

Documents

July-December 2015

I. Foreign Policy

A. AFGHANISTAN

1. Statement issued after Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's meeting with Afghan President, Ashraf Ghani, in Paris

1. I had a most useful meeting with President Ashraf Ghani in Paris on Monday, 30 November 2015, where we both were attending the Paris Climate Change Conference. We had the opportunity to discuss issues of interest to both our nations, with particular focus on peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.
2. Pakistan attaches the highest importance to its relations with Afghanistan. Our peoples are bound by centuries old political, cultural and economic ties.
3. Pakistan is convinced that peace in Afghanistan is essential for peace and stability in the region. Pakistan has, therefore, supported, and will continue to support peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan.
4. We believe that terrorism and extremism is the common enemy of both Pakistan and Afghanistan. We have affirmed that the terrorists threatening peace in Afghanistan are no friends of Pakistan, and vice-versa.
5. It is important that both countries take steps to ensure that terrorist groups are not allowed any sanctuaries on the soil of either country. Pakistan has vowed to act against all terrorists. There are no good or bad terrorists.
6. Pakistan will not allow its territory to be used by any individual or group to commit acts of terrorism in Afghanistan or elsewhere. We expect the same commitment from Afghanistan and other countries.
7. There are two broad approaches to handle instability in Afghanistan: the military option or negotiated peace process. Pakistan believes that the use of force alone may not achieve peace in Afghanistan. On the other hand, a robust and meaningful reconciliation process, if pursued seriously, has better prospects of establishing a lasting peace in Afghanistan.
8. It was in this spirit that Pakistan engaged in sincere efforts to facilitate an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. The 7 July (2015) meeting in Murree was not only productive but also brightened the prospects for a reduction of violence in Afghanistan.
9. Pakistan does not believe in any blame game, and instead would like to make renewed efforts to resurrect the peace and reconciliation process.

Since it has to be an Afghan-led process, we are confident that the Afghan government and the Taliban would step forward with concrete ideas and proposals and engage in meaningful reconciliation talks. Pakistan is prepared to extend its full support and assistance in promoting any such initiative.

10. Pakistan believes that the US and China, which were associated with Murree reconciliation process, are vital partners in this process. We would also welcome the support of other friendly powers in this endeavor. Pakistan would, therefore, welcome a quadrilateral initiative to restart the reconciliation process. To this end, the forthcoming meeting of Heart of Asia - Istanbul process, to be held in Islamabad on 09 December 2015, provides a welcome opportunity to evolve a common roadmap for result oriented reconciliation in Afghanistan.
11. I look forward to the visit of President Ashraf Ghani to Islamabad, for jointly inaugurating the 09 December Heart of Asia meeting, and for discussions on the sidelines on how the two countries and the US and China can work together to pick up the thread of the reconciliation process, from where it was left off in July 2015.
12. Besides facilitating reconciliation, Pakistan is also prepared to hold serious discussions on better border management so that cross border movement of terrorists can be contained. It is important to finalize border SOPs as early as possible.
13. For decades now, the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan have confronted the common threat of terrorism. Pakistan has recently made notable gains in its counter-terrorism campaign through military operation Zarb-e-Azb and launching a comprehensive National Action Plan. Pakistan looks forward to coordinating closely with Afghanistan at political, diplomatic, military, and intelligence levels, to take our joint fight against terrorism to its logical conclusion.
14. The people, leadership and Government of Pakistan hold the people and leadership of Afghanistan in the highest esteem. We sincerely hope that working together the two countries would rise up to the expectations of their people, and cooperate closely to defeat all terrorists and establish a lasting peace in our region.

Islamabad, 1 December 2015.

2. Statement of the trilateral meeting among Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States

Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States are fully committed to enabling an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned political process that promotes a dialogue between the Afghan government and groups of Taliban on the future of Afghanistan and

the cessation of violence. Peace and reconciliation remains the surest way to end violence and ensure stability in Afghanistan and the region.

Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States commit to accelerate diplomatic and political efforts to put an end to the conflict in Afghanistan. The aim of the peace process will be to negotiate in good faith to resolve outstanding issues, build on areas of agreement, and develop a lasting solution that meets the needs of all Afghans. All three countries will work to create conditions that encourage participation of Taliban groups in a peace process that demonstrates to them that they have a real option of political engagement.

Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United States commit to pursuing the start of peace talks immediately. All efforts for dialogue between the Government of Afghanistan and Taliban groups will be explored and encouraged. All will pursue with urgency confidence building measures that reduce the level of violence in Afghanistan, and allow for full participation and talks by all participants.

Afghanistan and Pakistan agree that all forms of terrorism present a grave threat to both countries and the region. Both countries commit to preventing their territories to be used by any violent extremist group or third party and acknowledge that those who refuse to join a political resolution of the conflict in Afghanistan must be opposed with all means available. The United States commits to supporting these efforts.

Safeguarding Afghanistan's sovereignty, unity, independence, territorial integrity, and Islamic character as a democratic republic are fundamental to resolving the current conflict. The legitimacy of the Afghan state and the legitimacy of Afghanistan's constitution must be fully respected. The rights of all Afghans, regardless of ethnicity, gender or religious identity, must be protected in any peace process.

Afghanistan and Pakistan commit to broadening their state to state political, economic and security cooperation and people to people interactions. Friendly, mutually respectful relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan are necessary to create an enabling environment for the peace process and talks and to ensure the security, stability, prosperity, and national interests of both states.\

Islamabad, 9 December 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

B. CHINA

Sixth round of Pakistan-China strategic dialogue

The Sixth Round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, today. The Pakistan side was led by Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry and the Chinese delegation was headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao. Secretary Planning, Development and Reforms, also joined the meeting for discussions on the status of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During the talks, both sides reviewed important aspects of Pakistan-China bilateral relations. It was agreed that early and effective implementation of the CPEC projects was a key priority for both the countries. The two sides agreed on further consolidating the existing "all-weather Pakistan-China strategic cooperative partnership" in all areas of importance, especially political, economic and strategic.

The two sides held a detailed exchange of views on regional and global situation.

In conclusion, the Foreign Secretary and the Chinese AFM agreed on the need for the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to remain engaged at all levels.

Earlier, the Chinese delegation called on Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs. The Adviser welcomed the visit of the Chinese AFM back to Islamabad for his second visit this year. Mr. Sartaj Aziz noted that the Prime Minister had a fruitful meeting with the Chinese President on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Ufa, Russia, on 10 July 2015. The Adviser emphasized that the CPEC is the flagship project for the Chinese President's vision of the "One Belt, One Road" and that Pakistan-China cooperation on the CPEC would enhance connectivity and contribute to prosperity and development in the entire region.

Islamabad, 30 July 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

C. EUROPEAN UNION

Joint press release on EU-Pakistan Joint Commission

The sixth meeting of the EU-Pakistan Joint Commission was held in Brussels on 8 September 2015 under the Co-chairmanship of on the Pakistani side Mr Muhammad Shehzad Arbab, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and on the EU-side Mr Ugo Astuto, Managing Director a.i. for Asia and the Pacific, European External Action Service.

The two sides reaffirmed the EU-Pakistan relationship and discussed progress made, as well as outstanding issues, in the implementation of the EU-Pakistan 5-year Engagement Plan, encompassing a broad range of areas including political dialogue, security and counter-terrorism, human rights, migration, trade and development cooperation. They looked forward to further strengthening the dialogue and cooperation in the coming year, including a Political Dialogue, which should be followed by a ministerial level EU-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue.

The two sides discussed critical issues in the field of human rights. The EU side expressed its concern over issues such as the lifting of the moratorium on death penalty executions and their pace, and the transfer of civilian cases to military courts. Concerns were also expressed by the EU on freedom of expression, the rights of people belonging to minorities and women's rights. The

EU welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and called for its active engagement. On election reforms, the EU welcomed the reform process underway by the Election Commission of Pakistan. The EU confirmed its commitment to support further strengthening and deepening of democracy in Pakistan and encouraged the adoption of comprehensive electoral reforms ahead of the next general elections. To this end, the EU reiterated its commitment to offer technical assistance to the Election Commission of Pakistan and the Federal and Provincial Assemblies.

The growing economic ties were discussed and the two sides took note of the considerable increase in bilateral trade in 2014, while stressing that further opportunities for trade and investment between the EU and Pakistan should be explored, in order to create growth and jobs. They emphasized the role of the private sector and agreed to explore possibilities to strengthen the dialogue between Pakistan and EU businesses. They noted that the main factor behind the increase in Pakistan's exports to the EU was the award of GSP+. While appreciating progress made in the field of labour rights, the EU called for stepping up efforts on implementing international commitments on human rights as embedded in the GSP+ obligations. In response to EU requests for tangible progress on a number of issues, including the submission of outstanding reports to international monitoring bodies, Pakistan reiterated its commitment to continue implementation of the 27 international conventions covered by the scheme and to submit the four pending reports to the UN monitoring bodies before the end of 2015. Both sides decided to continue this close dialogue to create the conditions for effective implementation and progress for Pakistani society.

On security and counter terrorism they took note of the EU-Pakistan CT dialogue held in February 2015. They expressed their commitment to international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and agreed to explore ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation, initiatives and exchange of best practices in areas such as criminal justice and rule of law, law enforcement/security, countering financing of terrorism and countering violent extremism. The EU side appreciated the seriousness of the terrorist threat Pakistan faces and acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to counter it. The EU side also called on Pakistan to take effective measures to prevent hate speech, take strict action against terrorist organizations, undertake effective steps against religious persecution, and register and regulate madrassas. The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the EU-Pakistan Dialogue on Disarmament and Non-proliferation on 9 December 2015 in Brussels.

The two sides discussed preparations for the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris and pledged to work together towards reaching an ambitious, comprehensive, equitable and binding UN climate agreement. They also agreed on concrete steps to be taken in order to explore opportunities for further

cooperation in the field of energy, including working toward a dedicated Energy Dialogue.

On migration, they welcomed the meeting of the Joint Readmission Committee in June 2015. They agreed to strengthen efforts to ensure full implementation of the EU-Pakistan readmission agreement.

On development cooperation, implementation of ongoing programmes and the new EU Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for 2014-20 were discussed. Under the new MIP, the EU has committed to provide assistance to Pakistan amounting to EURO 653 million to support rural development; education; and good governance, human rights and rule of law. In this respect the two sides agreed to work closely together to ensure a smooth implementation of the assistance in all three focal areas, in full accordance with internationally recognized aid principles.

They also agreed to explore further the potential for cooperation on science and technology under the Horizon 2020 programme and highlighted opportunities for cooperation on higher education in the context of Erasmus+. The two sides also agreed to explore the possibility of new initiatives in anti-narcotics and water management, especially floods.

The two sides also discussed regional political developments, including the situation in Afghanistan and the region.

Background

The Joint Commission is the main forum to review the implementation of the EU-Pakistan 5-year Engagement Plan, which was adopted in 2012. With the common goal of building a partnership for peace and development rooted in shared values, principles and commitments, the Engagement Plan aims to promote cooperation and expand the partnership between the EU and Pakistan on a wide range of issues.

The Joint Commission was preceded on 7 September 2015 by meetings of three subgroups. The trade subgroup was co-chaired by the Ms Diana Acconcia, Deputy Head of Unit in DG TRADE, European Commission and Ms Robina Athar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce. The subgroup on governance and human rights was co-chaired by Ms Anette Mandler, Head of Division in the European External Action Service and Mr Nadeem Riyaz, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The subgroup on development and cooperation was co-chaired by Mr Jorge De La Cabelleria, Head of Unit in DG DEVCO, European Commission and Ms Anjum Assad Amin, Additional Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Finance.

The next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held in Islamabad in 2016.

Islamabad, 09 September 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

D. FOREIGN POLICY**1. Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's speech at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP)**

Chairman Board of Directors,
Mr. Stephen Hadley,
President, United States Institute of Peace (USIP),
Nancy Lindborg,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to address this distinguished group of scholars, professionals, media representatives and members of Washington's policy community for the second time, in the past two years.

I want to thank the US Institute of Peace for providing me this opportunity. I would also like to commend the outstanding contribution made by the Institute to promote scholarship and understanding about issues concerning international peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan is an old and indispensable friend of the United States. Friends need to revive and renew their relationships from time to time. I am visiting Washington to reaffirm and reinforce our important relationship.

Since I was here two years ago, Pakistan has witnessed several positive developments.

Domestically, democracy has been strengthened; terrorism is being combatted; the economy has been stabilized and is poised for rapid growth. Yet, we still face external challenges: to pacify Afghanistan and normalize relations with India.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me briefly highlight each of these developments:

Let me turn first, to our strengthened and resilient democracy.

In 2013, Pakistan saw a landmark transition when power was transferred, after the May 2013 elections, from one elected government to another, for the first time in the country's history. In the following year, when political agitation was launched by one party, all the other parties came together in Parliament in defence of the democratic process.

This now reflects a firm national consensus. With an independent judiciary, a free media and a vibrant civil society, democratic institutions and traditions are becoming stronger in Pakistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The second area I want to highlight is Counter Terrorism.

When my Government was elected, it faced a formidable internal security challenge.

Pakistan had lost 50,000 civilians to terrorist attacks, emanating from multiple sources, and violence was on the rise. Two years later, we have turned the tide against terrorism in Pakistan.

We made a strategic choice to eliminate all terrorist groups through a comprehensive strategy, involving forceful law enforcement actions and targeted military operations.

Our military operation, Zarb-e-Azb, launched in June 2014, the largest anywhere in the world, has produced remarkable results. Terrorists' sanctuaries, command and control and infrastructure have been destroyed. Thousands have been killed or captured. The rest are on the run. As the operation goes into its final phase, their few remaining hideouts will be cleared.

Simultaneously, through well-coordinated, intelligence-based law enforcement operations across Pakistan, the Government has launched a focused campaign against terrorist sleeper cells, their supporters, sympathizers and financiers.

Following the horrendous and cowardly attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar last December, the entire country united to fight the evil of terrorism.

We devised a comprehensive National Action Plan to fight terrorism through a multi-pronged strategy, combining military action, law enforcement operations, choking terrorist financing and countering the extremist narrative.

Our strategy has produced impressive results. The past year has seen the lowest number of terrorist attacks and suicide bombings since 2007.

This significant improvement in the security situation could not have been possible without the resolve of the people, Parliamentary consensus and the dedication and sacrifice of our security forces, all of who came together to counter and confront this menace.

The bravery of 14 year old Aitzaz Hasan of Hangu, who sacrificed his life to save his fellow students and the extraordinary tenacity of Malala Yousafzai, has inspired the entire nation to rise against this scourge. Hundreds of such stories of heroism have been written in blood and tears.

And the blood that has been shed has only strengthened our national resolve to fight until the last terrorist is eliminated.

We must acknowledge, however, that radicalization emerges from multiple sources. We need to address not only the symptoms of radicalization, but also its root causes, which are often to be found in political or social alienation and exclusion, as well as extreme poverty. Identifying terrorism with a specific culture or group is disingenuous. It serves to shift responsibility, and not resolve the challenge of radicalization which so many societies face today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The third positive I now want to talk about is Pakistan's economy.

As a result of bold economic reforms, my Government has achieved significant improvement in all major economic indicators. Pakistan's GDP growth has increased from an average of around 3% over the past 7 years to 4.6% last year and is expected to be at least 5% this year.

We have reduced the budget deficit and contained inflation to the lowest level in the past two decades by reducing wasteful spending. The Karachi Stock Exchange has performed better than most of the world's stock markets.

Pakistan's economic upturn is now acknowledged worldwide. Bloomberg has described Pakistan as the best undiscovered frontier market.

Morgan Stanley has predicted that the economic rise of Pakistan is only a matter of time. Both Moody and Standard & Poor's have upgraded Pakistan's credit rating to "positive".

With a young and vibrant population of 200 million, a middle class larger than in other South Asian countries, growing consumer demand, as well as a stable economy and improved security, Pakistan today offers enormous opportunities for profitable investment and trade.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the key pillars of my government's policy is to encourage regional integration and connectivity. This is where Pakistan and its neighbors have the biggest opportunity to reap the dividends of peace. The most promising element of this policy is the recently launched China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

This concept embraces a package of multiple infrastructure and development projects estimated at US \$46 billion. The CPEC will not be confined to China and Pakistan. Both countries will welcome the participation of public and private companies from other countries, including the United States.

Simultaneously, Pakistan is promoting other regional energy and infrastructure projects, including the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline project; Central Asia-South Asia (CASA)-1000 electricity project; the Kunar Power Project and the Torkham-Jalalabad Road Project. We also intend to initiate action on the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project, as soon as sanctions on Iran are lifted.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We recognize that economic growth will be meaningful and sustainable, if accompanied by social and human development.

My Government will allocate larger resources to health, education, technology and training to equip our people to fully participate and benefit from Pakistan's rapid growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recognizing that women, especially young girls, hold the key to reaping the demographic dividend, we have introduced numerous initiatives for enhanced

economic participation and political empowerment of women and girls in Pakistan.

We are committed to provide our women greater access to education, economic resources, skills development and employment opportunities, to enable them to rightfully become equal partners in our economic development.

In this context, we welcome the Obama Administration's initiative, "Let girls learn", that will enhance cooperation in this important sector between the U.S. and Pakistan.

We remain committed to providing all segments of society, in particular religious minorities, equal opportunities to benefit from the fruits of economic growth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A guiding precept of Pakistan's Founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was "Peace within and peace without".

My Government foreign policy is guided by the principles: "Peace for Development" and "Peaceful Neighborhood".

Peace with our neighbors will enhance our domestic security and economic growth and development.

One of the first steps that I took, after assuming office, was to send a message of peace and cooperation to all our immediate neighbours, Afghanistan, Iran and India.

More recently the security environment in Afghanistan has deteriorated. Pakistan condemns all terrorist violence in Afghanistan.

There are two paths to peace in Afghanistan a military victory over the insurgents or a negotiated peace and national reconciliation.

Over the past 14 years, a military solution has been elusive. We believe that it is unlikely to be achieved in the future. Thus, achieving peace through negotiations is the best option.

Pakistan undertook, at President Ghani's behest, to facilitate a dialogue between Kabul and the Tehrik e Taleban Afghanistan. A first round of intra-Afghan talks was held in Murree. Both sides characterised this round as encouraging. A second session was set for 31 July. A few days before, untimely revelations about the death of Mullah Omar, the leader of the Afghan Taleban, produced predictable consequences.

Without the authority of their leader to engage in the dialogue, the Taleban broke off the talks. In their succession struggle, their default option was to revert to a fighting mode.

Pakistan has no reason to want any violence in Afghanistan. The attacks on the Afghan government, and indeed on Pakistan, emanate from the vast areas in Afghanistan now under Taleban control. Pakistan's priority is to defeat the TTP, which has also found bases on Afghan territory. Peace within Afghanistan will enable Pakistan to eliminate the TTP threat.

I have again conveyed to President Ghani that, if he desires, we are prepared, to assist in reviving the talks between Kabul and the Afghan Taleban.

But we cannot bring them to the table and be asked to kill them at the same time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have made sincere efforts to improve relations with India.

I was one of the first to congratulate Prime Minister Modi on his electoral victory in May 2014.

I accepted his invitation to attend his swearing-in ceremony.

However, the positive momentum generated by that meeting was halted when New Delhi cancelled the Foreign Secretary level talks on a flimsy excuse. I met Mr Modi again in Ufa, Russia. Again, the National Security Advisers' meeting was scuttled by India's attempts to limit the talks to one issue and to dictate the programme of our National Security Adviser in New Delhi.

The cancellation of the NSA-level talks has been followed by increased ceasefire violations by India across the Line of Control and the Working Boundary, as well as a stream of hostile statements by the Indian political and military leadership. Meanwhile, anti-Pakistan actions by Hindu extremists are exacerbating the present tensions in our region.

In my address to the UN General Assembly last month, I proposed a new peace initiative, comprising four specific and feasible steps that could serve as the basis for progress towards normalization. Unfortunately, India's response was not positive.

While refusing dialogue, India is engaged in a major arms buildup, regrettably with the active assistance of several powers. It has adopted dangerous military doctrines. This will compel Pakistan to take several counter measures to preserve credible deterrence.

Clearly, there is a real and present threat to peace and security in South Asia. The international community can no longer pretend that it does not exist.

It must play a role to stop the slide towards a dangerous Pakistan-India crisis by preventing India's belligerent actions rather than Pakistan's defensive responses.

A normal and stable relationship between Pakistan-India can be built by adherence to the principles of the UN Charter especially the principle of sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs and the right of peoples to self-determination. There is no alternative for the two countries, but to resume a comprehensive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, including the core issue of Jammu & Kashmir.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan is fully committed to the objectives of non-proliferation and disarmament.

Over the years, Pakistan has adopted a number of national measures to strengthen export controls and security, which are consistent with the best international standards.

Pakistan is also participating in global efforts to prevent and combat proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. We have also contributed constructively to the Nuclear Security Summit process, President Obama's laudable initiative.

To fulfill its vast energy needs, Pakistan will install several civil nuclear power plants, under IAEA safeguards. We look forward to international cooperation in this context. As a responsible nuclear power, and one with the expertise, manpower and infrastructure to produce civil nuclear energy, it would be mutually beneficial for Pakistan to be accepted as a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and other export control regimes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is significant that on all the priority issues I have mentioned, America's objectives are convergent with Pakistan's.

Our extensive cooperation on counter-terrorism can be intensified and improved, especially by promoting mutual trust and confidence.

America's participation in Pakistan's economic and social development is historic and has been significant. We should review how US assistance can be more effectively utilized in Pakistan.

The US remains our largest single trading partner. Greater trade access would be crucial in propelling growth and employment in Pakistan. And, of greatest significance for Pakistan would be US investment in various sectors of our economy and participation in our planned infrastructure development, especially the connectivity projects.

On Afghanistan, difficult yet essential decisions are required in Kabul, Islamabad and Washington to find the best way to end violence and restore peace.

Obviously, the Pakistan-India relationship poses the most difficult and urgent challenge. I believe a close review of some of the existing assumptions and analyses, and greater attention to Pakistan's views and interests, would be useful in enabling Washington to play a constructive role in averting the ever present danger of escalation and promoting stability in South Asia.

A close and enduring partnership between Pakistan and the US is, we believe, a strategic imperative for achieving lasting peace and stability in our region and beyond.

This beautiful capital signifies in more ways than one, the glorious struggles of the past in pursuit of liberty and freedom, and the aspirations for a better future, shared by both of our great nations.

Together, we should work as equal partners towards these shared goals.

I thank you.

E. HEART OF ASIA-ISTANBUL PROCESS

The Islamabad Declaration

1. We, the Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives of the participating and supporting countries, as well as high-level representatives of supporting regional and international organizations, held the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HOA-IP) in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 09 December 2015. The Conference was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and H.E. Mr. Salahuddin Rabbani, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
2. We express our gratitude to H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and H.E. Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for attending the opening ceremony of the Fifth Ministerial Conference.
3. Recalling the four Ministerial Conferences in Istanbul (2011), Kabul (2012), Almaty (2013) and Beijing (2014), which have been significant milestones that marked the conception, birth and initial steps of HOA-IP, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles, objectives, and outcomes of these Conferences that have defined the parameters for the working of HOA-IP aimed at promoting regional peace and prosperity.
4. We believe that the pace of continuity demonstrated by the HOA-IP in the past few years would continue in the future, and the endeavors made under its auspices will manifest themselves in the achievement of goals of lasting peace, security, prosperity and growth of the region.
5. We reaffirm our countries' respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence, as enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Charter to which we strongly adhere and reiterate the obligations of states to refrain in their international relations from the threat, or use of force, against the territorial integrity, or political independence of any State, or in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations Charter. Recognizing the centrality of the United Nations in international affairs, we reiterate our support to the United Nations in coordinating international civilian efforts to contribute to peace, security and development of Afghanistan, as established by UN Resolution 2210 (2015).
6. We adhere to the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States and commit to promote a multifaceted approach of regional integration based on trust, equality and dialogue.
7. We realize the importance of the HOA-IP as an important regional initiative and platform aimed at a stable, peaceful, prosperous and developed Afghanistan that continues to complement other existing regional mechanisms and processes.
8. We recognize that the situation in Afghanistan, owing to its central location at the crossroads in Asia and its history, plays a critical role in the dynamics

of regional peace, security and economic growth. We, therefore, believe in a secure, peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan, with its strong commitment to Human Rights. This is not only in its own interest, but also vital to peace, stability and prosperity of the 'Heart of Asia' region as a whole, for which it is our collective responsibility to help and support Afghanistan in combating the challenges it faces.

9. We support the Government of Afghanistan's constructive approach towards regional engagement and its commitment to building an environment of trust and confidence throughout the region.
10. We consider the conclusion of International Security Assistance Forces' (ISAF) Mission in Afghanistan, an important step towards Afghan self-reliance and note the initiation of the non-combat post ISAF Mission focusing on training, advising and assistance to Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), and hope it would, therefore, contribute to the early realization of peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.
11. We commend the hospitality of Pakistan and Iran in hosting millions of Afghan refugees, for the last three decades, despite their own formidable challenges and limitations and we urge the international community to provide them with adequate support. We welcome the initiatives Afghanistan-Pakistan-UNHCR and Afghanistan-Iran-UNHCR Tripartite Commissions on Voluntary Repatriation of Afghan Refugees from Pakistan and Iran respectively. We urge the international community to provide adequate and sustained support and assistance including within the framework of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan refugees to enable their voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation and sustainable reintegration and resettlement in Afghanistan. We look upon the Afghan Government to take necessary measures to facilitate this process in close cooperation with host countries.
12. We recognize that the beginning of the Transformation Decade, aimed at self-reliance of Afghanistan, marks an important milestone in its history. While reaffirming commitment to Afghanistan's independence and sovereignty, we reiterate our support for Afghanistan as it ushers in the new era of regional connectivity as enunciated by H.E. President Ghani.
13. We urge the international community to stand by its commitment made during the London Conference, of continued financial support to Afghanistan's National Unity Government, through 2017. In this regard, we note with appreciation the agreement by the European Union to host the next Afghanistan Development Ministerial Conference in Brussels in 2016.
14. We renew our support for Afghanistan which is beginning to emerge as a stable democracy, is continuing to develop a resilient security force, and is visualizing a reformative economic agenda as goals for the Transformation Decade.

Countering Security Threats

15. We recognize that terrorism and violent extremism are constant and serious threats to regional and international peace, security, stability and economic growth, and that Afghanistan is one of the countries at the forefront of the war against terrorism, fighting regional and international terrorist groups and safeguarding the region against the spread of terrorism.
16. We reiterate our agreement that terrorism, extremism and separatism, and linkages among them, pose a serious challenge to many of our countries, as well as the region and beyond, which can only be addressed through our concerted efforts.
17. We believe that achieving peace and security, as well as regional integration, is a shared responsibility, in which each HOA-IP country must play its role for its own benefit, as well as for the collective benefit of the region.
18. We welcome Afghanistan's determination and efforts in steering the HOA-IP towards creating a peaceful and secure region. Since the security of the countries of the Heart of Asia region are intertwined, we believe that supporting Afghanistan's efforts in fighting terrorism is vital for safeguarding the region against terrorism.
19. We resolve to eradicate the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. While recognizing the importance of international cooperation and coordination, any measure taken by States to prevent and combat terrorism must comply fully with our obligations under international law and the United Nations Charter. We commit to put into practice specific measures and steps necessary for countering and eliminating the menace of terrorism, all terrorist organizations, in particular Al Qaida, Daesh (ISIL) and their affiliates, and any support to them and their enabling networks in the HoA-IP region.
20. We recognize that extremism facilitates, encourages and justifies acts of terrorism and violence. We undertake to introduce measures to curb the spread of violent extremism and the promotion and encouragement of violence as a means of achieving political objectives.
21. We also agree on the need, and commit to put in place, specific measures and take necessary actions to deny terrorists' access to financial and material resources, to dismantle their sanctuaries and training facilities, and to curtail their ability to recruit and train new terrorists. Measures to curb terrorists' movements should also be established without prejudice to trade and legal movement of citizens and goods.
22. We give credence to the idea of resolving conflicts through peaceful negotiations and urge full support by HOA-IP countries to the Government of Afghanistan in implementing Afghan-owned and Afghan-led peace and reconciliation initiatives, and realizing its peace objectives. We urge all Afghan Taliban groups and all other armed opposition groups to enter into peace talks with the Afghan Government.

23. We believe that terrorism, transnational criminal narcotics and weapon networks, are serious regional challenges. Tackling these, offers opportunities for regional cooperation. We recognize that a considerable share of the terrorism financing sources consists of the revenues obtained from drugs production and its trafficking. Therefore, we resolve to begin the process of identifying and countering each of these threats at national, regional and international levels.
24. We understand that the acuteness and global scale of the illicit drug threat requires appropriate international efforts aimed at intensifying measures to fight illicit production of drugs and their precursors and their trafficking, especially in the Heart of Asia region. In this regard, we resolve to intensify existing counter narcotics activities in the region.
25. We realize that the emerging security challenges are not confined to a particular country and have the potential of expanding to the entire region, if timely measures are not taken. We, therefore, stress the need for adopting a coordinated and collaborative security and counter-terrorism approach for the HOA-IP region. In this regard, we need to explore evolving a coordinated and collaborated security approach and adopting a common counter-terrorism strategy and programme. Therefore, in accordance with our instructions to our Senior Officials in Beijing (articles 20 and 21), we task the Heart of Asia relevant Senior Officials to hold a meeting, in the first half of 2016, on security issues and counter terrorism measures.
26. We realize the need for generating financial resources, developing logistical support and establishing improved information sharing mechanisms among relevant government institutions responsible for combating terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and managing border security, as part of the comprehensive regional strategy for combating terrorism and encouraging the participants of the Counter Terrorism-Confidence Building Measure to focus on these areas.

Promoting Economic Connectivity

27. We are cognizant that the region has vast natural resources, immense human potential, and abundant opportunities for creation of capital that, in a well-connected region, could be utilized productively to achieve the goal of sustainable economic growth.
28. We welcome the number of infrastructure and energy projects aimed at strengthening regional economies through enhanced connectivity, trade, movement of goods and people.
29. We believe that it is imperative that regional economic connectivity initiatives improve the lives and welfare of people through improvement in quality of lives, employment generation, ease of access to basic amenities and equality of opportunities for all layers of society. Afghan youth and women are untapped potential resources, which would greatly contribute to the economic and cultural development of the entire region.

30. We note the goals and priority projects of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan-VI (RECCA-VI), as indicated in its Chairman's Statement, and look to the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, through its two economic CBMs, to support their implementation, where possible.
31. We appreciate the cooperation among regional countries on projects that have the potential of transforming Afghanistan as transit hub in the Heart of Asia region. We particularly welcome the development of North-South and East-West energy, transport and trade corridors, as well as transit hubs/routes in the region and encourage linkages to be made to these in a manner that these provide maximum regional coverage and benefit.
32. We understand that easing of customs procedures and policies, and development and broadening of transit trade framework agreements, is imperative for removing bottlenecks and impediments to facilitate smooth movement of goods and increase the economic viability of inter and intra-regional trade. In this regard, a trade friendly environment needs to be created in the region that ensures compatibility of customs regulations, facilitation of cross-border clearances and reduction in time of legal formalities.
33. We are convinced of the need to align and bring greater coherence to existing initiatives that aim to strengthen regional connectivity. We look to the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process to play a constructive role in achieving this goal.

Confidence Building Measures

34. We consider Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) to be important tools to link the Heart of Asia countries at various levels. We appreciate all lead countries' efforts in organizing RTG meetings, for all six CBMs this year, and recall our commitment under article 25 of the Beijing Declaration which states: "*We acknowledge the important role played by the Regional Technical Groups (RTGs) in prioritizing and following the CBM activities. In this context, we ask the lead countries of each CBM to at least convene two of these meetings each year, one within 2 months of each Ministerial Conference and the second no later than 4 months prior to the following Ministerial Conference.*" In this context, we expect all the RTGs to hold their meetings as per this Article's provision.
35. We understand that the Regional Technical Group (RTG) meetings are the vehicles to drive the CBMs forward and delineate the future course of action for CBMs. To this end, we task CBM participants to send technical specialists and decision makers to each RTG meeting. We also task the co-lead countries to announce the dates for the second RTG meeting for the year at the first RTG meeting, expected to take place within two months from today. The first RTG meeting should identify priority projects for the year, identifying prospective implementers and resource providers, such as supporting countries and organizations, and include these in a calendar for the year. Such annual calendars may include inputs from the relevant line

ministries and institutions responsible for hosting events related to the CBMs.

36. We agree to intensify our efforts in ensuring that the targets set during the Ministerial Conferences are achieved prior to the next one. We express our commitment to generate positive, tangible and effective results, through the endeavors being made under various CBMs. We suggest that under each CBM a continuous series of activities is carried out in specific area, aimed at achieving tangible results, and limiting adhoc activities to those considered of particular stand-alone value.
37. We realize that some CBM activities need financing and allocation of sufficient time as they may yield results over a longer period of time. While expectations on these projects should be realistic, update reports should regularly be provided at each Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM).
38. We appreciate those supporting countries and organizations that contribute to the implementation of the CBMs' activities and urge them to enhance participation and contribution in implementation of all CBMs, in close cooperation and coordination of their efforts with the CBM Member States.

Conclusion

39. We task our Senior Officials to hold the first SOM meeting of this process, within three months of this Conference, and engage in political dialogue in accordance with our commitments in Beijing, and also to review the plans submitted by the RTGs.
40. We express our appreciation and gratefulness to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in Islamabad.
41. We welcome the willingness of India to host the next Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process as Co-chair in 2016, and decide to hold the Sixth Ministerial Conference in the last quarter of 2016.
42. This Declaration was adopted in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 09 December 2015, by the Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives of the participating countries of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Nations.
43. This Declaration was welcomed and supported by the Foreign Ministers and high-level representatives of the supporting countries of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process, and the high-ranking representatives of the supporting international and regional organizations: Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, Royal Kingdom of Denmark, Arab Republic of Egypt, European Union, Republic of Finland, Republic of France, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Italy, Japan, Republic of Poland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States, Agha

Khan Development Network (AKDN), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Collective Security Treaty Organizations (CSTO), Economic Cooperation Organizations (ECO), North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Islamabad, 9 December 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

F. INDIA

1. **Text of the joint press release by Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India at the joint press conference in Ufa**

The Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India met today on the sidelines of the SCO Summit in Ufa. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. The two leaders exchanged views on issues of bilateral and regional interest.

They agreed that India and Pakistan have a collective responsibility to ensure peace and promote development. To do so, they are prepared to discuss all outstanding issues.

Both leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and agreed to cooperate with each other to eliminate this menace from South Asia.

They also agreed on the following steps to be taken by the two sides:

1. A meeting in New Delhi between the two NSAs to discuss all issues connected to terrorism.
2. Early meetings of DG BSF and DG Pakistan Rangers followed by that of DGMOs.
3. Decision for release of fishermen in each other's custody, along with their boats, within a period of 15 days.
4. Mechanism for facilitating religious tourism.
5. Both sides agreed to discuss ways and means to expedite the Mumbai case trial, including additional information like providing voice samples.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif reiterated his invitation to Prime Minister Modi to visit Pakistan for the SAARC Summit in 2016. Prime Minister Modi accepted the invitation.

Islamabad, 10 July 2015.

2. Press release on talks between the National Security Advisors of Pakistan and India

We are deeply disappointed at the statement of the Spokesperson of India's Ministry of External Affairs, putting forth pre-conditions for official talks to take place with Pakistan at the level of the National Security Advisors.

These talks, which were scheduled to take place on 23 and 24 August, flowed from a decision taken by the two Prime Ministers on 10 July, in the Russian city of Ufa.

This is the second time that India has chosen to go back on a decision mutually agreed upon between the two Prime Ministers, to engage in a comprehensive dialogue, by coming up with frivolous pretexts.

Tension between the two countries had increased alarmingly as a result of frequent violations on the Line of Control and Working Boundary, in the past months. The need of the hour was for the two countries to engage in sincere and serious dialogue to immediately reduce tensions and to undertake the task of normalization of relations, with sincerity and seriousness.

The Pakistan High Commissioner's invitation to the Kashmiri Hurriyat leadership to a reception in honour of the Adviser on 23 August, was very much in keeping with the practice and tradition of the past many years. Pakistan sees no reason to depart from this established practice. After all, the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders are genuine stakeholders in efforts to find a lasting solution of the Kashmir dispute. For India to refuse to engage in talks with Pakistan on this pretext, is a repeat of what it did when it cancelled the Foreign Secretary level talks that were scheduled to be held on 25 August last year, pursuant to the meeting between the two Prime Ministers in Delhi in May 2014.

For the NSA talks in Delhi, Pakistan had proposed a comprehensive agenda, consistent with the decisions taken by the two Prime Ministers in Ufa, which included discussion on all outstanding issues, including Kashmir, as well as terrorism related matters, and other issues such as religious tourism, release of fishermen and peace and tranquility on the LoC. However, regrettably, the Indian side's desire to restrict the agenda to terrorism related issues only, amounts to a negation of the decisions taken by the two Prime Ministers.

It is not Pakistan that has placed any condition for the talks. In fact, Pakistan has always demonstrated its belief in the dialogue process and is prepared to engage in meaningful talks with India, to resolve all outstanding issues that have bedeviled relations between the two countries, for the past many decades.

Pakistan does not disregard agreements or understandings. It is the Indian side which has reneged on commitments agreed upon between the two Heads of Government in the past year.

Pakistan wishes to reiterate its abiding commitment to promoting a relationship of cordiality and cooperation with all its neighbours, including India, in pursuance of the Prime Ministers vision of a peaceful neighbourhood. Islamabad, 21 August 2015.

3. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs' statement issued at a press conference

I welcome you all to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I am very disappointed that India has virtually cancelled the first ever official talks between the National Security Advisers scheduled for 24 August. On 17 August last year, India had unilaterally cancelled the talks between the two Foreign Secretaries scheduled for 25 August 2014, in Islamabad. The reason for this regretful second cancellation if it is happening, would be the same: Why did the Pakistan High Commission invite 3 or 4 leaders from the Indian Occupied Kashmir to a reception organized in New Delhi on 23 August to enable me to meet a cross section of Indian political and business leaders.

I expect that global think tanks and foreign policy experts will carefully ponder over this important question: Is it conceivable that a country like India will cancel the first ministerial interaction between the two countries since Mr. Modi's take over, on such flimsy grounds, especially when the main purpose of the meeting was to reduce tensions on the Line of Control and restore trust by addressing each other's concerns regarding terrorist activities sitting across the table rather than through the media.

Even more ironic is their alibi that Pakistan was trying to distort the agenda agreed at Ufa and was imposing "new conditions" for the talks. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The three point agenda proposed by Pakistan was fully in line with the Ufa statement. The first point called for discussion on all issues related to terrorism.

The second point calls for reviewing progress on actual decisions made at Ufa i.e. prompt release of fishermen, better arrangements for religious tourism, and activation of mechanisms for restoring peace across the LOC and the Working Boundary.

The third point was intended to explore the modalities for discussions on all other outstanding issues including Kashmir, Sir Creek and Siachen.

India seems reluctant to recognize the significance of the most important sentence in the Ufa Statement: "India and Pakistan have a collective responsibility to ensure peace and promote development. To do so, they are prepared to discuss all outstanding issues". The word 'K' is very much present in this sentence because everyone knows that the most important outstanding issue between the two countries is the future of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The statement of the Official Spokesperson of the Indian External Affairs Ministry that Pakistan has imposed new conditions totally ignores the last sentence of the note handed over to the Indian High Commission on 21 August that "Pakistan is ready to hold NSA talks without any preconditions". In fact it was India which introduced a new condition through its "advice" that Pakistan should not meet Hurriyat leaders, thus assuming the right to determine the guest list for the High Commissioner's reception.

The most hilarious part of the statement of the official Spokesperson of External Affairs Ministry is the sentence "The people of both countries can legitimately ask today what is the force that compels Pakistan to disregard the agreements reached by two elected leaders and sabotage their implementation".

The wishful narrative in the statement wants everyone to believe that only Pakistan's military establishment is pushing the agenda towards the Kashmir issue. It is surprising that the Indian foreign policy establishment with all its expertise, has not recognized the stark reality that in Pakistan not only the political leadership but the entire nation is fully committed to provide political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris struggling for their right of self-determination.

As always, India has been conducting a part of its diplomacy through the Indian media. A major theme being played up in the Indian media is that Pakistan was apprehensive of the dossier Mr. Doval prepared for presentation to me during the NSA talks and was therefore looking for an exit. In fact I will also be carrying three dossiers on RAW's involvement in promoting terrorism in Pakistan. If I do not get this opportunity on 24 August, I hope I will get a chance to hand them over to Mr. Doval in New York next month, if he accompanies Prime Minister Modi for the UN General Assembly. After handing over these dossiers to Mr. Doval, I can then also share them with the UN Secretary General.

Meanwhile I can only urge Mr. Modi to ponder over the most important part of the Ufa Statement (that India and Pakistan have a collective responsibility to ensure peace and promote development. To do so, they are prepared to discuss all outstanding issues) and think of ways and means of initiating serious dialogue on these outstanding issues.

On my part, I am still prepared to go to New Delhi for NSA talks without any preconditions.

Islamabad, 22 August 2015.

4. Press release on Pakistan - India NSA talks scheduled for 23-24 August 2015

Pakistan has carefully analyzed the contents of the Press Conference of the Indian Minister for External Affairs, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj this afternoon. We have come to the conclusion that the proposed NSA level talks between the two countries would not serve any purpose, if conducted on the basis of the two conditions laid down by the Minister.

While the Indian Minister accepts that, to ensure durable peace between the two countries, there is a need to discuss all outstanding issues through a sustained dialogue process, started in 1998 as Composite Dialogue and renamed as Resumed Dialogue in 2011, she then unilaterally restricts the

agenda to only two items: creating an atmosphere free from terrorism and tranquility on the LoC.

Considering that many terror "incidents" blamed initially by India on Pakistan eventually turned out to be fake, it is not improbable that India can delay the Resumed Dialogue indefinitely by concocting one or two incidents and keeping the LoC hot.

It is equally important to recall that terrorism was always a part of the eight point composite dialogue and it was always discussed simultaneously with other issues between the Interior Secretaries. It is not reasonable for India to now assume the right to decide unilaterally that from now onwards, other issues will be discussed after terrorism has been discussed and eliminated.

The main purpose of any dialogue between India and Pakistan is to reduce tensions and restore trust as a first step towards normalization. If the only purpose of NSA level talks is to discuss terrorism, then instead of improving the prospects for peace it will only intensify the blame game and further vitiate the atmosphere. That is why Pakistan had suggested that apart from discussion on terrorism related issues, the two sides should also discuss modalities and if possible a time schedule, for discussions on all outstanding issues including Kashmir, Siachen and Sir Creek, in keeping with the understanding of the Ufa statement. That is the only way to improve the prospects for peace between the two countries.

The EAM's attempt to draw a distinction between preambular and operative paragraphs in the Ufa statement appears to be an after-thought to justify a position that is counterproductive in terms of the ultimate objective of reducing tensions and improving trust.

As regards the second pre-condition regarding meeting with Hurriyat leaders, it has been pointed out repeatedly that it has been a long-standing practice that whenever Pakistani leaders visited India during the past twenty years, they have been meeting Hurriyat leaders. It would be inappropriate for India to now impose the condition of changing this longstanding practice.

Pakistan, therefore, reiterates that the scheduled NSA level talks cannot be held on the basis of the preconditions set by India.

Islamabad, 22 August 2015.

5. Pakistan and India joint statement issued in Islamabad after the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process

1. The External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation to the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process in Islamabad on December 8-9, 2015. She called on the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and held discussions with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz.

2. The EAM and the Adviser condemned terrorism and resolved to cooperate to eliminate it. They noted the successful talks on terrorism and security related issues in Bangkok by the two NSAs and decided that the NSAs will continue to address all issues connected to terrorism. The Indian side was assured of the steps being taken to expedite the early conclusion of the Mumbai trial.
3. Both sides, accordingly, agreed to a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue and directed the Foreign Secretaries to work out the modalities and schedule of the meetings under the Dialogue including Peace and Security, CBMs, Jammu & Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek, Wullar Barrage/Tulbul Navigation Project, Economic and Commercial Cooperation, Counterterrorism, Narcotics Control and Humanitarian Issues, People to People exchanges and Religious Tourism.

Islamabad, 9 December 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

G. KASHMIR

Statement by Mr. Sartaj at the meeting of OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir

"Secretary General, Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani,
Honorable Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan
Honorable Foreign Minister of Turkey
Honorable Representative of Niger
Honorable Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia
Distinguished Participants,

It is a privilege to address this meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to convey my gratitude for the support extended by the Secretary General for convening this meeting.

I am also grateful to all of you, Excellencies, for attending this meeting. Your presence here today demonstrates your solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan remains committed to finding a just and peaceful resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Pakistan's principled position on the Kashmir dispute is based on the UN Security Council Resolutions, which remain unimplemented to this day.

Excellencies,

Instead of upholding the inalienable right to self-determination promised to the Kashmir people by the United Nations and to fulfill its own pledges, India decided to try to quell the Kashmiri struggle by use of brute force. As a result, more than 90,000 Kashmiris have been killed by the Indian Security forces over the last two decades in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

The Kashmiri leaders continue to remain in detention or have been put under house arrest. The people of IOK, including women, are being arrested for hoisting the national flag of Pakistan. Framing treason charges for hoisting the Pakistani flag is legally untenable, since the Kashmiri people have never accepted the Indian occupation. India is attempting to change the demographic make-up of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir by settling non-State, non-Muslim subjects in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Recently on the eve of Eid-e-Azha the Government of IOK imposed a ban on the slaughter of cows with a 10 year imprisonment for violators.

Pakistan is steadfast in extending political, moral and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination. We have consistently emphasized the need for the full respect of human rights of the Kashmiris. Significantly, a number of human rights organizations, including UN Human Rights Council, OIC, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch have regularly criticized the human rights violations in IOK. It has been greatly appreciated that OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission has been mandated to monitor the human rights situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

India continues to hold sham elections in Jammu and Kashmir, with coercive military presence. In this context, the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 91 of 1951 and 122 of 1957 reject all such solutions as a substitute to a free and impartial Plebiscite for the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Excellencies,

The people of Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir deeply value the consistent support extended by the OIC for the rights of the Kashmiri people. Regular meetings of the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir are an expression of Islamic solidarity with the oppressed people of Indian occupied Kashmir.

We firmly believe that for a durable solution of the Kashmir dispute, Kashmiris should be associated with the dialogue process. Pakistan supports engagement with India in a constructive and purposeful dialogue to resolve this issue. However, our efforts to peacefully resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute are not being reciprocated. This August, India cancelled the talks by setting pre-conditions to exclude Jammu and Kashmir from the agenda and prohibiting Pakistan's interaction with the Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders during my planned visit to New Delhi. All the four Kashmiris leaders from IOK, invited to this meeting by the OIC were prevented by suspending their passports for a four month period. We hope that the international community will carefully ponder over India's persistent refusal to hold meaningful talks on the Kashmir issue.

On its part, Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India, at any level, without any preconditions, in order to address each other's concerns and establish lasting peace by resolving all outstanding issues, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Excellencies,

The unprovoked and indiscriminate ceasefire violations by India across the Line of Control (LoC) and the Working Boundary have resulted in loss of many civilian lives, including women and children. Last month alone, Indian shelling resulted in martyrdom of 20 civilians including women and children on our side of the LoC and the Working Boundary.

Pakistan has repeatedly called for impartial investigation into the Ceasefire Violations. The United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) provides an indispensable mechanism to monitor peace along the LoC and the Working Boundary. It is important that UNMOGIP is strengthened and allowed to undertake its mandated task of a neutral observer. We request the OIC Contact Group to impress upon India to refrain from Ceasefire Violations, which are becoming a threat to peace in the Region.

Excellencies,

Let me reiterate, Pakistan remains committed to finding a just and peaceful solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions, which is reflective of the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir look up to the OIC and the brotherly Muslim countries for their consistent and invaluable support in achieving their right to self-determination.

I thank you."

Islamabad, 29 September 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

H. PALESTINIAN ISSUE

Message from the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people

As the people of Pakistan observe another day of solidarity with their Palestinian brothers, they also express deep disappointment with the international community for having failed the just cause of Palestine for yet another year. I noted this failure very clearly in my recent address at the Annual General Meeting of the United Nations.

At the same Annual General Meeting, the international community adopted a transformational development agenda for the next fifteen years. This agenda talks about people being at the centre. Yet the Palestinian people continue to suffer humiliating and absolutely inhuman treatment at the hands of the occupying power.

But there is also a glimmer of hope. President Mahmoud Abbas hoisted the proud Palestinian flag among the flags of sovereign states at the United

Nations on 30th of September this year. This was, indeed, a great milestone in Palestines quest for full membership of the United Nations.

Let me reassure our Palestinian brothers, yet again, that the Pakistani nation will continue to support them unwaveringly in their struggle for the right to self-determination. This is an inalienable right of the Palestinian people that cannot be denied any longer.

Islamabad, 24 November 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

I. SAARC

Message by the Prime Minister of Pakistan issued on the occasion of the thirtieth Anniversary of SAARC and the thirty-first SAARC Charter day

It gives me immense pleasure to extend warm felicitations, on behalf of the Government and People of Pakistan, to the Peoples and Governments of all SAARC Member States on the occasion of the Thirtieth Anniversary of SAARC and the Thirty-first SAARC Charter Day, falling on 8th December 2015. Pakistan joins other SAARC member states in celebrating this important landmark in the history of the organization.

The SAARC Charter, signed 30 years ago, has played an important role in bringing the SAARC member states closer to each other, and this day provides us a good opportunity to renew our commitment to the Charter and its principles and objectives.

SAARC has withstood the test of time, and gradually its states are making progress on important social and economic issues like poverty alleviation, education, trade and commerce, energy cooperation, and human resource development. Pakistan believes that the potential for regional socioeconomic integration by SAARC has not been fully utilized, and that the organization can deliver much larger benefits for all its member states if a more proactive approach is adopted.

One of the key objectives underlying SAARC is to enhance trust and understanding amongst its members. The need of the hour is to continue our concerted endeavors to build upon this objective in order to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia in all spheres of regional interest.

Pakistan remains firmly committed to the principle of the SAARC Charter, and we shall continue to play our role in furthering the objectives of the organization for the welfare of the South Asian nations.

I wish all the people of the SAARC region, happiness, peace and prosperity.

Islamabad, 8 December 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

J. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Statement by the Prime Minister of Pakistan at the high level roundtable on South-South Cooperation

President Xi Jinping,
Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.
Our gathering today comes at a pivotal moment.

Together, we have put in enormous efforts to make the Post-2015 Development Agenda responsive to our challenges and aspirations.

Unity of purpose and a shared vision for prosperity has been our loadstar.

Mr. President,
South-South cooperation is unique, for it is cooperation among equals, based on solidarity.

Its role in promoting development and resilience in our countries is significant.

The 2008 global economic crisis reinforced the potential of South-South Cooperation and induced the spirit of collective self-reliance.

South-South trade flows have been enhanced tremendously as a consequence of trade liberalization and enhanced connectivity. Intra-South trade is now estimated to be over US \$ 4 trillion.

Investment flows to developing countries are on the rise. They account for over 50% of the global Foreign Direct Investment. Almost a third originated from the South.

This dynamism has vastly increased the scope for cooperation among our countries.

Mr. President,
The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an inspiring model of South-South cooperation. It will bring huge economic and development benefits not just to our two countries, but the entire region and beyond.

The project forms an important component of President Xi Jinping's 'One Belt, One Road' initiative. We greatly admire the vision underlying this initiative.

This development strategy and framework offers new opportunities for Asia's transformation and prosperity.

Mr. President,
Pakistan is also extending training and technical support to developing countries, in a number of diverse fields.

Our Specialized Technical Assistance Programme for Africa dates back to 1986. It is an institutionalized and fully funded programme.

Our Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad has been offering training facilities to our friends in Africa, Central Asia and other regions.

Pakistan's Programme for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Afghanistan was started in 2002 with a financial commitment of 385 million dollars. It was scaled up to 500 million dollars in 2013.

We are actively engaged with regional organizations, including SAARC, ECO, ACD, and the D-8 based on our vision to strengthen regional and economic integration.

Mr. President,

South-South cooperation will remain an essential facet of this partnership.

We need to make use of the South-South potential optimally, within the framework of a long-term vision.

The established principles and provisions of South-South Cooperation should continue to guide this collaborative framework.

Enhanced South-South cooperation in trade, investment, human resource development, technology and financial resource generation is in our interest. This will ensure a prosperous future for our people.

Business and private sectors also have an important role in promoting economic opportunities, innovation and high impact solutions.

Mr. President,

We support integration of South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and strategic framework of UN Funds and Programmes.

Further strengthening of institutional support from the UN System will help maximize the impact of South-South cooperation.

Such an approach will help sustain our development efforts and ensure enhanced participation of developing countries in the global economy, in conformity with the new Agenda.

I thank you, Mr. President.

Islamabad, 27 September 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

K. TAJIKISTAN

Joint statement issued after Tajikistan's President H.E. Emomali Rahmon's visit to Pakistan

1. The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon, paid a state visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 11-13 November 2015, at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

2. The President was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising the Ministers, Senior Officials and prominent Businessmen. The President and his delegation were accorded a warm welcome.
3. President Emomali Rahmon had a meeting with the President of Pakistan and a tete-a-tete with the Prime Minister, followed by delegation-level talks. During their meetings, the leaders discussed a wide range of matters relating to bilateral relations and international and regional issues of mutual concern.
4. Both the leaders noted with satisfaction the steady growth in the bilateral relations and resolved to tap the vast potential in the areas of trade, energy, defence, agriculture, industry and regional transport communication networks.
5. To further promote economic cooperation, both the leaders emphasized the need to hold Joint Ministerial Commission meeting at the earliest.
6. The two leaders noted with satisfaction the formation of the Joint Business Council (JBC). They hoped that the areas of cooperation identified by the JBC will further boost trade between the two countries. They directed the JBC to hold regular meetings.
7. In the area of energy cooperation, both the leaders noted with appreciation the progress achieved in the implementation of CASA-1000 Power Project and hoped that the project would be completed by 2018. They instructed the Joint Commission on Energy and Infrastructure to hold its first meeting to further explore and identify new projects for export of electricity to Pakistan.
8. In order to facilitate trade and transportation between the two countries and in the region, the two sides reiterated their resolve to work with Afghanistan for early finalization and signing of Trilateral Transit Trade Agreement (TTTA).
9. Both the leaders commended the successful holding of Made in Pakistan exhibitions at Dushanbe on 29-31 October 2015 and reiterated the need to hold such national exhibitions in future in Pakistan and Tajikistan.
10. The two leaders recalled their understanding arrived at during the Prime Minister's visit to Tajikistan in 2014 to increase the bilateral trade to 500 million US dollars in three years. They directed all concerned to take effective measures to achieve the target of bilateral trade.
11. President Rahmon expressed appreciation for the generous offers by Pakistan for human resource development in Tajikistan in various areas, in particular diplomacy and defence.
12. The two leaders recognized the importance of air connectivity for the promotion of people-to-people contacts, economic relations and tourism. President Rahmon welcomed the decision by Pakistan to permit Somon Air of Tajikistan to operate on Dushanbe-Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Faisalabad or Quetta sectors and hoped for early resumption of flight connections between the two countries.

13. The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's offer to Tajikistan to use Pakistani sea ports for its imports and exports, these Pakistani ports provide the shortest route to the sea.
14. President Rahmon welcomed the development of China - Pakistan Economic Corridor, which will also facilitate connectivity between Pakistan & Tajikistan and other Central Asian States.
15. The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's support to the request by Tajikistan to accede to the Quadrilateral Agreement on Traffic in Transit among China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. This will further improve regional connectivity.
16. Keeping in view the security situation in the region, the two leaders emphasized the need to strengthen cooperation against threats of extremism and terrorism, cross-border organized crime, drugs and human trafficking and other threats to regional and global security.
17. Both the leaders also discussed regional and international issues including Afghanistan and reaffirmed their resolve to support reconciliation process in Afghanistan, which was crucial for peace and stability in the country and the region. They also resolved to support the Heart of Asia-Istanbul process, Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan and other multilateral processes for peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.
18. The President and the Prime Minister expressed their satisfaction with the growing military cooperation between the two countries and committed to further strengthen the defence capability of the Armed Forces of Tajikistan.
19. Both the leaders noted with satisfaction the excellent cooperation between these countries at the UN, OIC, ECO, SCO and other multilateral regional and international fora.
20. The two leaders agreed that reform of the UN Security Council should aim at making this important body more democratic, representative, accountable and transparent. It should take into account interests of the large majority of the developing countries rather than creating more centers of privilege for a few.
21. The following Agreements/MoUs were signed in the presence of the two leaders:
 - Treaty on Extradition between Pakistan and Tajikistan
 - Cooperation Agreement in the field of energy between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
 - Memorandum of understanding for enhancement of cooperation in industrial sector between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
 - Memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
 - Agreement for the establishment of Joint Business Council (JBC) between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of

Tajikistan and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

- Programme of cooperation (POC) between Academy of sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and Pakistan council of scientific and industrial research (PCSIR) Ministry of science and technology on "exploitation of indigenous and exotic medicinal plants for herbal drugs";
- Programme of cooperation (POC) for scientific research cooperation between Institute of geology, earthquake engineering and seismology, Academy of sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan and Pakistan museum of natural history (PMNH).

22. President Emomali Rahmon expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for extending warm welcome and generous hospitality to him and his entourage. President Emomali Rahmon extended an invitation to Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to pay a state visit to Tajikistan, which was accepted. The dates for the visit will be determined through diplomatic channels.

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

L. UNITED NATIONS

Statement by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, at the Interactive Dialogue 1, ending poverty and hunger, during the UN summit for the adoption of Post 2015 Development Agenda

Prime Minister Dr. Miro Cerar, (Slovenia)

Prime Minister Mr. Ralph Gonzalves, (Saint Vincent & Grenadines)

It is a great privilege to join this highly significant Summit of our times.

The ambitious 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda that was adopted this morning can open a new era of prosperity and well-being for all.

Poverty eradication remains the most important unfinished agenda for humanity.

It is recognized, in the Post 2015 Agenda, as the paramount global challenge and an indispensable pre-requisite for sustainable development.

Hunger is an important manifestation and consequence of poverty.

Our dialogue today is therefore extremely important.

Excellencies,

MDGs inspired global efforts towards human development and poverty eradication. We have witnessed significant progress during the last 15 years in achieving the MDG target of halving the number of people living below the poverty line.

But when we dissect the underlying data, we find that a major portion of this reduction is attributable to China. If the China's outstanding performance in reducing poverty is put aside, the MDG target for vast majority of developing

countries has not been achieved. This challenge becomes even more serious when the World Food Summit target of halving the percentage of people below the poverty line is taken into account. These will require special attention.

Around a billion people or one sixth of the mankind continue to be extremely poor and over two billion are still poor on the definition of \$2 a day.

The number of chronically under nourished people is also correspondingly large and fluctuates from one year to the next.

The chronic causes of poverty - lack of access to assets or income earning opportunities and inability to participate effectively in the product or labour market are now aggravated by several new challenges.

These include climate change and the resultant natural disasters plus global, regional and local wars that are swelling the flood of refugees and pushing millions more into deep and de-humanizing poverty.

I hope the International Community as a whole will now recognize that the proposed SDG target for eliminating poverty by 2030, will be difficult to achieve through a continuation of existing policies or "business as usual" approach. It will require:

- Renewed political commitment to accord the highest priority to this goal in all decisions and actions at the global, regional and national levels, since the real obstacles are essentially political.
- A systemic elimination of all policies at the global and national levels discriminate against poor farmers, poor fishermen and poor households by giving them enhanced market access.
- Support special programmes to promote inclusive growth and assist in expanding education and income earning skills for the poorest segments of the population in every country.
- Fulfilling the unfinished ODA commitments and mobilizing much larger public and private resources, specially for least development countries, as Sustainable Goal 17 calls for.
- Improving the terms of trade for developing countries by addressing technology and capacity issues.
- Much greater emphasis on promoting employment and protecting real wages in global and national policies.
- Upscaling and expanding legal, institutional and development programmes for the empowerment of women and other deprived communities in all countries.
- Targeting micro-finance to the needs of the poor and ensuring access to the credit market for the poor and small farmers.
- Much larger international support for successful social safety net programmes in developing countries. Pakistan has evolved such programmes and their details can be shared with you.
- Effective adaption and mitigation of the impact of climate change on vulnerable sectors, like agriculture and those living in flood prone areas, through well managed Disaster Management Authorities.

- Greatly expanding resources available with international organizations responsible for refugees and disasters to ensure that children affected by civil wars, terrorism or national disaster get the required nutrition and do not suffer irreparable damage to their further growth.

Excellencies,

Revitalized global partnership and enabling international environment is critical for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2030 and halving poverty in all its other dimensions.

Islamabad, 26 September 2015. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

II: Political Development

Excerpt from ICG's *Asia Report*, 'Revisiting Counter-terrorism Strategies in Pakistan: Opportunities and Pitfalls'

Executive Summary

The 16 December 2014 attack on an army-run school in Peshawar, which killed 150, mainly children, claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (Taliban Movement of Pakistan-TTP), was ostensibly a game changer. A week later, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) government unveiled a new counter-terrorism strategy, the twenty-point National Action Plan (NAP), with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Army Chief Raheel Sharif vowing to target all terror groups without distinction. Six months later, amid continued terror attacks, the NAP looks far more like a hastily-conceived wish-list devised for public consumption during a moment of crisis than a coherent strategy. Reliance on blunt instruments and lethal force to counter terrorism risks doing more harm than good when they undermine constitutionalism, democratic governance and the rule of law and provide grist to the jihadis' propaganda mill. A reformed and strengthened criminal justice system is pivotal to countering terror threats and containing violent extremism.

The militarisation of counter-terrorism policy puts at risk Pakistan's evolution toward greater civilian rule, which is itself a necessary but not sufficient condition to stabilise the democratic transition. While the report addresses the coercive side of a counter-terrorism policy and how to make it more efficient, without structural and governance reform, the root causes of terrorism and extremism will remain unaddressed, and violent jihadis will continue to exploit the absence of rule of law. The military's continual undermining of civilian authority since democracy's restoration in 2008 will remain a major challenge to meaningful and sustained reform. Yet, the political leadership also bears responsibility for failing to push back and, as a result, under-mining its credibility and authority.

After inaugurating the NAP on 24 December, the Sharif government implemented two major demands of the military without delay: lifting the predecessor government's 2008 moratorium on the death penalty; and passing on 6 January 2015 the 21st constitutional amendment, empowering special military courts to try all terrorism suspects, including civilians. Yet, the vast majority of the 176 executions since late December have been for crimes unrelated to terrorism, and the military courts weaken constitutional protections and due process. Other newly-created parallel structures, including provincial "apex committees", enable the military to bypass representative institutions and play a more direct role in governance. Armed with new legal tools, the military has further marginalised civilian institutions in devising and implementing counter-terrorism policy.

Despite claims to the contrary, the military, which has almost complete control over national security and counter-terrorism policy, also still distinguishes between "bad" jihadi groups, those targeting the security forces, and "good" jihadi groups, those perceived to promote its strategic objectives in India and Afghanistan. Anti-India outfits such as Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JD), the renamed version of the banned Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT), have even expanded their activities through so-called charity fronts. Military-backed Afghan insurgents, such as the Haqqani Network, have not been targeted in ongoing operations in the North Waziristan agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). Instead, the Haqqanis, like the LeT/JD, have been kept off Pakistan's list of terrorist groups.

Unsurprisingly, there is little evidence of progress on many NAP targets. Groups and individuals banned in Pakistan and also blacklisted under UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1267, continue to operate freely. Efforts to regulate the madrasa sector, curb hate speech and literature and block terrorist financing have been hap-hazard at best.

A reformed and strengthened criminal justice system could have helped to achieve NAP's objectives. The Sharif government still has an opportunity, albeit fast shrinking, to reverse course and meaningfully overhaul counter-terrorism strategy, but this necessitates revoking major policy concessions to the military. The government should take on that challenge in order to replace an overly militarised response with a revamped, intelligence-guided counter-terrorism strategy, led by civilian law enforcement agencies, particularly the police. Dismantling terror networks, detaining and trying jihadi leaders and foot soldiers, disrupting terror financing and ending radicalisation through hate speech and literature will require reallocating limited resources in order to strengthen the capacity of the provincial police forces. While the three basic bodies of law, the Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act, need to be modernised, it is even more urgent to build police capacity to enforce them. That capacity has been gravely eroded due to the inadequacy of resources, training, internal accountability and autonomy.

An empowered, resourced police force remains the most credible tool for enforcing a sustained and successful counter-terrorism strategy. The current emphasis on revenge and retribution and the emasculation of fundamental rights

and rule of law are under-mining citizen confidence in the state to deliver justice, a flawed approach that also fuels grievances that benefit the violent extremists the NAP is aimed at combatting.

Recommendations

To develop a civilian-led and intelligence-based counter-terrorism strategy

To the federal and provincial governments:

1. Make the expansion, modernisation and effectiveness of local and provincial police forces' investigation branches a top counter-terrorism priority, including through training and technology in crime-scene investigation and case building.
2. Disband the new parallel counter-terrorism forces and absorb their personnel and functions into regular police cadres after requisite training.
3. Reform the Evidence Act to shift focus from witness testimony to modern scientific evidence; and invest in strong state-protection programs for witnesses, investigators, prosecutors and judges in terrorism and other major criminal cases.
4. Enhance police operational autonomy and accountability, including by ensuring that the provincial police inspector general (IG) is appointed on merit and granted full authority over the force.

To the provincial police leadership:

5. Undertake a comprehensive examination of their force to determine staffing and training needs, with particular emphasis on developing effective investigation cadres; and establish career progression paths that depend on performance.
6. Review comprehensively and reform the training curriculum, in consultation with in-house and external experts, so as to create learning modules for intelligence-led counter-terrorism operations that include an emphasis on the police role in curbing hate speech and literature and enforcing the law against clerics, mosques and madrasas advocating or supporting violence.

For robust monitoring of banned groups and individuals

To the federal and provincial governments:

7. Reconcile Pakistan's list of banned groups under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) 1997 with the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1267 committee blacklist; and make both lists available to the federal and provincial police, other law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and the public.
8. Develop a regularly-updated list of officers and members of banned groups, and enforce requisite curbs on travel, bearing arms, financial transactions and other proscribed activities.

9. Update periodically the ATA's Fourth Schedule, listing known suspects belonging to banned organisations, and require police stations and district police superintendents to account regularly for the individuals on the Fourth Schedule in their jurisdictions.
10. Ensure that the police investigate and monitor all madrasas, mosques and charities with known or suspected links to banned groups under the ATA or the UNSC 1267 blacklist, as well as those that maintain armed militias, or whose administrators and/or members propagate hate and/or incite violence and other criminal acts within or from the country.

To curb terrorist financing and money laundering

To the federal and provincial governments:

11. Develop a specialised cell within the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to investigate terror financing and money laundering; and establish concurrent jurisdiction over such cases between the FIA and specialised provincial police units and counter-terrorism departments.
12. Make anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing methods an integral part of the police training curriculum, based on international standards.
13. Require banks and other financial institutions to install, with international assistance, software for crosschecking names of existing and potential clients against those sanctioned under the ATA; and ensure provincial police are given this information and information gained from comprehensive audits of madrasas, mosques and charities with known or suspected affiliations to violent jihadis.
14. Enhance the state's ability to curb terror financing within and from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) by extending the jurisdiction of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province police, FIA and other relevant civilian law enforcement agencies to the tribal belt.

To achieve a sustainable counter-insurgency strategy in FATA

To the federal government and parliament:

15. Pass Senator Farhatullah Babar's constitutional amendment bill extending the jurisdiction of the superior judiciary to FATA; and follow up with another constitutional amendment that repeals Article 247, ends FATA's separate legal status and extends the jurisdiction of the police and other civilian law-enforcement agencies to FATA.
16. Abolish the 1901 Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR), replacing it with the Pakistan Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code.

Islamabad/Brussels, 22 July 2015

Source: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/271-revisiting-counter-terrorism-strategies-in-pakistan-opportunities-and-pitfalls.pdf>