It is indeed a great pleasure to join you all at this historic Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and to commemorate its 10th Anniversary.

I wish to express our deep gratitude to President Nazar-Bayev and the Government and people of Kazakhstan, for their warm hospitality.

Pakistan wishes to participate in SCO's initiatives in promoting regional and trans-regional connectivity and trade.

We wish to cooperate with countries in the region in financial and banking sectors, joint ventures in energy, infrastructure, education, scientific and technological development programs.

We are delighted to learn that Afghanistan has decided to seek observer status with SCO.

This indeed is a welcome development.

President Karzai paid an important visit to Islamabad recently.

We had excellent discussions on the way forward.

We agreed to cooperate in fighting terror and in promoting regional connectivity and economic and trade cooperation.

We have made great sacrifices in the fight against terrorism and militancy.

Militancy and terrorism pose common threats to our region.

Similarly, drug trafficking and production is not only harming our people but also fueling militancy and terrorism.

There are serious threats to the security and well being of our societies.

Pakistan looks forward to enhancing its cooperation with the SCO to eliminate this menace from our region.

Excellencies,

We hope that our application for full membership would be processed expeditiously.

In the meantime, Pakistan intends to fully associate with all SCO programs for peace and development.

We uphold its objective of regional peace and development. Pakistan also belongs to this very region.

We share with its peoples, centuries of common history and culture.

Apart from our geographical location, the geo-economic realities also encourage Pakistan to join the SCO as full member.

We, therefore, take pride in the remarkable achievements of the SCO over the last 10 years.

Our destinies are inter-linked.

Pakistan looks forward to working together with the SCO countries for achieving shared prosperity and peace.

Pakistan is committed to combating terrorism, extremism and separatism.

Astana is a most beautiful city.

It offers a perfect backdrop for our deliberations to re-invigorate the SCO.

It will be remembered for playing an important role in re-vitalizing the SCO.

Excellencies,

During the past ten years SCO has made significant contributions towards peace and development of the region.

Pakistan is delighted to associate itself fully with the ideals, values and purposes of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

We share the SCO's vision for the future.

We agreed that the way forward to entering in a new era of peace and prosperity is pragmatic cooperation.

At this historic Summit, I wish to convey to all friends and partners in the SCO, Pakistan's firm resolve to work with you for the common goal of ensuring a bright future of our peoples.

I wish this Summit every success.

Thanks.

Islamabad, 17 June 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

M. PAKISTAN & UNITED KINGDOM

1. **Joint Statement issued by Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister David Cameron**

1. Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister David Cameron today launched an Enhanced Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and the UK to underpin their enduring partnership based on sovereign equality, mutual trust, mutual interest and mutual respect. A Declaration on the Enhanced Strategic Dialogue Partnership was signed by the two Prime Ministers. The Dialogue will deepen relations between the UK and Pakistan, allowing both countries to explore areas of mutual interest in a spirit of understanding, confidence and respect.
2. Prime Minister Cameron during the visit also called on President Asif Ali Zardari and exchanged views on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
3. Pakistan and the UK are bound together by unique ties based on our shared history, values and enormously rich people-to-people links. This enhanced dialogue will intensify cooperation on shared interests including trade, economic stability and development, cultural cooperation, education and security. Both countries will also consult, cooperate and coordinate on

global and regional issues with a view to promoting stability, peace and security.

4. At today's meeting, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister David Cameron agreed on five priority areas, and will meet annually to drive forward progress.
5. On trade, they set a target of increasing bilateral trade in goods and services to £ 2.5 billion a year by 2015. Prime Minister Cameron pledged to continue to advocate for Pakistan to gain enhanced trade access to the EU including through GSP+.
6. Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Cameron agreed that economic stability and socio-economic development were key priorities to ensure prosperity for future generations. The global economic crisis requires both countries to make tough decisions in order to deliver future growth and prosperity. They agreed to a regular dialogue between their governments on economic reform, with an emphasis on trade and investments as the route to prosperity. They underscored the importance of supporting corporate sector interaction in areas of mutual interest and national priorities.
7. 2011 is the Year of Education in Pakistan. Education is crucial to Pakistan's future, and to unlocking opportunities for ordinary Pakistanis. Both leaders recognized the huge potential for transformation and innovation in schooling and the social and economic benefits this would bring to future generations. They welcomed the public commitment by Pakistan to give education the highest priority. To support this commitment, Prime Minister Cameron announced UK assistance of up to £ 650 million to get over four million Pakistani children into school. This will be UK's largest education assistance programme in the world. The UK and Pakistan will continue to strengthen links between their schools and higher education institutions. Both sides agreed to consider facilitating academic links, student exchanges and welcome the large number of Pakistani students proceeding for higher education in UK Universities. In this context, the UK will explore cooperation with Pakistan in its plan to upgrade the school system nationwide and utilize information and communication technologies.
8. On security, Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Cameron committed to address their shared national security challenges. Both leaders agreed that terrorism and extremism are global issues and needed to be combated by intensifying cooperation at the global and regional levels. Prime Minister Cameron recognized the sacrifices made by Pakistan's military, civil law enforcement agencies and people in fighting violent extremism and militancy and appreciated the efforts of the democratic government. The Prime Ministers agreed that a programme to share experience in countering Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) would be a priority for the next year. Prime Minister Cameron and Prime Minister Gilani convened the National Security Discussion earlier in the day, bringing together civilian and military experts to discuss the common challenges both countries face.

9. The UK and Pakistan enjoy rich people-to-people links. Over a million British citizens have close family ties to Pakistan. Prime Minister Gilani and Prime Minister Cameron welcomed the contributions made by the British-Pakistani community to the UK and to the relationship between the UK and Pakistan. They particularly welcomed cultural exchange in the creative arts and agreed that increasing this should be a priority. Prime Minister Cameron announced that the UK would be increasing the number of Chevening Scholarships for post-graduate Pakistani students by 50 per cent.
10. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate closely in combating the menace of terrorism and violent extremism. They reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive approach by long-term commitment, sustainable economic development, education and opportunities for young people. A vibrant democracy, respect for human rights and empowerment of women will help support that goal. Prime Minister Cameron acknowledged the huge sacrifices ordinary Pakistanis had made in meeting these challenges and his support and confidence in Pakistan's continued efforts. A common threat requires a common response.
11. The Enhanced Strategic Dialogue represents a long-term, deep commitment by both countries to work together as equals and to create the conditions for greater security and prosperity in Pakistan and in the UK. Our enduring partnership is one that has been forged by history and will only become more important and vital in the future.

Islamabad on 5 April 2011

David Cameron

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Islamabad.

Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.

2. Declaration on Pakistan-UK enhanced strategic dialogue

Introduction

UK and Pakistan share a common history. Our relationship is visible in the vibrant and diverse diaspora community in the UK and the cultural, linguistic, educational, commercial, economic, family and other ties that British people and organizations have to Pakistan.

Both have a shared interest in promoting peace, security and stability in the region and the world.

For this purpose, the two countries have agreed to establish an enhanced and stronger Pakistan-UK Strategic Dialogue based on sovereignty,

equality, mutual trust and mutual respect. This enhanced Strategic Dialogue will build on and intensify cooperation in the areas set out below for mutual benefit.

Objective

A stronger, deeper, franker and more practical Pakistan-UK bilateral relationship, supported by commercial engagement, which enables Pakistan and the United Kingdom to become more secure, stable and prosperous.

Structure

The enhanced Strategic Dialogue will be actively driven forward by the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and by the Prime Minister of the UK. Annual meetings at Heads of Government level will review the bilateral relationship and determine the priorities and objectives for the coming year. Foreign Ministers will meet bi-annually in both countries to review progress. Relevant Ministers will meet to agree the agenda and timings of follow-up meetings. This work will be supplemented through regular visits by senior officials in each of the stands mentioned below.

The existing working groups currently operating under the Strategic Dialogue such as the Joint Working Group, Defence Cooperation Forum, Joint Judicial Cooperation Working Group, as well as the Arms Control and Disarmament Dialogue and the annual Development Partnership Review will continue to operate as part of the Enhanced Strategic Dialogue.

Areas of Cooperation

Both sides have agreed to the following themes for the Dialogue.

i) Trade and Business Relations

Led by Commerce Ministers, supported by UK Trade and Investment, and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce and other relevant Ministries. Discussion will aim at increasing cooperation on trade and investment between our two countries. As part of UK-Pakistan trade and investment cooperation the UK will explore ways at improving Pakistan's competitiveness, including through its work on vocation skills, and actively pursue a programme of joint activities in key sectors. The UK will pursue greater trade access to the EU for Pakistan including for Pakistan-EU FTA.

Both sides will encourage and facilitate corporate sector cooperation in areas of mutual interest and importance.

ii) Financial, Macro-Economic Stabilization and Development Cooperation

Led by the UK Secretary of State for the Department for International Development and Pakistan's Finance Minister, alongside officials from across both Governments. Discussion will focus on growth, jobs and governance.

iii) Education and Health

Led by the Development Secretary and Pakistan's Finance Minister, the UK will support Pakistan to tackle the education emergency including getting more girls into school. This work will be supplemented by the British Council and the Education ministers in providing structure for and expansion of higher education and research links in both direction. Both sides will also promote cooperation in Higher Education; interaction among academia; student exchange programme; joint research and collaboration in the fields of science and technology and specialized disciplines such as medical sciences. Both sides will also cooperate in programmes that support capacity building for health professionals and institutions. The two sides will also consider a regular dialogue for cooperation in the health sector.

iv) Consultations on Defence and Security

The creation of a civilian-military National Security Dialogue between the UK and Pakistan; comprising discussion on regional security, CT and non-proliferation.

Exchanges on rule of law issues will be led by the Ministry of Justice and Pakistan's Law Ministry. This will include strands of work on policing, the judicial system, organized crime, human trafficking and narcotics control.

Further practical cooperation led by Defence and Interior Ministers and involving a wide range of Departments and Agencies from both sides, building on senior contacts, as well as the existing Joint Working Group and Defence Cooperation Forum.

v) Cultural Cooperation

This work will be led by the Ministers of Culture and supported by the British Council. The UK will continue its support for the British-Pakistan Foundation and explore further cooperation to promote the cultural links between our two countries.

Islamabad on 5 April 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

N. PAKISTAN AND THE UNITED STATES

1. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs condemns drone attacks

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar has strongly condemned the Drone attacks in which a number of innocent lives were lost yesterday.

Minister of State stressed that yesterday's Drone strikes were not only counter productive but also in flagrant disregard of Pakistan's sovereignty and international principles and norms. Such strikes constitute a matter of serious concern and raises issues regarding respect for human rights and humanitarian law. Irresponsible and unlawful conduct cannot be justified on any grounds.

Minister of State added that in view of the Drone attacks, Pakistan would be unable to participate in the trilateral meeting between Pakistan-Afghanistan-US, proposed for 26 March 2011 at Brussels.

Islamabad, 19 March 2011.

2. Foreign Office statement on death of Osama Bin Ladin

In an intelligence driven operation, Osama Bin Ladin was killed in the surroundings of Abbotabad in the early hours of this morning. This operation was conducted by the US forces in accordance with declared US policy that Osama bin Ladin will be eliminated in a direct action by the US forces, wherever found in the world.

Earlier today, President Obama telephoned President Zardari on the successful US operation which resulted in killing of Osama bin Ladin.

Osama bin Ladin's death illustrates the resolve of the international community including Pakistan to fight and eliminate terrorism. It constitutes a major setback to terrorist organizations around the world.

Al-Qaeda had declared war on Pakistan. Scores of Al-Qaeda sponsored terrorist attacks resulted in deaths of thousands of innocent Pakistani men, women and children. Almost, 30,000 Pakistani civilians lost their lives in terrorist attacks in the last few years. More than 5,000 Pakistani security and armed forces officials have been martyred in Pakistan's campaign against Al-Qaeda, other terrorist organizations and affiliates.

Pakistan has played a significant role in efforts to eliminate terrorism. We have had extremely effective intelligence sharing arrangements with several intelligence agencies including that of the US. We will continue to support international efforts against terrorism.

It is Pakistan's stated policy that it will not allow its soil to be used in terrorist attacks against any country. Pakistan's political leadership, parliament, state institutions and the whole nation are fully united in their resolve to eliminate terrorism.

Islamabad, 3 May 2011.

3. Remarks by the Minister for Information and Broadcasting in the Parliament on the death of Osama Bin Laden

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable members of the House

1. on behalf of the government, i wish to make a statement regarding the death of osama bin laden in a us forces operation in the surroundings of abbotabad on 2 may 2011.

2. The Government's position has been announced in the two press statements issued by the Foreign Ministry on 2 and 3 May 2011. The honourable members will have seen this official account. However, I would like to underscore the following:
 - Counter-terrorism is a national priority. More than any other country in the world, Pakistan has suffered immensely from horrific acts of mindless violence, perpetrated against innocent civilians, including women and children.
 - Since 9/11, over thirty thousand Pakistanis have fallen victim to terrorist attacks. These cowardly attacks have targeted public places such as markets, mosques and shrines in nearly every town and city throughout the country. What is indeed most deplorable is that those who have perpetrated these attacks have pretended to do it in the name of our noble religion – Islam. There could be no greater disservice to Islam. Our people are, therefore, rightly incensed over the blight of terrorism that has affected their daily lives as well as the economy of the country.
 - There is a national consensus on defeating terrorism. Our security and law-enforcing agencies and bodies as well as the armed forces have taken up this challenge successfully and effectively. More than five thousand of our security and armed forces personnel have embraced martyrdom in combating this menace.
 - While the anti-terror campaign is a national priority, it is also a regional and global issue. We have ongoing cooperative arrangements with several countries to defeat and eliminate terrorism.
 - In this regard, it is important to note that the parameters of our cooperation are well-established. Under no circumstances, can Pakistan allow any cooperative endeavours to be construed, in any manner, that compromises Pakistan's sovereignty and national security. This has been made clear to all concerned.
 - The safeguarding of Pakistan's sovereignty and national security are indeed sacred obligations, which shall always be upheld by all state institutions, and most of all, by the patriotic people of our country.
 - Prosecution of the global anti-terror campaign poses formidable challenges in multiple domains. This also includes moral and legal questions, which must be addressed collectively, with clarity and conviction.
 - Pakistan has amply demonstrated its resolve to defeat terrorism. We have done so in our own national interest and seek no acknowledgement or credit in this regard from any one. We have demonstrated that Pakistan is a resilient nation; that our state institutions are fully capable of overcoming all challenges and upholding Pakistan's national interests.
 - Osama bin Laden is history. Let us also not forget that there is also a history to the making of Osama bin Laden and what he signified.

- Pakistan is, certainly, is not the birthplace of Al-Qaeda, nor did we invite Al-Qaeda or Osama bin Laden to Pakistan.v
- Following 9/11, the Coalition military operations in Afghanistan resulted in the dispersal of Al-Qaeda. It is worth-reminding that around forty Al-Qaeda key operatives were tracked and arrested by Pakistani intelligence and security agencies in the last ten years in various cities in Pakistan. Pakistan played an important role in degrading and dismantling of the Al-Qaeda networks.
- It is also worth recalling that Al-Qaeda declared war against Pakistan and targeted our people and institutions. They launched waves after waves of suicide bombers.
- As far as operation against Osama bin Ladin on 2 May, we have stated clearly that this operation was conducted directly by the US forces. Our leadership, civil as well as military, had no prior knowledge of this particular operation.
- We have officially expressed our deep concern and reservations on the manner in which the government of the United States carried out this operation without prior information or authorization of the Government of Pakistan.
- We have also officially stated that this event of unauthorized unilateral action cannot be taken as a rule. Nor could such an event serve as a future precedent by any state, including the United States.
- Such unilateral actions could undermine cooperation and may also, some time, constitute a threat to international peace and security.
- The Government of Pakistan and its armed forces consider support of the people of Pakistan to be its mainstay and actual strength. Any actions contrary to their aspirations, therefore, run against the very basis on which the edifice of national defence and security is based.
- Pakistan Army and intelligence agencies have played a pivotal role in breaking the back of Al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations in Pakistan as well as around the world.
- Most of the successes achieved by the US and some other friendly countries have been the result of effective intelligence cooperation and extremely useful military support by Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan and its security forces have resolved to continue their fight against terrorism till people of Pakistan can live in peace and security.
- I would also like to address some of the speculative reports on this subject. The fact is that Abbottabad and the surrounding area has been under sharp focus of intelligence agencies since 2003, resulting into highly technical operation by ISI, which led to arrest of high value Al-Qaeda target in 2004.
- As far as the target compound is concerned, ISI had been sharing information with CIA and other friendly intelligence agencies since 2009. The intelligence flow, indicating some foreigners in the surroundings of Abbottabad, continued till mid-April 2011.

- It is important to highlight that taking advantage of much superior technological assets, the CIA exploited the intelligence leads given by us to identify and reach Osama bin Laden – a fact also acknowledged by the US President and Secretary of State, in their statements.
- It is also important to mention that CIA and some other friendly intelligence agencies have benefited a great deal from the intelligence provided by ISI. ISI's own achievements against Al-Qaeda and in the war on terror are more than any other intelligence agency in the world.
- Reports about US helicopters taking off from Ghazi airbase are absolutely false and incorrect. Neither any base or facility inside Pakistan was used by the US forces, nor Pakistan Army provided any operational or logistic assistance to these operations, conducted by the US forces. US helicopters entered Pakistani airspace making use of blind spots in the radar coverage due to hilly terrain.
- US helicopters' undetected flight into Pakistan was also facilitated by the mountainous terrain, efficacious use of latest technology and 'nap of the earth' flying techniques. It may not be realistic to draw an analogy between this undefended civilian area and some military/security installations, which have elaborate local defence arrangements.
- On receipt of information regarding the incident, Pakistan Air Force scrambled its jets within minutes. This has been corroborated by the White House Advisor, Mr. John Brennan, who, while replying to a question, said: 'We didn't contact the Pakistanis until after all of our people, all of our aircraft were out of Pakistani airspace. At the time, the Pakistanis were reacting to an incident that they knew was taking place in Abbotabad. Therefore, they were scrambling some of their assets. Clearly, we were concerned that if the Pakistanis decided to scramble jets or whatever else, they didn't know who were on those jets. They had no idea about who might have been on there, whether it be US or somebody else. So, we were watching and making sure that our people and our aircraft were able to get out of Pakistani airspace. And thankfully, there was no engagement with Pakistani forces. This operation was designed to minimize the prospects, the chances of engagement with Pakistani forces. It was done very well, and thankfully no Pakistani forces were engaged and there were no other individuals who were killed aside from those on the compound.'
- There has been a lot of discussion about the nature of the targeted compound, particularly its high walls and its vicinity to the areas housing Pakistan Army elements. It needs to be appreciated that many houses occupied by the affectees of operations in FATA/KPK, have high boundary walls, in line with their culture of privacy and security. Houses with such layout and structural details are not a rarity.
- Questions have also been asked about the whereabouts of the family members of Osama bin Laden. They are all in safe hands and being

looked after in accordance with law. Some of them, needing medical care, are under treatment in the best possible facilities. As per policy, they will be handed over to their countries of origin.

4 May 2011.

4. Foreign Office Statement on death of Osama Bin Ladin

The Government of Pakistan recognizes that the death of Osama bin Ladin is an important milestone in fight against terrorism and that the Government of Pakistan and its state institutions have been making serious efforts to bring him to justice.

However, the Government of Pakistan categorically denies the media reports suggesting that its leadership, civil as well as military, had any prior knowledge of the US operation against Osama bin Ladin carried out in the early hours of 2nd May 2011.

Abbottabad and the surrounding areas have been under sharp focus of intelligence agencies since 2003 resulting in highly technical operation by ISI which led to the arrest of high value Al Qaeda target in 2004. As far as the target compound is concerned, ISI had been sharing information with CIA and other friendly intelligence agencies since 2009. The intelligence flow indicating some foreigners in the surroundings of Abbottabad, continued till mid April 2011. It is important to highlight that taking advantage of much superior technological assets, CIA exploited the intelligence leads given by us to identify and reach Osama bin Ladin, a fact also acknowledged by the US President and Secretary of State, in their statements. It is also important to mention that CIA and some other friendly intelligence agencies have benefitted a great deal from the intelligence provided by ISI. ISI's own achievements against Al Qaeda and in War on Terror are more than any other intelligence agency in the World.

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assets. Clearly, we were concerned that if the Pakistanis decided to scramble jets or whatever else, they didn't know who were on those jets. They had no idea about who might have been on there, whether it be US or somebody else. So, we were watching and making sure that our people and our aircraft were able to get out of Pakistani airspace. And thankfully, there was no engagement with Pakistani forces. This operation was designed to minimize the prospects, the chances of engagement with Pakistani forces. It was done very well, and thankfully no Pakistani forces were engaged and there were no other individuals who were killed aside from those on the compound.'

There has been a lot of discussion about the nature of the targeted compound, particularly its high walls and its vicinity to the areas housing Pakistan Army elements. It needs to be appreciated that many houses occupied by the affectees of operations in FATA / KPK, have high boundary walls, in line with their culture of privacy and security. Houses with such layout and structural details are not a rarity.

Questions have also been asked about the whereabouts of the family members of Osama bin Ladin. They are all in safe hands and being looked after in accordance with law. Some of them needing medical care are under treatment in the best possible facilities. As per policy, they will be handed over to their countries of origin.

Notwithstanding the above, the Government of Pakistan expresses its deep concerns and reservations on the manner in which the Government of the United States carried out this operation without prior information or authorization from the Government of Pakistan.

This event of unauthorized unilateral action cannot be taken as a rule. The Government of Pakistan further affirms that such an event shall not serve as a future precedent for any state, including the US. Such actions undermine cooperation and may also sometime constitute threat to international peace and security.

Pakistan, being mindful of its international obligations, has been extending full and proper cooperation on all counter terrorism efforts including exchange of information and intelligence. Pursuant to such cooperation, Pakistan had arrested several high profile terrorists.

The Government of Pakistan and its Armed Forces consider support of the people of Pakistan to be its mainstay and actual strength. Any actions contrary to their aspirations, therefore, run against the very basis on which the edifice of national defence and security is based. Pakistan Army and intelligence agencies have played a pivotal role in breaking the back of Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations in Pakistan as well as around the World. Most of the successes achieved by the US and some other friendly countries have been the result of effective intelligence cooperation and extremely useful military support by Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan and its security forces have resolved to continue their fight against terrorism till people of Pakistan can live in peace and security.

5. Speech of the Prime Minister, Yusuf Raza Gillani, in the National Assembly on the Abbottabad incident

Honourable Speaker,

From the Floor of this August House, I wish to take the nation into confidence on the situation arising from the Abbottabad operation and the death of Osama bin Laden.

Early morning, the same day I had extensive consultations with President Zardari, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Chief of Army Staff, Director General ISI and other important stakeholders on issues relating to Pakistan's national security.

The government's position on the Abbottabad operation and death of Osama bin Laden as enunciated in the official statements was based on extensive inter-agency and inter-departmental consultation process.

Honourable Speaker,

In today's age of information explosion, it is important to sift facts from fiction.

Very often it is the virtual or the media reality that obscures the actual. Yet, truth cannot for long be submerged in falsehood.

Fascination for high drama sometimes makes us forget the sequence and context of fast moving events that are splashed on television screens.

However, every development has a context. Its correct appreciation requires a dispassionate view of history. It is well-known that those who forget history are condemned to relive it.

Some of the recent public discourse; narratives and counter narratives, in talk shows and public comments have missed some essential points.

Reaffirmation is necessary.

Let there be no doubt, Pakistan is a proud nation. Our people value their honour and dignity. Our nation is resilient. Our real strength is our people and our State institutions.

We are all united and fully committed to sparing no sacrifice to uphold our national dignity and honour; to safeguard our supreme national interests by all means and all resources at our command.

No other nation has successfully met so many challenges. No other people have been put to so many tests by history and by circumstances of geography and geo politics.

No other nation has borne the collective burden of the international community.

Our nation has met all these challenges with supreme confidence, which is borne out of our firm belief in the noble injunctions of our glorious religion Islam, our societal values, our culture and traditions.

Ever since our independence, Pakistan stood up for our values which are also universal: freedom, dignity, equality, tolerance, humanity, harmony and brotherhood.

Pakistan's foreign policy has always reflected our national ethos which, undoubtedly, transcends considerations of narrow interests or politics of expediency.

Pakistan is not only a state but an idea and an ideal that our courageous and talented people strive, in their daily lives, to translate into reality.

Our democratic and pluralistic polity as epitomized by this august House, State institutions, free press, open and intense public discourse are, indeed, our great strengths.

Our friends can from this discourse fathom the depth of our sentiments, the aspirations of our people, the authentic spirit that guides and inspires them to seek equity, justice, security, peace, progress and prosperity.

For over thirty years, Pakistan was impacted by the conflict and strife in Afghanistan. In that struggle we, together with the rest of world, decided to uphold the principle of self-determination for the great Afghan nation.

We opened our homes and our hearts to those who fled the conflict in Afghanistan and also supported the great Jihad.

I talk of a bygone era. However, it is perhaps necessary to remind everyone about that era which has been so well documented including in the CNN series on the Cold War showing video footage of high ranking US officials exhorting the Afghans and Mujahideen to wage Jihad, to go back to their homes, to go back to their mosques, in the name of Islam and as a national duty. For us, all of this was real. We have continued to suffer from its effects.

Its necessary for us to remind the international community of the decade of the nineties which saw the Arab volunteers, who had joined the Jihad mutate into Al-Qaeda? Who was responsible for the birth of Al-Qaeda? Who was responsible for making the myth of Osama bin Laden?

To find answers to today's question, it is necessary to revisit the not so distant past. Collectively, we must acknowledge facts and see our faces in the mirror of history.

Pakistan alone cannot be held to account for flawed policies and blunders of others.

Pakistan is not the birth place of Al-Qaeda. We did not invite Osama bin Laden to Pakistan or even to Afghanistan. It is fair to ask who was Osama bin Laden and what did he personify?

Osama bin Laden was the most wanted terrorist and enemy number one of the civilized world. Elimination of Osama bin Laden, who launched waves after waves of terrorists attacks against innocent Pakistanis, is indeed justice done. However, we are not so naïve to declare victory; mission accomplished, and turn around.

The myth and legacy of Osama bin Laden remains to be demolished. The anger and frustration of ordinary people over injustice, oppression and tyranny that he sought to harness to fuel the fire of terrorism in the world, needs to be addressed. Otherwise, this rage will find new ways of expression.

Pakistan believes in democracy and pluralism. A society that strives for equality and dignity. An open and transparent society is undoubtedly essential for addressing the rage and anger arising from political or economic injustices.

When we say that in this war against terrorism, Pakistan has lost some 30,000 men, women and children and more than 5,000 armed forces personnel, billions of dollars lost as economic costs; we do not intend to put a price or seek acknowledgement or recognition from any one.

The war against terrorism is our own national priority. Our nation is united in its resolve to eliminate terrorism from our sacred land. Pakistan will not relent in this national cause and is determined not to allow its soil to be used by any one for terrorism.

This national consensus was built by our democracy, this Parliament, and the entire political leadership of this country. Our patriotic citizens and State institutions are all united in their resolve to prosecute this campaign against terror to its logical end. We will utilize all means and resources and Insha Allah succeed.

Mr Speaker, Now, let me briefly retrace the first decade of new millennium. International forces marched into Afghanistan to dismantle the Taliban regime after 9/11. In fact, Taliban had already left Kabul and taken along Al-Qaeda to their hideouts in Afghanistan. The Tora Bora bombings resulted in the dispersal of Al-Qaeda.

Even at that time we had cautioned the international forces on the consequences of a flawed military campaign could lead to the dispersal of Al-Qaeda. Al-Qaeda leaders and foot soldiers sought hideouts everywhere, in the mountains, and deep inside cities, including Pakistan.

We did not invite Al-Qaeda to Pakistan. In fact, for the first time, our armed forces were deployed in the Tirah Valley to form a security cordon to interdict Al-Qaeda during the Tora Bora bombings.

In that operation 248 Al-Qaeda members were captured by our armed forces. Subsequently, Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence prosecuted the anti-terror strategy with a high degree of professionalism and superb determination.

In fact, some 40 of the key Al-Qaeda operatives including Chief Operation Officer Faraj Al Libbi and Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, the master planner of 9/11 were captured by the ISI. Pakistan's armed forces also carried out successful operations in Swat, Malakand, South Waziristan, Mohmand and Bajour Agencies against terrorists and militants.

No other country in the world and no other security agency has done so much to interdict Al-Qaeda than the ISI and our armed forces.

This was done with the full support of the nation and in accordance with the political will articulated by the Parliament of Pakistan.

It is disingenuous for anyone to blame Pakistan or State institutions of Pakistan including the ISI and the armed forces for being in cahoots with the Al-Qaeda. It was Al-Qaeda and its affiliates that carried out hundreds of suicide

bombings in nearly every town and city of Pakistan and also targeted political leaders, State institutions, the ISI and the General Headquarters.

The obvious question that has vexed everyone is how could Osama bin Laden hide in plain sight in the scenic surroundings of Abbottabad. Lets not rush to judgment.

Allegations of complicity or incompetence are absurd. We emphatically reject such accusations. Speculative narratives in the public domain are meant to create despondency. We will not allow our detractors to succeed in offloading their own shortcomings and errors of omission and commission in a blame game that stigmatizes Pakistan.

This issue of the hideout needs a rational answer. Recrimination and misplaced rhetoric is self defeating.

Yes, there has been an intelligence failure. It is not only ours but of all the intelligence agencies of the world.

The Al-Qaeda chief along with other Al-Qaeda operators had managed to elude global intelligence agencies for a long time. He was constantly being tracked not only by the ISI but also by other intelligence agencies.

It was the ISI that passed key leads to CIA that enabled the US intelligence to use superior technological assets and focus on the area in which Osama bin Laden was eventually found. All this has been explained in the statements issued by the Foreign Ministry and the ISPR as well as in the detailed briefing by the Foreign Ministry.

Asymmetrical warfare happens to be the tool in vogue against superior conventional forces. Terrorism falls in that category. Osama Bin Laden used terror for whatever cause that he espoused. Hiding in plain sight, as is evident in this case, is perhaps another technique that could be attributed to Osama Bin Laden in the realm of asymmetrical intelligence.

Nonetheless, we are determined to get to the bottom of how, when and why about OBL's presence in Abbottabad. An investigation has been ordered.

Our people are rightly incensed on the issue of violation of sovereignty as typified by the covert US air and ground assault on the Osama hideout in Abbottabad.

This has raised questions about Pakistan's defence capability and the security of our strategic assets.

As the Abbottabad episode illustrates our Military responded to the US Forces covert incursion. The Air Force was ordered to scramble. Ground units arrived at the scene quickly.

Our response demonstrates that our armed forces reacted, as was expected of them.

Abbottabad hosts a routine Military training institution, which does not require any elaborate special defence arrangement. There is no denying the US technological ability to evade our radars. We regret that this unilateral action was undertaken without our concurrence.

Unilateralism runs the inherent risk of serious consequences. Suppose the operation had gone wrong. A US helicopter was abandoned and destroyed

on the site. This is a small though important reminder of the risks in such operations.

Let no one draw any wrong conclusions. Any attack against Pakistan's strategic assets whether overt or covert will find a matching response. Pakistan reserves the right to retaliate with full force. No one should underestimate the resolve and capability of our nation and armed forces to defend our sacred homeland.

There are of course legal and moral issues that relate to the question of sovereignty. In a generic sense this is a question that continues to vex the international community as a whole. The Security Council while exhorting UN member states to join their efforts against terrorism has repeatedly emphasized that this be done in accordance with international law, human rights and humanitarian law.

The drones are given out as an instrument to fight terror. Yet, as we have repeatedly said these attacks constitute a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty and are counter productive. On this question which relates to operational matters, we have strong differences with the United States.

The media spin masters have tended to portray a false divide between the state institutions of Pakistan. I would like to most emphatically reject the notion of divide.

The political leadership is supportive of the strengthening of all of Pakistan's institutions. We follow a whole government approach.

On all key issues, all stakeholders are consulted through inter-agency processes. The Statements issued by the Foreign Ministry and the Military on the death of Osama bi Laden were authorized by the Government.

Let me also affirm the Government's full confidence in the high command of the Pakistan Armed Forces and the Inter Services Intelligence. Indeed the ISI, is a national asset and has the full support of the Government. We are proud of its considerable accomplishments in the anti-terror campaign.

Now let me put the present situation in its proper perspective. Our foremost priority is development. This requires security and stability at home and in the region. The pursuit of this objective is the guiding spirit of our engagement with the international community and in particular major powers as well as regional states.

I must say that this endeavour has found resonance and we are well on the road towards giving this vision tangible form. We realize that the world and in particular the Asian region is undergoing a fundamental and fast transformation.

We are delighted that our all weather friend, the Peoples Republic of China has made tremendous strides in economic and technological development that are a source of inspiration and strengthen for the people of Pakistan.

Apprehensions are being voiced about our relations with the United States. Let me dispel any anxiety in this regard. Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with the US. We have a strategic partnership which

we believe serves our mutual interests. It is based on mutual respect and mutual trust.

Pakistan and the US have strategic convergence. The dissonance that finds hype in the media is about operational and tactical matters. It is not unusual to have a different point of view on the methodology to achieve shared objectives.

We have, however, agreed that whenever we find ourselves on 'conflictual' paths and disagree, we should make efforts to reach common understanding by deeper and more intense exchange of views.

Our communications at the official and diplomatic levels with the US, during this phase, have been good, productive and straight forward. We have agreed to a calendar of engagements. Most notably Afghanistan, Pakistan and the US have agreed to form a Core Group for promoting and facilitating efforts for reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan.

On 3rd May, Senior Officials of the Three Countries met in Islamabad and held useful and productive talks. Another Trilateral is envisaged in the near future. On the bilateral track we look forward to the visit of Secretary of State Clinton to Islamabad in the near future.

As you know, there has been a sea-change in our relations with Afghanistan. Destiny of Afghanistan and Pakistan is inter-linked. We must assume full ownership and responsibility for realizing our shared vision of stability and prosperity.

With India we are embarked on an important process of engagement that should yield dividends for our two peoples and for peoples of South Asia, as a whole. We will pursue our engagement with India in a positive and constructive manner.

I would like to conclude by underscoring the following:-

- One** Pakistan is confident of its bright future.
- Two** Our real strength is our people, who are determined to over-come all challenges.
- Three** We have an ongoing multi-track process of engagement with all major powers including the United States.
- Four** Our engagement with states within our region is being intensified in the interest of shared stability and prosperity.
- Five** Counter-Terrorism is a national priority.
- Six** Al-Qaeda had declared war on Pakistan. Osama Bin Laden's elimination from the scene attests to the success of the anti-terror campaign.
- Seven** Intelligence cooperation is critical for the attainment of the goals of anti-terrorism.
- Eight** Blame games serve no purpose.
- Nine** An investigation in the matter has been ordered which shall be conducted by Adjutant General of the Pakistan Army Lt. Gen. Javed Iqbal.

- Ten** Our security policies are constantly reviewed to enhance defence capabilities.
- Eleven** There are no differences among the State institutions.
- Twelve** Cooperation in counter-terrorism warrants a partnership approach which fully accommodates Pakistan's interests and respect for the clearly stipulated Red Lines.
- Thirteen** Pakistan's relations with all States especially immediate neighbours and major powers are in good shape.
- Fourteen** Safeguarding and promotion of our national interest is the sole objective of the Government's policies.
- Fifteen** The Parliament is the right forum to discuss all important national issues. The will of the people shall prevail.

A joint session of the Parliament has been called on the 13th May, 2011. I have directed the concerned services authorities in the armed forces to impart an in-camera briefing to the joint session on the subject. I look forward to a productive debate in the House.

Thank you.

9 May 2011.

6. Joint Press Statement on the visit of Senator John Kerry USA

The President, the Prime Minister and the Chief of the Army Staff have had a constructive exchange of views with Senator John Kerry.

The situation arising from the Abbottabad Operation and the death of Osama Bin Laden was discussed at length. Senator Kerry conveyed that the secrecy surrounding the operation was strictly for reasons of operational security and not of mistrust of Pakistani Leadership. He said even in the US Government, very few persons knew about it. Senator John Kerry said that it was important to press the 'reset button' in US-Pakistan relations and use this opportunity to put the relations back on track and work jointly to bring about the most effective cooperation to combat terrorism, which is in both countries' interest.

The Pakistani leadership conveyed to Senator Kerry that Pakistan was a victim of terrorism and that the whole nation was united in eliminating this curse from its soil. Osama Bin Laden was an enemy of Pakistan and the Al-Qaida had declared war against Pakistan and launched wave after wave of suicide attacks against its people. Pakistan was now being hit by a spate of terrorist attacks, which were blowback from the elimination of Osama Bin Laden. Pakistan-US relations should go forward on the basis of mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual interest. Pakistani leadership made clear that Pakistan's sovereignty and national interests must be respected and accommodated by the US.

It was agreed that both US and Pakistan must recognize and respect each other's national interests, particularly in countering terrorism and in working together for promoting reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan.

It was agreed that all tracks of US-Pakistan engagement need to be revisited, with a view to creating a clear understanding on ways and means to carry forward their cooperation, in a mutually-beneficial manner. It was also agreed that the two countries will work together in any future actions against high value targets in Pakistan.

Pakistan's leadership welcomed the clear affirmation by Senator Kerry that US policy has no designs against Pakistan's nuclear and strategic assets. Senator Kerry stated that he was prepared to personally affirm such a guarantee. In furtherance of its existing commitment to fight terrorism, Pakistan agreed to take several immediate steps to underscore its seriousness in renewing the full cooperative effort with the United States.

Senator Kerry noted that senior US officials will visit Pakistan soon to have further discussions on the way forward and to complete preparatory work for Secretary of State Clinton's visit to Pakistan in the near future.

It was agreed that the two sides would intensify their engagement through official channels and that negative media messages were misplaced and detrimental to the core national interests of both US and Pakistan.

Islamabad, 16 May 2011.

7. Remarks by President's spokesperson on the meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton today held a one on one and delegation level talks with President Asif Ali Zardari in the Presidency.

Hillary Clinton was accompanied with US Ambassador Cameron Munter, Michael Mullen Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff and senior officials of the State Department and the US embassy in Islamabad.

The Pakistan side included Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, Interior Minister Rahman Malik, COAS General Pervez Ashfaq Kayani, Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar, Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir and senior officials.

Briefing newsmen Spokesperson to the President said that a candid, constructive and positive exchange of views took place on a host of issues in the meetings that lasted for over two hours and covered the full spectrum of Pakistan-US relations and issues of regional stability and security including countering terrorism and peace in Afghanistan.

The President made clear the will of the people and prevailing public sentiment on issues of national sovereignty, security and Pakistan's national interests in line with the unanimous Resolution recently adopted in the joint sitting of the Parliament, he said.

Both sides reaffirmed the imperatives of the Pakistan-US relations and the need for forging durable partnership on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Secretary Clinton stated that a secure, stable, democratic and prosperous Pakistan was in the US national interest and a critical factor in regional stability and peace.

The two sides agreed that in pursuing counter terrorism the two countries will work together in any future actions against high value targets in Pakistan.

The two sides acknowledged that militancy threatened both countries and it was in both countries interest to fight it.

They also agreed on putting relations back on track and to cooperate and work together in not only countering terrorism but also in promoting cooperative ties as well as for reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan.

The two sides agreed that it was in interest of both countries that relations based on respect for sovereignty and mutual trust and mutual interest should move on and carried forward in a mutually beneficial manner.

Spokesperson said that there also was an agreement to recommence the preparatory work for the strategic partnership dialogue process.

The issue of drone attacks also came under discussion with President Zardari emphatically underlying the need for revisiting the issue, he said.

Hillary Clinton said that the United States recognized the difficult political and military challenges faced by Pakistan and that she had come to reiterate the value of mutual relations. She said that President Obama had repeatedly demonstrated commitment to long term partnership and that there was no room for misunderstanding and misperception.

Islamabad, 29 May 2011.

8. Transcript of the Minister of State Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar's statement following her meeting with the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas R. Nides

Let me first of all take this opportunity to welcome Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas Nides to the Foreign Office in Islamabad. This is your first visit and we hope this will be the start of many visit to follow.

As you know, Pakistan and the United States are important partners and friends. As we go forward, yours is an important visit in the string of many visits that have happened in the last few weeks and months to Pakistan; starting with the visits of Senator Kerry and the Special Representative Mr. Mark Grossman which were followed by the visit of the Secretary of State; and finally your visit.

I think all of these visits have provided us a very important opportunity to be able to engage with each other and to see the forward trajectory within this

relationship which is undoubtedly one of the most important which Pakistan has with any other country. And in each of these visits, we had a chance to engage with our interlocutors in way where we were able to understand our domestic political compulsions and also the need to strengthen this relationship in a way based on mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual trust. As with any other relationship, both for the United States I am sure, and certainly for Pakistan also, this relationship is one which is based on national interest. And that is this relationship's strength. We had a chance, particularly in this meeting with the Deputy Secretary of State, to concentrate on economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. As you know, the United States happens to be an important economic partner of Pakistan. We have bilateral trade with US which happens to be one of the highest. We have one of the highest remittances coming in from the US. It is an excellent source of foreign direct investment. We hope for the reinvigoration of the corporate sector.

We also had extensive discussions on the issue of market access and how Pakistan feels that it has a good case, because of its unique position on account of the strategic role it is playing in the fight and in the operations which are taking place, to be able to convince the world that Pakistan deserves a special preferential market access.

We also tried to understand each other on the question of economic assistance. Let me say once again Mr. Deputy Secretary of State that your visit is considered to be extremely important in enabling us not only to explain both to the people of Pakistan and your own people as to the importance of this relationship, but also to ensure that going forward, we are able to get much more of it in terms of good will, in terms of understanding of the contributions that the United States has made to Pakistan and also to be able to tilt it in a way where the people of Pakistan can also feel the effects, the results of the contributions which are being made literally by the people of the United States.

As we go forward, we have also reviewed the work which is being done for the strategic dialogue. Pakistan and the United States take great pride in the fact that we have been able to put the Strategic Dialogue in place in many sectors. We need to be more focused as we approach the future. The work which is required to be done is already in place and we will be able to move towards that.

We also talked in extensive detail about both understanding and appreciating each other's political space. Efforts need to be made to expand that political space to be able to cooperate with each other in ways which are useful to both the countries. In this, I think it will be amiss on my part to not mention the recent Joint Resolution which was passed by the joint sitting of the Parliament in Pakistan. And I think that that Resolution very clearly stipulates the way forward. We appreciate the recognition of that by the US and this has been emphasized in every important interaction we have had.

We are very happy to report that this relationship is the one in which we are both committed to spend a lot of positive energy to strengthen it further; and to be able to ensure that the people of Pakistan and the people of the United

States generally are also aware of the importance of this relationship and the forward trajectory.

Let me just thank you once again for taking the time to come here. This is an important indication of the importance, as you yourself said, you and your administration set out to Pakistan. I think we need to do a better job in being able to ensure that the same message goes back to our people in a more effective manner.

Islamabad, 15 June 2011.

9. Foreign Office statement condemning drone attacks

The Government of Pakistan strongly condemns today's drone attacks which have resulted in a large number of casualties. This is not only unacceptable but also a flagrant violation of all humanitarian rules and norms.

Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir conveyed this strong condemnation to US Ambassador Cameron Munter and has demanded an apology and explanation.

Ambassador Hussain Haqqani has also been asked to make a similar strong demarche with the US State Department.

Islamabad, 14 August 2011, *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*.

II: Political Developments

1. Text of President Asif Ali Zardari's speech in the Parliament

Following is the text of President Asif Ali Zardari's address to the joint sitting of the Parliament on Tuesday:

'BISMILLAH- IR- RAHMAN IR-RAHIM', Madam Speaker, May I at the outset, strongly condemn, on behalf of the people of Pakistan and on my own behalf the deliberate desecration of the Holy Quran by a fanatic in Florida.

We condemn this act in the strongest possible words. It is a serious setback, to the efforts at promoting harmony among civilized communities throughout the world.

I call upon this august House to adopt a resolution urging the UN' We call upon the UN to address this issue for the sake of harmony and peace in the world.

Madam Speaker! Honorable Members of the Parliament! Assalam o Alaikum! I am thankful to Allah for the honour, to address this august House at the beginning of its fourth year. It is a great honor for me to share your achievements during the past years and the hopes and aspirations for the future.

Let me begin by paying tributes, to all our martyrs who have laid down their lives, in fighting militancy and extremism. To our sons and daughters in the armed forces, the law enforcement agencies and the citizens, who have bravely stood up to forces of extremism and violence.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate each and every member of the Parliament, and all the political parties - those in the government and in the opposition - for the unanimous passage of the 18th and 19th Constitutional Amendments.

The restoration of the Constitution, given by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had been a dream of our people. We made the dream a reality. Many in our history have talked change. But we have not merely talked; we accomplished change.

Madam Speaker; Returning power from dictators to the people was the core of our promise. Rarely in history has a leader abdicated power by his own free will. My head bows in gratitude before Allah, for giving me the strength, to give up powers that had been usurped by dictators. It is now our great responsibility, to use the powers wisely.

Madam Speaker; From our very first days in office, we inherited multiple problems. These were problems of: an ailing economy, rising militancy, and growing extremism. But three years is a long enough period to demonstrate progress. We have brought the economy back on track; in our villages and in our cities, in our provinces, in FATA in Azad Kashmir and in Gilgit Baltistan. We must create opportunities for our youth. And give hope to the people.

Madam Speaker! When the present government took charge we were a food deficit country. Rising inflation, power shortages, worldwide recession and falling remittances compounded the situation. The fight against militancy and the unprecedented floods last year further worsened it. According to the Damage and Needs Assessment, the overall damage to our economy, is nearly 10 billion dollars. Our thoughts and prayers are with the flood victims.

The government has embarked upon a comprehensive plan, to address the economic challenges. The plan includes: reduction in non-development expenditure to cut expenses, reforms in power sector, restructuring of public sector enterprises, incentivizing remittances and special programmes for poverty alleviation.

Making tough decisions is the responsibility of leadership, no doubt. We are not afraid to lead; and we know the way. The government reduced the cabinet size. The subsidy regime has been rationalized. Tax reforms have been introduced, to mobilize resources. The tax net is being expanded, through introduction of the Reformed General Sales Tax. For the first time a social safety net has been created, through the Benazir Income Support Programme.

Madam Speaker! The 7th NFC award after a gap of 19 years has been a major achievement. As a result, over 300 billion rupees of additional revenues have been transferred to the provinces. The provinces have been given the right,

to collect GST on services. Collection of direct and indirect taxes has increased, by eight per cent and 12.5 per cent, respectively.

In 2007 foreign remittances were 6.4 billion dollars. These have increased and set to cross the 11 billion dollar mark this year – a record for now. Foreign exchange reserves have reached 17.5 billion dollars – also a record for now.

An allowance equal to 50 per cent of basic pay has been given to every federal government employee. Medical allowance for employees and pensioners has been increased from 15 to 25 per cent. The Pay and Judicial allowance of the superior judiciary have also been considerably enhanced, to attract new talent.

Madam Speaker! In the memory of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, the cause of women empowerment and poverty reduction is very dear to us. Over 74 billion rupees have been disbursed to the poor beneficiaries, through the BISP. Mobile Phone Banking has been launched, for the transparent transfer of benefits. A scheme of soft loans, of up to 300,000 rupees for setting up of small businesses, has been launched. BISP has provided relief to over 4 million poor families, including IDPs, flood victims and the victims of bomb blasts.

More than 90 per cent of adult population, has been issued ID cards. It is a leap forward towards documentation. Fair and free elections lie at the root of genuine transfer of power, to the elected representatives of the people. Credible, accurate and complete voters' list is the foremost requirement, for free and fair elections. I commend the maturity, with which all political parties have agreed to address this issue, and remove once and for all, the stigma of rigged elections, through bogus votes.

A bill to make ID cards mandatory for voters registration and polling has been introduced. This along with Electronic Voting Machines will bring transparency in electoral process.

Madam Speaker! Under the leadership of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, polio was almost eliminated. Unfortunately, it has once again spread across our land. The Prime Minister has launched, an emergency Anti- Polio plan, to eliminate this deadly disease by the end of 2012. This is a national effort.

I wish to commend the Prime Minister, the political leadership of all parties, in all provinces for their efforts.

Madam Speaker! Through the 18th Constitutional Amendment, education and health have been devolved, to the provinces. A historic amendment has been made to the Constitution, to promote education, as never before. Education has been declared, as a basic and enforce-able right, for children aged 5 to 16 years. Not a privilege, but a basic right. Education is now a moral obligation of the state. Not just for the children of the rich, but for all the sons and daughters of Pakistan. 2011 has been declared as the 'Year of Education'. This is not just symbolic, nor mere rhetoric.

Madam Speaker! Pakistan's economy has historically been hit by power shortages. A major reason for it is, the absence of continuity in policies. Energy sector has suffered, because policies were thoughtlessly reversed. I call

upon the business community, to give ownership to the economic policies, regardless of which government gives the policy. Urgent steps have been taken to meet the energy challenge. More than 1,800 MW of power has been added to the national grid during the last two years. Alternate energy sources including wind power are being exploited. To exploit vast Thar reserves, work on a pilot project has started. Work on 970 MW Neelum Jhelum Hydro project is in progress. Next month will take place, the ground breaking of the 4500 MW Basha hydel project. The up-gradation of Tarbela will be completed, by end of this year.

Despite floods, agriculture has registered progress. From wheat importing, Pakistan has become wheat exporting country. Six lac tons of wheat has been exported thus far this year. We expect to achieve target of 15 million bales of cotton during 2010-11 Rural economy has greatly benefited. Our exports are expected to exceed 24 billion dollars this year- again a record for now.

Madam Speaker! The government has taken steps, to restore dignity and honor to labor. After restoring over 7,000 sacked employees, it decided to regularize contract employees. Minimum wages of un-skilled workers has been increased, from 4,600 to Rs. 7,000 per month. Now the workers have the right to seek legal remedies against dismissal. A worker can no longer be dismissed from service without cause, as was the practice in the past. In the name of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, an Employees Stock Option Scheme has been introduced, transferring 12% shares to workers, in state run enterprises. It will benefit 500,000 families. Workers will also be given representation, on the Board of Directors. They will have a say, in the management of their enterprises.

Madam Speaker! Under the privatization policy of the coalition government, the outright sale of national assets and institutions, will not be allowed. Our policy is based on, Public-Private partnership. Shares will be offered for sale, through stock exchanges. The year will go down as exceptional, in the history of the Parliament. It will be remembered as the year when the democratic Constitution was restored. It will also be remembered for passing important legislation, for the protection of women, children and the needy. Twenty Acts of Parliament were passed during the last year. The Prime Minister attended the sessions of National Assembly for 99 days - a record for now. A caucus of women Parliamentarians on Peace and Reconciliation was held.

I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister, you Madam Speaker and every Member of Parliament for this performance.

Madam Speaker! We believe in transparent, and across the board accountability of all. A draft Bill is already in the Senate. Reforms in FATA, and amendments to the FCR, have been finalized. Recently major political parties joined hands, to endorse the reforms, and demand their immediate implementation. I congratulate the political parties on this consensus. I assure you that the reforms announced on August 14, 2009 will soon be implemented. The status of Kala Dakka in Pukhtunkhwa, has already been changed, from PATA to settled area.

The UN Commission of Inquiry in the assassination of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto has submitted its report. Subsequent to this, a new challan has been submitted, before the trial court. The family of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Peoples Party do not believe in revenge. While the individuals involved will certainly not escape punishment, we aim at defeating the mindset, that was behind her assassination.

As she herself so famously said, 'Democracy is the best revenge.' We condemn the murders of Salman Taseer and Shahbaz Bhatti. We will avenge the martyrdom of heroes of democracy by defeating the mindset that preaches violence and hatred. We must be true to our principles, and we must be strong. Being strong means, denouncing what is wrong. And violence, hatred, extremism and intolerance are wrong. We are committed to protecting the rights of the minorities. The government is earnestly addressing the issue of missing persons.

A Commission has been set up, which has also finalized its report. I wish to commend the Shaheed Benazir Democracy Institute and all those whose efforts have contributed to it.

Madam Speaker! Pakistan's foreign policy is aimed at: advancing our national security, promoting peace and economic agenda, while safeguarding national dignity, sovereignty and independence.

We seek trade, not aid. We have revived trans-regional energy projects. Cargo train service between Pakistan and Turkey - called Gul Train - is being upgraded.

With the United States, we remain committed, to building a long-term partnership, based on mutual respect, mutual interest and sovereign equality.

Our strategic cooperation with China continues to grow from strength to strength. Relations with Afghanistan have undergone a sea change.

For the first time Pakistan has engaged with the European Union at the Summit level. Two Pakistan-EU Summits have been held so far. Long-term cooperation with the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain has helped advance our economic agenda.

Full spectrum dialogue process has been resumed with India. We seek a just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions while respecting the aspirations of the people of Kashmir.

Negotiations are underway for a Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement. Pakistan's relations with Iran too, have improved.

We have upgraded our relations with Japan, to a comprehensive partnership, for peace and development. We are profoundly saddened over the tragedy unleashed by natural disaster in Japan. I wish to express the great sympathy of the people of Pakistan, to Japan in their hour of grief. The tragedy has also brought into focus, environmental issues connected with nuclear energy.

Madam Speaker! We will fight the militants to the finish. We will not back down. We will ensure a modern and moderate Pakistan, the Pakistan of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. We cannot permit the use of our soil, for

terrorist activities, against any other country. We will not. The fight against militancy may be long and bitter. But we have no other option except to win. Win we will. And soon InshaAllah.

Madam Speaker! We will uphold, the supremacy of the Constitution and the Parliament. We will not permit anyone, to usurp the powers, that rightly belong to the Parliament. We believe that all state organs, should work within their parameters, as laid down in the Constitution. The restoration of the Constitution shows, that if we rise above politicking, we can deliver. Let us strive to keep our egos aside. Let political forces stop challenging each other, merely for political point scoring. It only weakens democracy in the long run. The task of the leadership is to unite; not divide.

We believe in reconciliation, and not confrontation. I commend the Prime Minister, for pursuing the policy of reconciliation and consensus, given by Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. We have achieved consensus on constitutional reforms. Now we need to build consensus on resolving issues like energy shortage, circular debt, taxation reforms, restructuring of public sector entities, and documenting the economy.

Madam Speaker! These are the problems which the future generations will inherit, if not addressed through collective wisdom now. We need to build a national consensus on these issues. Tough decisions must be taken together. I invite all political parties for a national dialogue; sooner rather than later. As Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto wrote in her last book, just days before her assassination: 'It is time for new ideas. It is time for creativity; It is time for bold commitment. There has been enough pain. It is time for reconciliation.' May Allah help us all in our mission. Pakistan Zindabad.' app

Source: <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk>.

2. Opening remarks of the Prime Minister at the meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC)

Federal Ministers,
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee,
Chiefs of the Defence Forces,
Federal Secretaries.

National Security is a sacred duty. This Committee is the highest forum to assess, review and take decisions on all National Security issues.

On 2nd May 2011, the US Forces carried out a covert operation in Abbottabad which resulted in the killing of Osama bin Laden. This development has raised several serious questions which are being debated internationally and more specifically in the US and Pakistan.

Questions relating to our defence preparedness; capability of our intelligence agencies; our possible response to a repeat of such action as well as legal and moral issues pertaining to sovereignty and propriety, are not only

being asked but are also a cause of anxiety and concern to the people of Pakistan.

I have in my Policy Statement to the National Assembly taken the Nation into confidence on the Government's position and addressed some of these issues. I have also called for a Joint Session of the Parliament in-camera whereby the representatives of the people could have an opportunity to get answers to the questions that they may have.

Besides the public discourse, it is certainly my intention that the DCC evaluates in a comprehensive manner the situation arising from the Abbottabad operation and take such decisions as are necessary to augment National Security.

Evidently, there are two aspects that must be considered in depth. One, is the implications for National Security and Two, implications for our Foreign Policy.

Well-considered, cohesive and an effective strategy must be worked out with an eye to the future.

I am of the view that we should learn from the past but after drawing the lessons must plan for the future.

We must collectively as a nation close our ranks, have confidence in our collective strength and do all that is necessary and good not only for Pakistan but for promoting regional stability, security and peace.

It is imperative that all arms of the Government i.e. both Civil and Military with the full support of the Parliament and the people of Pakistan, work together to the best of their ability to safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty, security and for promoting Pakistan's national interests.

I would now ask the Foreign Secretary to give us a briefing on the implications of this development in the Foreign Policy domain.

Islamabad, 12 May 2011.

3. Press Statement of the Defense Committee of the cabinet

1. The Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) met under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on 12 May 2011 at the Prime Minister's House.
2. Prime Minister in his opening remarks emphasized the importance of ensuring national security and protection of national interests by all state institutions, with the full support of the people.
3. The DCC comprehensively discussed the situation arising from the US Forces' covert operation of 2 May 2011 in the surroundings of Abbottabad and the killing of Osama bin Laden.
4. After in-depth discussions on national security and foreign policy aspects, the DCC underscored the following:

- a. Safeguarding of Pakistan's sovereignty and national security is a sacred duty, which will be ensured at all costs.
 - b. Pakistan remains firmly committed to eliminating all forms and manifestations of terrorism and in this regard reiterated the importance of international cooperation.
 - c. Condemned the US unilateral action in Abbottabad in violation of Pakistan's sovereignty.
 - d. Has decided to institute an inter-agency process to clearly define the parameters of our cooperation with the US in counter-terrorism, in accordance with Pakistan's national interests and the aspirations of the people.
 - e. Pakistan is capable and shall respond appropriately to any challenge to national security, with the full support of the people.
 - f. Reiterated Pakistan's readiness to cooperate with the international community in promoting effective joint cooperation in countering terrorism. This cooperation will be predicated on Pakistan's security interest.
 - g. Emphasized the paramount importance of respect for Pakistan's sovereignty, the need for adopting a partnership approach that is based on mutual respect and mutual trust. Unilateralism is strongly rejected.
 - h. In the external domain, Pakistan will continue to take all appropriate steps to promote regional stability, peace and security, broaden and deepen its engagement with regional states as well as with major powers.
5. The DCC resolutely reaffirmed the determination of the Government to safeguard national honour and interests at all costs.

Islamabad, 12 May 2011.

4. Resolution adopted by the joint session of the Parliament

The Senate of Pakistan and the National Assembly, in a Joint Session held on 13-14 May 2011, considered the situation arising from the unilateral US forces action in Abbottabad on 2 May 2011.

After an in-depth discussion, including presentations made on the relevant issues by the Director General, Inter-Services Intelligence, Director General Military Operations and Deputy Chief of Air Staff Operations, the Joint Session of Parliament resolved as under:

Condemned the US unilateral action in Abbottabad, which constitutes a violation of Pakistan's sovereignty;

Strongly asserted that unilateral actions, such as those conducted by the US forces in Abbottabad, as well as the continued drone attacks on the territory of Pakistan, are not only unacceptable but also constitute violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and humanitarian norms and such drone attacks must be stopped forthwith, failing

which the Government will be constrained to consider taking necessary steps including withdrawal of transit facility allowed to NATO/ISAF forces;

Determines that unilateral actions cannot advance the global cause of elimination of terrorism, and the people of Pakistan will no longer tolerate such actions and repeat of unilateral measures could have dire consequences for peace and security in the region and the world.

Reaffirmed the resolve of the people and Government of Pakistan to uphold Pakistan's sovereignty and national security, which is a sacred duty, at all costs;

Affirmed the resolve of the people and state institutions of Pakistan to safeguard Pakistan's national interests and strategic assets and, in this context, underscored that any action to the contrary will warrant a strong national response;

Expressed its deep distress on the campaign to malign Pakistan, launched by certain quarters in other countries without appreciating Pakistan's determined efforts and immense sacrifices in combating terror and the fact that more than thirty thousand Pakistani innocent men, women and children and more than five thousand security and armed forces personnel had lost their lives, that is more than any other single country, in the fight against terror and the blowback emanating from actions of the NATO/ISAF forces in Afghanistan;

Called upon the Government to ensure that the principles of an independent foreign policy must be grounded in strict adherence to the principles of policy, as stated in Article 40 of the Constitution, the UN Charter, observance of international law and respect for the free will and aspirations of sovereign states and their peoples;

Further Called upon the Government to re-visit and review its terms of engagement with the United States, with a view to ensuring that Pakistan's national interests are fully respected and accommodated in pursuit of policies for countering terrorism and achieving reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan;

Affirmed the importance of international cooperation for eliminating international terrorism, which can only be carried forward on the basis of a true partnership approach, based on equality, mutual respect and mutual trust;

Affirmed Also full confidence in the defence forces of Pakistan in safeguarding Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and in overcoming any challenge to security, with the full support of the people and Government of Pakistan.

Reaffirmed the Resolution passed by the Joint Sitting of the Parliament on National Security held on 22 October 2008 and the detailed recommendations made by the Parliamentary Committee on National Security in April 2009.

Called upon the Government to appoint an independent Commission on the Abbottabad operation, fix responsibility and recommend necessary measures to ensure that such an incident does not recur. The composition/modalities of the Commission will be settled after consultations between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

5. Statement issued by the DCC on 25th May

1. The Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) met under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on 25 May 2011.
2. The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers, Chairman JCSC, Services Chiefs and Director General (ISI).
3. The DCC reviewed the security situation arising from terrorist attacks and issues relating to regional security and stability.
4. The Chief of Naval Staff and Secretaries Defense, Interior and Foreign Affairs briefed the DCC on the terrorist attack on PNS Mehran, internal security and regional situation.
5. After in-depth discussions, it was decided that:
 - Coordinated efforts will be made to prevent and pre-empt acts of terrorism.
 - Security, defence and law enforcement agencies will be authorized to use all means necessary to eliminate terrorists and militants.
 - All citizens should extend their full cooperation to the security, law enforcement agencies and defence forces to eliminate the menace of terrorism.
 - National security is the foremost priority and all arms of the government will ensure that terrorists hideouts are destroyed using all appropriate means.
 - The national consensus on eliminating terrorism will be implemented through a well coordinated and comprehensive strategy with the full support of the people and state institutions at all levels.
6. The DCC expressed full confidence in the ability and the capacity of the armed forces and law enforcement and intelligence agencies in meeting all threats to national security. It was decided that the DCC will continue to meet regularly to develop further, update and closely monitor implementation of the counter-terrorism strategy.

Islamabad, 27 May 2011.

6. Opening remarks of the Prime Minister to the DCC, 25 May 2011

Federal Ministers,
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee,
Chiefs of the Defence Services,
Federal Secretaries,

The fast changing National Security paradigm, has compelled us to meet twice within a month. We are here to take a holistic review of the impending threats to our National Security with a view to find answers, to put an end, to the concerns being expressed regarding state of security of the country.

In the wake of the terrorist attack on PNS Mehran on 22nd May, serious concerns are being expressed about our ability to deal with the gravity of problems posed due to terrorism. These concerns need to be clearly addressed and all efforts should be made to reinforce our capacity to effectively eliminate terrorism.

I have personally visited PNS Mehran. The purpose was not only to get an in-depth briefing on the terrorist attack, but also to express my heartfelt condolences for all those brave men who have lost their lives as well as to ascertain the well-being of the injured.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Pakistan, I expressed our full support and solidarity with the officers and men of the Pakistan Armed Forces for their services in ensuring national security.

A full investigation has been ordered on the Mehran terrorist attack.

The people of Pakistan will never be intimidated by these acts of terror.

Each terrorist attack reinforces our national resolve to eliminate this menace. There is no cause for any despondency.

However, we certainly need to revisit the steps required to avert and pre-empt such attacks. I have no doubt that we have the will and capacity to deal with these challenges.

Concerns have also been expressed about the safety and security of our strategic assets. Any speculation in this regard is unwarranted.

Under the National Command Authority, we have an effective command and control system for ensuring the safety and security of our nuclear weapons and related systems. These arrangements conform with the highest international standards and practices followed by other nuclear weapon states.

The Government is determined to take all necessary measures to protect the lives and property of our citizens.

It is imperative that we take steps urgently to enhance our intelligence capabilities and improve system-wide coordination for averting attacks.

It is clear that we are now entering another defining phase in the struggle against terrorists and for reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan.

Our engagement with regional states and major powers has intensified.

There is certainly the need for coherence and a wholesome response to the unique and emerging challenges.

I have no doubt that our courageous people and state institutions will not only safeguard Pakistan's national interests, but shall meet all challenges, avail new opportunities and uphold the dignity and honour of our nation.

Our history testifies to the resilience of our people and state institutions. We will overcome all challenges. Many of these challenges arise from global and regional developments.

We are destined to play an important role in regional and global affairs. Our geo-strategic positioning impels us to shoulder responsibilities for the cause of global peace.

The nation is proud of the sacrifices of the martyrs of the Armed Forces and honours them.

The diversity and the quantum of challenges to the National Security demand that we may have to make a departure from our conventional thinking and look for out-of-the-box solutions and carve out alternate strategies. I strongly believe, that we have potential and resilience to face these challenges up front and to meet the aspirations of our people.

In today's deliberations, we should also bear in mind, the resolution unanimously adopted by the Joint Sitting of the Parliament.

I want, through this forum, a message to go out to the nation that our strategic assets are well protected and our capability to defend our sovereignty, territorial integrity and liberties of our people, is very much in place. The incident is a serious threat to our security paradigm, but with the help of our resolute nation we will surely be successful in overcoming this unique challenge.

Now I ask the Secretary Cabinet to proceed with the agenda.

Islamabad, 28 May 2011, Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.

III: Human Rights

A statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission on a disappeared person in Pakistan

The Asian Human Rights Commission has received the details of the saga of disappearance of a master tailor who was arrested on two occasions by army personnel and how since October 2001 his whereabouts are unknown. The high officials of the Pakistan army including Corps Commander of Balochistan province, a major general, the governor of the province and above all of them, the chief of the Inter Services Intelligence agency (ISI) had confessed on the holy Quran in 2003 that the victim was in the custody of the ISI and that he would be released after the investigation.

The Judicial Commission to probe the cases of missing persons has also submitted a report to the Supreme Court of Pakistan that Mr. Bangulzai, the master tailor, was in the custody of secret services of Pakistan.

The dilemma is that since 2001 to date, the higher courts, the governments of the federation and Balochistan have failed to recover him because of the involvement of the army and its intelligence agencies in his disappearance.

Mr. Ali Asghar Bangulzai 50, the son of Ghulam Nabi was arrested the first time by secret services on June 1, 2000 from his tailoring shop. After 14 days he was released. After his release it was found that he had lost his memory because of the severe torture he had endured. He could not even recognise his own house where he was born. After his recovery he revealed to his family that he was kept in a torture cell at the basement of army's Kulli camp situated at Quetta cantonment. During his confinement he was kept blindfolded at all times;

his hands were cuffed and he was frequently suspended by the wrists by officials of ISI. This is according to his family members from he later told them. After his release for almost one year he was not able to run his tailoring shop.

Mr. Bangulzai was the resident of Chaki Shahwani, Sariab Road, Quetta, capital of Balochistan province. His tailor shop was in walking distance from his home. The army was suspicious that many people were visiting his shop and that he must be involved in militant activities.

Again, on October 18, 2001 Bangulzai was arrested along with his friend Mohammad Iqbal by men who came in army vehicles. Iqbal was released after 22 days he told Bangulzai's family members that he was in an army torture cell. The family tried to contact the local officials and army command office for his whereabouts but they refused to meet the family. In early 2002, a constitutional petition was filed in the Balochistan high court, during hearing Mr. Iqbal recorded his statement that Bangulzai was in Kulli Army camp. He also took part in a press conference in Quetta Press Club with Bangulzai family members with regard to his arrest. The family members also submitted an application to SHO (Station head officer) Sariab Police Station with a request to lodge an FIR (First information report) about his illegal arrest and disappearance but the police refused to file the FIR because of the involvement of military intelligence agencies. The family of the victim also filed an application before the High Court to order police to file the FIR but the court could not help the family.

On April 27, 2002 family members of Bangulzai met the then Major General Abdul Qadir Baloch, who was Corp Commander of the province to inquire about the whereabouts of the Bagulzai. The family was given assurance that they would be informed about his whereabouts. The Corps Commander sent two officers from military intelligence to the house of victim on May 15, 2002 who told the family that Bangulzai was safe and in the custody of the ISI. As the interrogation is completed he would be released but officials refused to allow the family members to meet him.

In the meantime the family members in desperation tried to meet members of the parliament. They were able to meet Mr. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad MNA (Member of National Assembly) who took the family members to meet with the head of ISI (Inter services intelligence) Baluchistan, Brigadier Siddique. During the meeting Brigadier called Colonel Bangush and asked him to bring the file of Bangulzai. After seeing the file Brigadier Siddique congratulated the family and said that Banguzai was in their custody. During different meetings the family members of Bangulzai insisted that they wanted to meet with him but every time they were told that there was no need as he would be released soon.

On October 4, 2003 Brigadier Siddique asked the family members of the victim to provide clothes for him because all arrangements had been made for his release.

For the whole one year family members waited for his release and then they adopted the peaceful protest. Bangulzai's children left their studies and

went on a token hunger strike camp in front of Quetta Press Club for the safe recovery of their father and to record their peaceful protest. The camp was there for one year.

On July 14, 2005 the Baluchistan High Court on the pressure from lawyers and civil society took suo motto notice and directed the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Chilton Town, Mr. Wazeer khan, to investigate and register an FIR for Bangulzai's disappearance by the state intelligence agencies. During the hearing seven persons recorded their statements that army personnel had arrested him and that had assured them many times he would be released from army custody. As usual on the pressure from army Sariat Police Station Quetta refused to register the FIR.

On March 2006 Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, the member of national assembly, visited the token hunger strike camp of family members of Bangulzai and told the local news papers representatives that the head of ISI (Inter services intelligence) Brigadier Siddique has himself acknowledge before him that Bangulzai is in their custody and also assured him that he will be released soon. Hafiz deplored the attitude of ISI officers for lying and misguiding the people. On February 2007 the family members of Bangulzai submitted a petition in Supreme Court of Pakistan, in which Hafiz Hussain Ahmad's written statement was submitted in the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

In continuation of their efforts the family members filed a petition in the Supreme Court of Pakistan in February 2007 where Mr. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, the MNA, has submitted his written statement that ISI had assured him several times that Bangulzai is in their custody. The Supreme Court then ordered on January 31, 2010 that the FIR of his disappearance should be filed. The court also directed the police to file the FIRs of other disappeared persons also.

The Joint Investigation Team to probe the cases of disappeared persons, formed by the government of Pakistan, has also submitted a report to the Supreme Court that according to the testimonies of the eye witnesses and other supportive statements Bangulzai was in the custody of state intelligence agencies.

A Judicial commission to probe the cases of the missing persons, formed by the Federal Government on the instruction from Supreme Court has also came to the conclusion in the March 2010 that after recording all the witnesses that Bangulzai was arrested by the Pakistan secret services and that he was in its custody. The report was duly submitted to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

During the hearing of the Judicial Commission, Mr. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad (MNA) has recorded his statement that the Brigadier Siddique, head of the ISI in Balochistan province, has acknowledge to him that Bangulzai was in their custody and soon he would be released. Mohammad Iqbal who was arrested with Bangulzai also recorded his statement that they were arrested by secret services and that Bangulzai was in their custody. The other witnesses as well recorded their statements that Brigadier has several times accepted in front of them, and Corps commander Qadir Baloch sent his two (MI) (Military

intelligence) personnel to the victim's family and said that he was in the custody of an Intelligence Agency.

It is appalling that 11 years after his arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention by the intelligence agencies Bangulzai's whereabouts are still unknown. None of the institutions and officials who were involved in his disappearance has been put on trial despite the fact that they have admitted his detention 11 years ago! Judges hearing disappearances cases have stated in court that any intelligence officer involved in the disappearance of an individual should be placed on trial but this has never happened. Not one has ever been punished.

In the presence of all the evidence that he was illegally arrested and kept incommunicado in an army torture cell by the ISI, the weakness of the country's justice system is blatantly evident before the powerful military and security agencies. His disappearance by the military is contravention of the basic rights guaranteed by the constitution of Pakistan for example:

Article 4 -- The right of individuals to be dealt with by law, Article 10-- safe guards as to arrest and detention -- the arrested person should be produced within 24 of his arrest before the magistrate, Article 14 -- no person should be tortured, Article 15 -- freedom of movement and Article 25- all citizens are equal before the law.

The case of Bangulzai is a clear demonstration that the laws of the country do not apply to the military and intelligence agencies. When it comes to providing justice to the ordinary citizen in the face of these institutions the judiciary remains silent.

The Asian Human Rights Commission urges that Mr. Bangulzai should be released immediately from the captivity by the army and its intelligence agencies and that the officials responsible for this arrest and disappearance are prosecuted. Furthermore, the compensation must be paid to his family for the ordeal suffered by him and his family members.

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IV: Judiciary

Asma Jahangir on Judicial Independence

PAKISTAN'S restored judiciary is obsessed about preserving its independence, but unable to appreciate the demands made on an independent judiciary. The most vital sign of independence in any judiciary is individual reasoning and the autonomy of every judge. This is apparent neither from important court rulings on complex legal propositions nor from the collective demand made by the Supreme Court (SC) judges regarding the appointment of their peers as ad hoc judges.

Simply grabbing more and more authority does not enhance independence. It only makes the judiciary controversial and partisan. Two recent judgments of the SC, ousting the constitutional powers of the Parliamentary Committee (PC) from decision-making while appointing judges to the superior courts and suggesting that the chief justice of Pakistan be consulted while appointing a chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) indicates that the SC wishes to assume the role of legislating and in running the affairs of the state. The NAB case argues that in the past, the institution was politicised and used for hounding opponents and is now being misused by the sitting government. Both observations are correct, but past harassment by NAB should have been checked by the SC itself — its failure to do so politicised accountability.

Fortunately, the SC is now active in ensuring that proper consultation is held between the government and the opposition. To this extent the NAB ruling should be well received. However, to insist that the chief justice be considered as a consultant is misconceived. The law does not provide for it and more importantly, if a NAB chairman appointed by the chief justice acts arbitrarily, the victim will have little faith in being protected and the chief justice's role will be rendered controversial.

Worse still, if the chief justice and the NAB chairman together begin to harbour prejudices against some people, the victim's goose will be cooked. A counter argument is that the restored judiciary can do no wrong. The same logic was used for politicians who were battered by the military. Unfortunately, politicians repeated their mistakes. Faith in an institution comes from years of consistency, rather than spells of reformation.

The judgment declares the appointment of Justice Deedar Shah as illegal and yet debars him from being appointed for another term. The NAB judgment praises Justice Deedar but declares his appointment illegal due to lack of meaningful consultation. At the same time, the honourable court rules that even if the illegality is removed, Justice Deedar could not be reappointed as his 'illegal' few months in office amounted to one term undergone and the extension of a term is not permissible under the law. Ironically, the judgment is full of paragraphs of remorse for having to adjudicate on a matter concerning a former peer — pain that is often undertaken by this judiciary, and, as usual, Justice Deedar was not spared.

Debates on the appointment of judges to the superior courts have dominated the discourse in the bars. Woefully, the bars lost the opportunity to present a consensus formula for the consideration of parliament. Not a single bar association sent any recommendation to the Raza Rabbani committee.

Earlier, the methodology suggested by the Pakistan Bar Council was a formula closer to that enacted by the 19th Amendment rather than the principles laid down under the Al-Jehad judgment. More generally, the bar abhors appointments made by the executive but was also unhappy when solely judges appointed judges.

The 19th Amendment model may be far from perfect but was unanimously passed by an elected parliament and does diversify decision-making. It rightly allows only judges to initiate names for elevation and reserved the right to blackball anyone erroneously recommended. This oversight role of the PC has now been struck down by the SC in Munir Hussain Bhatti's case.

The Judicial Commission (JC) under the rules it framed allows only the chief justice of Pakistan to propose names — meetings of the JC cannot be held without him. The minutes of the JC are confidential and not distributed to its members. They are not even confirmed at the next meeting. As such, the reasons behind the conclusions reached by the JC are only known to the members themselves.

The SC judgment has virtually reduced the PC to a rubber stamp. In addition, the ruling has decided pending petitions challenging the 18th and the 19th Amendments that are sub judice before a larger bench of the apex court. One of the judges to this decision in fact dissented with his brother judge on this aspect of the judgment.

The entire judgment revolves around upholding the independence of the judiciary, which is pivotal to the constitution and democracy. There can be no caveat for upholding such noble principles. Sadly, this has too often been subverted by the courts themselves, starting with the reference by his Excellency the Governor General and, hopefully, ending with Iqbal Tikka.

The SC judgment presupposes that if appointments to the superior courts were not left solely in the hands of the judiciary, their independence would suffer. There are several models for appointing judges and in a number of jurisdictions decision-making also includes commissions, legislatures and members of the executive. The US, the UK, Norway, Bangladesh and Malaysia are only a few examples. The judiciaries of these countries are as independent as those in any other.

Had the PC insisted that substandard candidates be elevated, the SC would have a sound reason for annoyance. However, in the present case, the PC had merely dropped six names that were not considered worthy of confirmation by the JC itself and had unflattering remarks against them by the chief justices of their respective high courts. Eventually, they were recommended for extension and this decision itself raises doubts on the process adopted by the JC, rather than the decision made by the PC, which took the observations of the chief justices of the high courts in all seriousness. Apart from the chief justice of the Sindh High Court, no other member of the JC belongs to Sindh and would have scant knowledge of the competence of the additional judges. Secondly, the remarks of the chief justices of the high courts were not limited to legal competence alone.

The SC judgment does not reproduce the comments of the respective chief justices on the six additional judges recommended to be dropped, but simply argues that the PC had no business to reopen a discussion held by the JC regarding the legal competence of those whose tenure they extend.

THE performance of the commission as well as the committee must constantly be watched by bar associations. So far, their performance raises concerns.

Initially, the PC simply went along with the JC. Perhaps it recognised that a slight disagreement could cause a judiciary that believes it can do no wrong to flare up. For example, the PC confirmed very few additional judges but was hasty in confirming Justice (retd) Abdul Aziz Kundi, who after a few weeks retired with a handsome pension of Rs370,000 per month for life. What was special about this particular individual to earn a lifelong pension after a few weeks of service?

The comments were produced in court. In one case, the chief justice of the Sindh High Court wrote that ‘the conduct, attitude and behaviour’ of the judge under consideration were not qualities ingrained in a judge and therefore senior judges did not approve or recommend his extension. For another, he wrote that the conduct and attitude was unbecoming of a judge. The chief justice of the Lahore High Court had similar comments. In fact, in one case he wrote that the candidate for confirmation was ‘not inaccessible and indulges in loose talk’.

In another he described the judge as a slow worker, indecisive yet opinionated. In yet another he said the person was a ‘novice in main legal stream’ and required commitment and dedication. He added that the candidate had limited knowledge of the laws. He described yet another candidate as a slow worker, status-conscious, moving in ultra-modern circles and with indifferent behaviour towards the public. These are not traits that can be altered within a few months of training, nor can they be ignored.

Additional judges (who are not confirmed) are kept on extension. Their numbers are overwhelming. For example, only one out of five judges of the Balochistan High Court is confirmed. Out of 28 judges of the Lahore High Court, four permanent judges are made dysfunctional, four others are confirmed and the rest are working on extension.

In Peshawar, three confirmed judges are working while one is dysfunctional and six judges are on extension. Sindh does not fare any better. Out of 18 judges only five are confirmed but one is dysfunctional.

Confirmation of a judge is central to the independence of the judiciary. Yet the JC and the PC continue to extend the tenure of non-confirmation rather than spare the institution of those who are unfit to sit on the bench and grant worthy judges their right to confirmation.

The present chief justice of Pakistan may well be trusted with every decision he makes. However, constitutional amendments are not made around a single individual but to suit all situations. A minority of non-judges in the JC cannot be expected to check judicial nepotism, especially as they too are part and parcel of the legal community and would hesitate to be on the wrong side of their lordships.

The role of the PC must remain measured but rooting it out would be reverting to Al-Jehad, which was often bypassed by the judiciary itself and gave

the judiciary unbridled powers over appointments of their peers. The SC judgment has asked that the six controversial additional judges be restored. It is obvious to anyone — sane or insane — that these judges were behind the filing of petitions for their restoration. Such over-keenness should disqualify anyone from elevation. Despite the comments made against them, which are public knowledge, they remain eager to be elevated.

This begs the question of whether the elevation of such persons will indeed add or detract from the very principles of the independence of the judiciary so eloquently written about in our judgments. All one can say is, three cheers for the independence of the judiciary and may our lordships live long enough to see what they sow.

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