

Documents

January-June 2014

I. Foreign Policy

A. AFGHANISTAN

1. Message of felicitations from the President of Pakistan to the President-elect of Afghanistan

“Excellency,

I wish to convey my warm greetings on your success in the Afghan Presidential elections. This is an acknowledgement of the trust that the Afghan people have in your dynamic leadership and the far-reaching programme for public welfare.

Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoy deep-rooted ties based on commonalities of faith, culture and history. It is our constant endeavour to build a strong, stable and cooperative bilateral relationship that advances the interests of our two peoples and promotes peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

I look forward to working with you to further broaden and deepen Pakistan-Afghanistan relations and strengthening mutual collaboration for enhanced regional cooperation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Mamnoon Hussain)

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Excellency,
Mr. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai
President-elect,
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Kabul”

Islamabad, 21 September 2014.

2. Prime Minister’s Address at the London Conference on Afghanistan

**Prime Minister David Cameron,
President Ashraf Ghani,
His Highness,
Secretary John Kerry,**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I thank Prime Minister David Cameron for organizing this important Conference on Afghanistan.

Let me begin by reiterating that Pakistan remains in strong solidarity with the people of Afghanistan.

Excellencies,

We are aware of the challenges that history and geography have consistently posed for the people of Afghanistan.

Only recently our brothers have suffered fresh casualties from terrorist attacks in Paktika and Kabul. I offer my sincere condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones.

Excellencies,

Over the past 13 years, Afghanistan has made significant gains in many important areas. The landmark agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, to form a government of national unity is an important milestone in this democratic transition.

We fully support the Government's forward-looking vision and reform programme – including measures to strengthen the economy, governance, and the rule of law – with the overall aim of achieving self-reliance during the “Transformation Decade,” and its plans for regional connectivity.

We have also welcomed the government's call for dialogue, and its determination to resolve differences through political means.

Excellencies,

I recently had the privilege of welcoming President Ashraf Ghani on his first state visit to Pakistan. I am convinced that we made a historic new beginning in our bilateral relations.

I shared with President Ghani my vision of a comprehensive and enduring partnership between Pakistan and Afghanistan, which contributes to the security and prosperity of our two nations and reinforces efforts for peace and development in the region.

We agreed that terrorism, a common enemy, must be fought through common endeavours, without any distinction. We reaffirmed the commitment that neither side would allow its territory to be used against the other.

We have initiated actions to deepen security cooperation, promote bilateral trade and streamline transit trade issues, build a stronger economic relationship with a new focus on investments, and enhanced regional economic cooperation.

We have also agreed to fast-track the implementation of key trans-regional energy projects – particularly CASA-1000 and TAPI gas pipeline.

We would also work together to promote the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process – as Pakistan will host its 5th Ministerial Conference in 2015.

Excellencies,

While recognizing the principle of reciprocal commitments, underlining the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF), it is our considered view that the international community would need to do more, to help the Afghan leadership realize its vision and to advance our common goal of a peaceful, stable, united and prosperous Afghanistan.

Specifically, I propose nine points for consideration by the international partners:

- i) Send a clear message of deeper engagement with Afghanistan.
- ii) Respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the dignity of its people.
- iii) Help address the urgent fiscal crisis and provide sustained financial assistance through the “Transformation Decade”, for building a secure and self-reliant Afghanistan.
- iv) Build development cooperation according to the development priorities of the Afghan government.
- v) Strengthen efforts in the fight against narcotics production and trafficking.
- vi) Support the new government’s desire to bring back 5 million Afghan refugees living abroad, by helping to create conducive conditions for their sustainable reintegration.
- vii) Support projects for regional connectivity – such as the Peshawar-Kabul Motorway and the rail link.
- viii) Implement the vision of Afghanistan as a “land-bridge” by supporting communications and energy corridors.
- ix) Reinforce economic CBMs of the Heart of Asia, as part of the regional processes for the stabilization of Afghanistan.

I thank you all.

Islamabad, 4 December 2014. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk.

B. ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF)**Statement by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Syed Tariq Fatemi for the 21st ARF****“Excellency Wunna Maung Lwin, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Myanmar**

Let me begin by expressing our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Myanmar for making excellent arrangements and successful deliberations for the success of this Forum. You deserve our congratulations, Mr. Minister.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As has been stressed in the past, it is Pakistan’s keen desire to build deeper trade and economic linkages with South East Asian countries and ASEAN. To

achieve this purpose, we remain committed to promoting our relations with ASEAN and South East Asian economies, and to eventually achieve Full Dialogue Partnership status with ASEAN. We urge all members of ASEAN to support our case for Full Dialogue Partnership. Just to remind the distinguished members, Pakistan is the oldest Sectoral Dialogue Partner with ASEAN whose Full Dialogue Partnership has been put on hold since 1993!

Excellencies,

As a peace loving country, one of the core principles of our foreign policy has been to promote and work toward building a peaceful neighborhood. In this context, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has always emphasized the significance of cooperation over confrontation in the region and beyond.

Excellencies,

Our strong opposition to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is evident, once again in the recently launched military operations against all terrorists, irrespective of their affiliation and orientation.

Excellencies,

Pakistan also wishes to join our colleagues here this afternoon in expressing our deep condolences and sympathies over the death of so many innocent lives in the tragic MH17 Malaysian aircraft crash. We call for the repatriation of the remains of the victims, at the earliest.

Excellencies,

Pakistan also calls for the peaceful resolution, through friendly dialogue, of differences relating South China Sea, so that peace and stability in this important region is not disturbed.

It is also a matter of grave concern for Pakistan and is for the world community that the growing bitterness in intra-regional relations and the advent of proxy forces in the conflicts has made the situation worse. All of us, therefore, need to play our role for the diplomatic and peaceful solution to these conflicts. It would be helpful if all of us support the UN resolutions, adopted from time to time, for the resolution of such disputes.

Excellencies,

I support the sentiments of my colleagues present here when I convey our deep sense of grief, anguish and distress over the current violence and aggression in Gaza. To stop the bloodshed, Pakistan has strongly condemned Israeli aggression and expressed solidarity with the Palestinians. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to emphasize the need for early resolution of the Middle East conflict in a just and equitable manner, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions. Let me also add here that in response to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) flash appeal for Gaza, Pakistan has contributed USD one million to the fund created for this purpose.

Excellencies,

The situation in Iraq has become a matter of deep concern to all of us, while the situation in Syria continues to deteriorate. We strongly feel that the only viable option is engagement in dialogue. We are apprehensive that if the conflict is allowed to fester, this could lead to extreme regional instability, particularly a sectarian conflagration, with unbearable consequences.

Distinguished guests,

History has presented us with an opportunity to convert the 21st century into a truly Asian Century by avoiding new conflicts and resolving the old ones. ARF is an important instrument to realize this objective. We need to harness the potential this organization and its membership to harmonize our collective response towards increasing regional cooperation and security environment through dialogue and diplomacy. Our common cause and diversity should in fact become our strengths that would lead us to path of negotiations and resolutions of difference and viable solutions to our numerous afflictions.”

I thank you all!

10 August 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*

C. ASEM

Statement by H.E. Syed Tariq Fatemi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, 10th ASEM Summit in Milan

“Europe-Asia Partnership in Addressing Global Matters in an Inter-Connected World”

Excellencies,

While thanking our host Italy for the excellent arrangements for the conference, and welcoming Kazakhstan and Croatia in our midst, I wish to point out that remarkable transformations have taken place the world over, during the span of a few decades. Some of these have promoted regional and global connectivity, breaking down barriers to movement of persons, resources and information. Others have erected new walls of suspicion and misgivings, adding to the challenges that we are facing in our individual and collective capacity.

The Asia Europe Meeting undoubtedly has an ambitious aim to bridge differences and to promote harmonization between our two great continents. Notwithstanding differences of opinion, we have no doubt about the scope of cooperation made possible, because of ASEM.

Excellencies,

I will present a brief snapshot of Pakistan’s policy on important regional and global issues.

Our growth rate shows a marked upward trend which has been appreciated by international financial institutions. Investors are offered a business friendly environment and connectivity into a much larger region.

Excellencies,

Extreme weather patterns are disrupting societies and economies. In Pakistan, we continue to be confronted with natural calamities. The recent monsoon floods have killed hundreds of people, dislocated millions, destroyed and damaged homes, livelihoods, infrastructure, cattle and crops. We are mobilizing all our resources to provide relief and to ensure recovery.

We are convinced that it is also our collective obligation to intensify efforts to move from mere commitment to action on climate change. This is why Pakistan proposes a tangible ASEM activity on the theme of “The Impact of Climate Change on River flows and Melting Glaciers.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the United Nations, we are setting ourselves the target of eradicating poverty by 2030. This calls for a fresh approach to eliminate conflict and violence, curtail inequality and instability, minimize poverty and deprivation, eradicate terrorism, and bridge the vast gap between the haves and have nots. These would enable us to ensure healthy lives, empower women and girls, improve quality of education, create jobs, and guarantee supply of affordable energy. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Malala Yousafzai would surely serve as an inspiration to the youth of Pakistan, and the world.

Excellencies,

Pakistan stands in solidarity with the fraternal Afghan people, especially as they go through momentous security, political and economic transitions. We reiterate our earnest hope that these landmark processes would culminate in the emergence of a stronger, more stable, and unified Afghanistan.

Pakistan maintains its policy of good neighborly relations with all its neighbors. To this end, the Prime Minister of Pakistan reached out to the new Indian leadership. Unfortunately, the abrupt cancellation of Foreign Secretary - level talks by our Eastern neighbour, followed by escalation of ceasefire violations are a setback to the peace prospect. It is our earnest hope that they would respond to our calls for establishing peace and tranquility and engaging in a constructive and result-oriented dialogue process.

Excellencies,

The emergence of new militant entities in the Middle East, once again, illustrates that terrorism is a global threat. Its root causes must be addressed.

Excellencies,

Achieving energy security is a priority objective for all developing countries. A

significant approach towards achieving energy security is through peaceful nuclear cooperation.

Pakistan maintains a principled stance on the transfer of civil nuclear technology that should be inclusive, non-discriminatory and based on criteria and parity.

Excellencies,

We need to build upon the intersection of European capital, technology and expertise on the one hand, and Asian growth and resources, including human resources, and markets on the other. Areas of joint cooperation should evolve into active collaboration in the fields of technology, education, climate change, trade and commerce. However, to benefit from these complementarities, we need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this ASEM set up, to enhance its relevance.

Thank you.

Islamabad, 17 October, 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

D. BAHRAIN

Message of felicitations by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Prime Minister of Bahrain

Your Highness,

I have great pleasure in conveying to Your Royal Highness my heartiest felicitations on your re-appointment as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain. Your appointment for another term as the Prime Minister of Bahrain reflects confidence of the people owing to your commendable achievements in the last term. I look forward to further enhancement of our brotherly cooperation in your next term as the Prime Minister.

I also wish to congratulate the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for successful holding of free and fair general elections on 22 and 29 November 2014. The participation of people of Bahrain in these elections in large numbers demonstrates their faith in the political system and confidence in the leadership of Bahrain.

I pray for well-being, good health and long life for Your Royal Highness and for peace, development and prosperity for the people and the Kingdom of Bahrain.

(Muhammad Nawaz Sharif)

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Royal Highness

Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa,

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Unquote”

Islamabad, 4 December, 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*

E. CHINA

1. Message of felicitations from President Mamnoon Hussain on the occasion of National Day of Peoples Republic of China

“Excellency,

On behalf of the government and people of Pakistan as well as my own, it gives me immense pleasure to extend heartfelt felicitations to you and the people and Government of China on the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Founding of the People’s Republic of China.

Pakistan and China are iron brothers. We enjoy unshakeable friendly relations based on mutual respect and common perceptions on many regional and international issues.

The unfolding of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has heralded a new era of enhanced bilateral cooperation in our relationship, leading to mutual development and prosperity. I am confident that the existing bonds of friendship between our two fraternal countries will go from strength to strength, and our all-weather strategic partnership will continue to serve the interests of our two peoples and the cause of peace, stability and prosperity.

In recent years, China has achieved remarkable progress in transforming the lives of its people. I am confident that, under your inspiring leadership, the Chinese people will attain even greater heights of glory and realize the Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation.

I wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and continued peace and progress for the people of China.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Mamnoon Hussain)

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping,
President of the People’s Republic of China”

Islamabad, 30 September 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*

2. Address by the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs at the Concluding Session of the Trilateral Dialogue -- China-Afghanistan-Pakistan, hosted by the Pakistan-China Institute and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Islamabad

“Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute,
Mr. Ronny Heine, Director Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Assalam-o-Alaikum and Good Afternoon,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here and interact with a group of such distinguished scholars, academics, strategists and experts.

I am grateful to Senator Mushahid Hussain for his gracious invitation and commend the Pakistan-China Institute and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for holding this International Conference.

I also welcome all the scholars, from Pakistan and abroad, for their participation and respective contributions.

The Pakistan-China Institute has fast evolved into a vibrant and active think-tank and become a highly important platform for public policy discourse. It would not be an exaggeration if I said it personifies Senator Mushahid's energy and drive.

This track 1.5 trilateral China-Afghanistan-Pakistan dialogue, to discuss security and political situation in Afghanistan and its implications for neighbouring countries, is a welcome initiative.

Equally so is the China-Pakistan Institute's partnership with the China Institute of International Studies, which enabled the holding of the first round of this dialogue process in Beijing in August 2013.

Continuing these discussions in Islamabad now, at this pivotal moment in Afghanistan's history, is both timely and beneficial for the policy community -- not only in our three countries, but also the wider region.

I am cognizant that in several sessions since yesterday morning, the participants have extensively deliberated on recent developments in the political transition in Afghanistan and the impact of the emerging security environment on Pakistan-Afghanistan relations.

Key issues including counter-terrorism cooperation, economic integration, and role of certain regional countries have been analyzed.

The participants have also discussed border security, Afghan national reconciliation process, and regional economic linkages.

I congratulate the organizers and presenters on successfully covering this vast array of important subjects and formulating pertinent "Policy Recommendations." These recommendations offer a valuable input into the ongoing policy debate regarding Afghanistan in the region and beyond.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This, undoubtedly, is a moment of hope and optimism in Afghanistan. The successful completion of the electoral process and formation of the national unity government are landmark achievements.

The first-ever peaceful transfer of power from one elected President to another elected President is, rightfully, a matter of pride for the Afghan people.

This outcome became possible due to the wisdom and sagacity of Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, who placed national interest above all else. It would go a long way in strengthening the stability and unity of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan is indeed fortunate to have the bold vision and strong leadership of President Ashraf Ghani at this crucial juncture. His agenda of

change and reform is far-reaching. The “Triangle of Stability” -- economy, security and human resource --that he emphasizes is indispensable for Afghanistan.

I was in Kabul yesterday, and it was a great privilege listening to President Ashraf Ghani’s vision – vision for a secure and prosperous Afghanistan; for a “special relationship” between Afghanistan and Pakistan; and for a connected and economically integrating region.

I shared with him Pakistan’s commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s desire to build a comprehensive and enduring partnership between our two countries.

I also shared with him the Prime Minister’s vision of an inter-connected region, where trade flourishes and energy flows – through transport corridors, electricity grids, and gas pipelines.

We agreed that peace and stability are prerequisites for the realization of our agenda of economic development and higher standards of living for our peoples.

We recognized that our task was not easy, as the challenges, too, are numerous – including extremism, terrorism, narcotics, and trans-national crimes.

But we also recognized that these challenges can be met through our common resolve and common endeavours and we can march together, hand-in-hand, towards greater peace, stability and prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The rise of China as a global actor is one of the most profound transformations of our times.

China’s policy of “peaceful development” and its growing international outreach serve as the pivotal framework for closer interaction with Afghanistan.

China is the only major power, sharing a border with Afghanistan and thus having a direct stake in its peace and stability. China also has had historically friendly ties with the Afghan people.

The deepening engagement between China and Afghanistan in the bilateral political, economic, security and cultural fields, and China’s contribution to Afghanistan’s “peaceful reconstruction”, are notable developments.

China’s investments in the Aynak copper mine project and Amu Darya Basin oil project signify a major effort to help Afghanistan strengthen the process of its economic development.

In the regional context, the Heart of Asia/Istanbul Process has benefited from China’s wise leadership over the past one year.

The Fourth Ministerial Conference being hosted by China in Beijing on 31 October would be a major occasion for the international community to reaffirm its solidarity with Afghanistan at a time of momentous transitions taking place there.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As strategic partners, Pakistan and China have a common stake in regional peace and stability.

The game-changing Economic Corridor project has immense potential to change the regional outlook in terms of connectivity and economic integration, from which Afghanistan can also benefit immensely.

Pakistan and China have convergent interests and shared goals vis-à-vis Afghanistan. We both want a peaceful, stable, prosperous, and united Afghanistan.

We both recognize that terrorism, extremism and narcotics are serious threats and believe that these should be neutralized through coordinated efforts.

Both Pakistan and China have supported a responsible drawdown by NATO/ISAF and a peaceful democratic transition in Afghanistan.

We both believe that a negotiated political reconciliation among all Afghan stakeholders is the best guarantee for sustainable peace.

Both Pakistan and China have consistently supported an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process.

We both are making our own respective contributions to the process of Afghanistan's reconstruction and economic development.

Both Pakistan and China see Afghanistan's potential as a "land bridge" and wish to promote its deeper economic integration with the region through linkages in trade, energy, communications, infrastructure, and connectivity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, as Afghanistan is poised to commence the Transformation Decade (2015-2014), it needs strong support of the international community to preserve and consolidate the gains made over the past 13 years.

Such support is also vital for enabling Afghanistan to manage the security and economic transitions and become self-reliant in these key realms over the coming decade.

Conscious of the lessons of history, Pakistan has been consistently stressing that there should be no repeat of the 1990s. In our view, every effort should be made to ensure that neither there is any attempt from outside to fill any perceived security vacuum in Afghanistan, nor is there any economic vacuum allowed to emerge.

International community's enhanced engagement for Afghanistan's economic development and reconstruction remains critical, as it would have a reinforcing effect on efforts for peace and stability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Trilateral China-Pakistan-Afghanistan cooperation is of immense importance for most of these challenges.

The three countries already have mechanism for political consultations. Trilateral Dialogue at the level of the parliamentarians has been initiated. We are

coordinating closely in the regional fora, particularly the Heart of Asia/Istanbul Process.

As we move forward, we envisage such trilateral cooperation contributing concretely in the following areas:

- i) Supporting Afghanistan's efforts for peace and stability.
- ii) Addressing common challenges of extremism and terrorism.
- iii) Strengthening capacity-building of Afghan national security forces (ANSF).
- iv) Reinforcing Afghanistan's economic development, particularly in the mining sector.
- v) Promoting connectivity for trade and energy corridors.
- vi) Advancing a regional consensus on non-interference.
- vii) Mobilizing regional and international support for stability in Afghanistan.

I have no doubt that by engaging constructively across this broad spectrum we can effectively promote our vital goals of security and shared prosperity.

I thank you."

Islamabad, 20 October, 2014, [source:www.mofa.gov.pk](http://www.mofa.gov.pk).

F. FOREIGN POLICY

Statement by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, at the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

As you all are aware, for the past three weeks, Islamabad has seen continuing demonstrations by PTI and PAT. These demonstrations have brought the life in Islamabad to a standstill and severely hampered the working of the government machinery. The Chinese advance team which was here last week witnessed these disturbances and formed obvious conclusions about the unfortunate security situation created by these two parties.

In view of this unfortunate situation, the government of China has postponed the visit of President of China which was to take place later this month.

A formal announcement about the postponement will be issued simultaneously from both Islamabad and Beijing later today.

We were all looking forward to welcoming the president of one of the closest friends of Pakistan. The visit of the Chinese President was going to cap months of preparations, culminating in 38 MOUs and Agreements, both government to government and commercial, envisaging projects worth billions of dollars of investment in Pakistan, in various sectors of our national life, ranging from all important energy sector to infrastructure to economic and cultural cooperation. These agreements would have unleashed enormous opportunities for the growth and prosperity of the people of Pakistan.

We were all engaged in substantive preparations for the visit. Unfortunately, in the very final weeks, when our preparations were to be finalized, the Pakistan Secretariat, which houses all the Ministries, was closed down by these demonstrators. I am, however, pleased to inform the Committee that the Chinese authorities have agreed to re-schedule the visit of the Chinese President as early as possible so that the momentum generated by unprecedented pace of cooperation between our two countries can be maintained. We are in touch with the Chinese government on possible dates so that we can re-deem this situation and bring back the focus to the projects that were to be launched during the visit of the Chinese President.

In the coming months, the governments of Pakistan and China will work together and finalize all arrangements for the visit of Chinese President to Pakistan at an early date. Projects such as China Pakistan Economic Corridor are a landmark in our mutual cooperation, and would further cement the all weather relationship between our two countries and our two peoples into a strategic partnership.

Islamabad, 5 September 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

G. GCTF

Foreign Secretary Projects Pakistan's Perspective in his Speech to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF)

Foreign Secretary, Mr. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry projected Pakistan's perspective on issues pertaining to counter terrorism in his speech during the Fifth ministerial meeting of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) held on 23rd September on the sidelines of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The meeting was co-chaired by the US Secretary of State and the Foreign Minister of Turkey, and was attended by several Ministers and high-level officials of the GCTF member states.

GCTF was established in 2011 as a platform to identify civilian counter-terrorism needs, mobilize necessary expertise and resources to build state capacities, identify and share best practices in the realm of countering terrorism; and generate political will and understanding on counter-terrorism issues. Pakistan is one of the 30 founding members of the Forum.

In its statement, Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry expressed Pakistan's support for the work of GCTF especially in the field of countering violent extremism and the criminal justice and rule of law sector. He said that Pakistan stood with the international community in dealing effectively with issues of kidnapping for ransom, and the threat posed by the foreign terrorist fighters. He highlighted the efforts of the government of Pakistan in dealing with the scourge of terrorism as well as the numerous sacrifices rendered by the people of Pakistan

and its law enforcement agencies in this struggle. He underscored the need for developing persuasive logic in response to radical narratives; creation of conditions that offer economic opportunities to the youth; and addressing political grievances and long festering disputes, including their root causes in order to adopt a comprehensive approach towards dealing with terrorism.

The GCTF meeting adopted several documents containing best practices and recommendations on issues such as countering violent extremism, rule of law based approach towards countering terrorism, kidnapping for ransom and countering the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters.

Islamabad, 24 September 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*

H. INDIA

Statement by Advisor to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs on cease fire violations by India

Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, expressed his deep concern over the recent escalation of violations of the cease fire at the Line of Control and Working Boundary by the Indian security forces and issued the following statement:

“For seven days now, the Indian security forces have been firing and shelling across the Line of Control and Working Boundary. Yesterday was Eid day but the Indian forces, in complete disregard of the festive event, carried on the fire and put four innocent lives to death. The Eid day when Muslims celebrate the spirit of sacrifice, the Indian forces played havoc with the lives of four families whose dear ones embraced Shahadat. It is sad that the Indian government has not been able to restrain its forces despite strong diplomatic protest by Pakistan. We call upon Indian government to immediately cease fire and shelling and help us preserve tranquility.

The government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been exercising utmost restraint and responsibility. We also extended a hand of friendship to India. However, with abrupt cancellation of Foreign Secretary level talks, the Indian side has shunned all our peace overtures. We hope that the Indian side would give peace a chance. Cease fire at the Line of Control and the Working Boundary must be preserved in the larger interest of the region and the peoples of the two countries. We have often called for making full use of the channels available like hotline between DGs MO and Sector Commanders’ meetings. Unfortunately, all our efforts to secure peace and tranquility on the Line of Control and the Work Boundary have elicited no cooperation from the Indian side. UNMOGIP must also be enabled to play its due role in monitoring ceasefire to secure peace and tranquility on the Line of Control and Working Boundary”.

Islamabad, 07 October 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk*

I. OIC

Statement by Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs- Expanded Extraordinary Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the Level of Foreign Ministers on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory 12 August 2014 Jeddah

"His Royal Highness, Prince Saud Al-Faisal,
His Excellency, the Secretary General of OIC,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Excellencies,

In the last one month, the international community helplessly witnessed brutal carnage of innocent and unarmed Palestinians by Israel's defense forces, armed with the latest and sophisticated weaponry. While Israel brazenly called it a war to defend its national security, the world considered Israel's actions crimes against humanity. Pakistan's Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif led Pakistan's strong condemnation of Israel's aggression against Palestinians and termed it as genocide.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel's assault on unarmed Palestinian children and women was deliberate. And so assured was Israel of the lack of any consequence, that it pursued its massacre unflinchingly. Israel's disdain for international human rights and humanitarian law should be a matter of grave concern for the international community.

Up till now more than 1800 Palestinians, including more than 400 children and 200 women were sacrificed at the altar of political expediency that prevented global community from taking stern action against evident, gross and continued violations of international law by Israel.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan condemned, in the strongest terms, the atrocities committed by Israel in Gaza as well as its attacks against the UN premises. This condemnation was shared by the OIC Group as well as by the Non-Aligned Movement. The joint statements of OIC and NAM continued to call upon the UN Security Council to stop Israel from killing innocent civilians but to no avail.

During the one-month saga, the powerlessness of the UN Security Council, and the inaction of the United Nations as a whole, to prevent the bloodshed of Palestinians is regrettable. No doubt, the Security Council, being the premier international body for maintaining international peace and security, bears the burden of this failure to take effective and timely action. Even those who understand the political dynamics of the conflict, and the continued inaction by the UN Security Council, cannot condone or explain this major humanitarian crisis. The Security Council should have intervened to ensure a quick ceasefire to prevent the loss of precious and innocent lives. Instead it chose to release an ineffective Presidential statement and elements to the press.

Here, we must say that the States that prevented action by the United Nations bear major responsibility of the continued loss of innocent Palestinian lives.

Mr. Chairman,

The commendable efforts of the OIC Group in the Human Rights Council in Geneva resulted in convening of a Special Session of the Human Rights Council to discuss the grave situation in Gaza. Pakistan, as the Coordinator for the OIC Group in Geneva, played a key role in this regard. The Special Session adopted an important resolution (HRC Resolution S-21/1) that decided to dispatch an international commission of inquiry to investigate all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law and requested for reconvening a Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention. These decisions must be implemented expeditiously.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel has used excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate force. Its persistent and deliberate attacks on UN premises were clear and unambiguous violations of international law. It cast aside the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in its conduct of war. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said that these principles must be respected in military actions. Any attack violating these principles may amount to war crimes.

Mr. Chairman,

Throughout the history of Palestinian conflict in the Middle East, we have witnessed numerous ceasefires and their subsequent breakdowns. Each time the ceasefire presented an opportunity to build peace, the international community failed to capitalize. It is time that the international community realizes that there can be no enduring peace in the region *sans* a two-state solution. An independent, viable and geographically contiguous Palestinian State, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, living side by side with Israel, is the only way to guarantee peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

The present efforts for ceasefire in Gaza are fragile. These can, however, provide a window of opportunity to act. Pakistan, therefore, calls on the international community to:

- Consolidate an enduring ceasefire;
- Make efforts towards ending the blockade of Gaza thus providing much needed reprieve to the Palestinians;
- Affect release of more than 1000 Palestinian, imprisoned by Israel since June 2014;
- Assist UNRWA in its humanitarian efforts to help the Palestinians. With hundreds of thousands displaced and some 273,000 living in shelters, their needs cannot be ignored;

- Revive the peace process, as absence of peace talks imperils the fragile nature of the ceasefire; and
- Call for renewed efforts by the Quartet for engagement, conflict resolution and lasting peace.

Pakistan is making a modest contribution of US\$ 1 Million for food and medicines. We call upon the international community to contribute generously.

On its part, the OIC should take the following actions:

- Arab Heads of States and Heads of Governments should lead the resumption of Peace process, the sustenance of which should not be left solely with the Palestine and Israel;
- Promote unity and strengthen solidarity among OIC member states, thereby making it difficult for the international community to ignore its calls and resolutions;
- The member states, individually and collectively, should intensify efforts at various regional and international forums to support realization of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people, notably their right to self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
- Ensure that the resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council ((HRC Resolution S-21/1) is implemented in letter and spirit;
- Islamic countries, the Islamic Development Bank and private individuals should raise funds for rehabilitation of displaced Palestinians, reconstruction of Gaza and humanitarian relief work.
- To proceed in a coordinated manner, the OIC should work towards an action plan in the period leading up to the next session of the ICFM, for endorsement by the Foreign Ministers of the OIC member states.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman."

12 August 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

J. SRI LANKA

Joint Press Statement issued after Pakistan-Sri Lanka Foreign Secretary-level talks

Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and Sri Lanka, Mr. Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry and Mrs. Kshenuka Senewiratne held Fourth round of Political Consultations on 6th August 2014 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.

The Sri Lankan delegation comprised of H.E. Air Chief Marshal Jayalath Weerakkody, Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Senior DIG Anura Senanayake, Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, Mr. Dharshana Mahendra Perera, Acting DG/South Asia, Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Samantha Wijesekara, Deputy Director, Department of Commerce, Mrs. Tharanga Liyanage, Director (Middle East & SAARC), Department of External

Resources and officials of the Sri Lankan High Commission, while senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 12 other Government Departments were part of the Pakistani delegation.

The Foreign Secretaries recognized that based on political goodwill the two countries enjoy close and friendly relations, which have strengthened over the years. However, they agreed on the need to further consolidate them in diverse areas. They particularly sought enhanced cooperation in the fields of trade, education, culture and defence.

Mrs. Kshenuka Senewiratne briefed her Pakistani counterpart on the current developments in Sri Lanka including the efforts on rehabilitation, reconciliation and resettlement in the post war conflict areas.

The Sri Lankan side expressed deep appreciation for the steadfast support received from Pakistan at the international fora, particularly, at the recently concluded UNHRC session in Geneva in countering the elements that undermine the reconciliation process. She also appreciated the development assistance by the Government of Pakistan towards Sri Lanka's reconstruction efforts. The Sri Lankan side appreciated the scholarships provided by Pakistan in various fields of education and in training of their diplomats at the Foreign Service Academy. Sri Lanka also welcomed proposals from Pakistan for assistance in curriculum development in training in the health and gems and jewelry sectors. The Pakistan side reciprocated its appreciation for the scholarships offered by the Government of Sri Lanka for its nationals. It was agreed to further diversify and strengthen existing collaboration in the field of education.

Regional and global issues of mutual interest also came up for discussion during the Consultations. In this context, both sides agreed to a continued collaboration and cooperation. An exchange of views took place on a range of issues including matters of mutual interest, particularly in the region and working within the framework of SAARC.

The two sides committed to share experience and assistance in event of natural disasters and calamities. The leaders of the delegations finalized the proposed agreement on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management for signing during the forthcoming Presidential visit in Islamabad while reiterating the need for continuing cooperation in this.

Both sides reaffirmed their resolve to strengthen cooperation in countering terrorism, drug and human trafficking, asylum seekers problems, and transnational crimes in a comprehensive manner. It was agreed to continue the cooperation with renewed vigour, which includes training of security personnel.

Realizing the effectiveness of the Foreign Secretary-level consultations, they agreed to regularly hold the talks.

The consultations prepared ground for President Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit to Pakistan later this month. During the visit, the two leaders will take stock of the bilateral relations and identify potential areas for cooperation to the mutual benefit of the countries and its people.

Foreign Secretary Mrs. Kshenuka Senewiratne also called on the Prime Minister and Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs.

Islamabad, 6 August 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

K. SCO

Speech by head of Pakistan delegation to the 13th SCO Council of heads of government meeting

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me great pleasure to be in Astana today at this august gathering of leaders and representatives of SCO Member and Observer States. I would like to thank His Excellency Karim Massimov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, for hosting this event, and for the gracious hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I would also like to commend the Secretary General, Mr. Dmitry Mezentsev, for his efforts for development and strengthening of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Distinguished Guests,

The SCO's "Shanghai Spirit" has created a community based on mutual trust, equality, respect for diversity, and pursuit of common development. The SCO has put forward a cohesive agenda for the common security and economic development of our region. Since its establishment in 2001, the SCO has grown in relevance and influence, which is reflected in its interaction with important countries and international organizations.

As an organization that represents half of the world's population and some of its leading energy producers, SCO can be a force for promotion of common development and regional prosperity. Producing tangible economic progress that benefits the people of the region would also promote SCO's objectives of peace and stability.

Our region faces many challenges. Peace and Stability in Afghanistan is important for moving towards the objective of economic integration through greater connectivity. In this regard, the SCO member states have an important role to play.

In order to further promote growth, development and stability in the region, the SCO must collectively confront "the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism." Pakistan fully supports China's proposal to include combating drug trafficking as a priority area for the SCO. We must also enhance cooperation in the areas of information gathering and intelligence sharing among SCO Member and Observer States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan welcomes the adoption of the SCO Membership Program and the Template of Duties at the Dushanbe Summit in September this year. It is a major step forward in the development of SCO as an important international organization.

Pakistan attaches great importance to its interaction with the SCO. We were the first observer state to formally apply for full membership and are ready to engage with the SCO in fulfilling the requirements and procedures needed for Pakistan to attain the full membership of the organization.

Pakistan offers critical overland routes and connectivity networks for trade and energy cooperation within the region and beyond. Pakistan represents a natural land-bridge between SCO states and the Eurasian heartland on the one hand, and the Arabian Sea and South Asia, on the other. In fact, Pakistan's membership of the SCO, together with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and other infrastructure projects now underway, would serve as a catalyst for achieving the SCO's vision of regional economic integration. It would also strengthen the SCO's endeavours for promotion of peace, security and harmony in the region through economic uplift of our peoples.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization has achieved considerable success in the area of security by establishing cooperative mechanisms, like Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS). Given our counter-terrorism experience, Pakistan is in a position to contribute effectively towards the SCO's counter-terrorism effort.

We assure you that Pakistan, as an SCO member state and as a hub of regional trade and commerce, will contribute constructively to the progress of the region.

Pakistan's full membership would also make our participation in the group's activities more effective. The policies and programmes of the SCO are fully in line with Pakistan's immediate and long-term objectives.

The SCO provides an ideal forum for Pakistan to contribute to peace and stability in South Asia and Afghanistan. Together, we can finally eradicate the menace of terrorism from our region, and foster the strong bonds of trust and confidence that are so essential for development and prosperity.

We look forward to playing an even more robust role in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the future.

Thank you.

L. TURKMENISTAN**1. Mr. Sartaj Aziz, opening statement at the 4th session of the Pakistan-Turkmenistan Joint Governmental Commission**

**Excellency Mr. Rashid Meredov,
Deputy Chairman of Cabinet of Ministers (Vice-Premier) and Minister for
Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan,**

**Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen!**

It is a matter of honour and privilege for me to welcome His Excellency Mr. Rashid Meredov, Vice Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, to Pakistan. I also extend a warm welcome to members of his delegation for this 4th Session of the Pakistan-Turkmenistan Joint Governmental Commission (JGC). We hope your stay here is comfortable, and that you feel at home while in Pakistan.

Excellency,

Pakistan and Turkmenistan are two fraternal nations with a unique heritage of common faith, history and political affinity. We are proud that Pakistan was among the first countries to extend diplomatic recognition to Turkmenistan as an independent and sovereign state in 1991. We have watched with admiration the steady progress and prosperity that the brotherly people of Turkmenistan have achieved since independence.

We also appreciate the positive contribution being made by Turkmenistan to regional peace, stability and economic development. We believe this achievement owes substantially to the wisdom and foresight of the Turkmen leadership, and to the hard work and enterprise of the people of Turkmenistan.

Excellency,

The 3rd meeting of the Joint Governmental Commission took place in Ashgabat in April 2012. Since then, there has been a successful democratic transition in Pakistan. The new government under Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is pursuing a foreign policy, with “Peace for Development” as its defining principle. The Prime Minister’s vision places a central emphasis on building a “peaceful neighborhood” so that the core objective of Pakistan’s economic development could be robustly advanced.

The new government is also committed to comprehensively deepen Pakistan’s engagement with Central Asia, which forms a vital part of our extended neighborhood. This policy aims at forging comprehensive, multifaceted relationships with Central Asian states — both on the bilateral and regional planes. Our endeavour is to focus on areas that promote peace and stability, contribute to our respective plans for national economic development,

and foster greater regional cooperation for enhanced connectivity and shared prosperity.

Excellency,

It is extremely gratifying that the close, cordial ties between Pakistan and Turkmenistan continue to evolve into a strong partnership since 1991. Our bilateral relations have always been marked by mutual trust and understanding, and a desire to continuously expand the horizons of mutually-beneficial cooperation. Our two countries hold similar perspectives on major regional and international issues and work closely to promote common interests at various regional and multilateral fora.

It is equally gratifying that regular high-level visits from both sides have helped lay a solid foundation for the steady growth of our bilateral relationship. In the past two decades, the two countries have concluded around 25 agreements and MoUs in diverse fields — including trade, energy, agriculture and livestock, science & technology, education, health, sports and tourism. These instruments provide the requisite legal framework and put in place the necessary institutional mechanisms to enhance mutual collaboration in key areas of common interest.

The Pakistan-Turkmenistan Joint Governmental Commission represents the most important platform to shape the nature and direction of our bilateral cooperation. Over the years, the JGC has helped facilitate fruitful exchanges in the political, trade, economic, scientific and technical, and human resource development fields. We have no doubt that this process would be significantly advanced by the 4th Session, commencing today.

As we delve deeper into our agenda for this Session, I would like to underline that a vast potential exists in the areas of trade, energy, and economic cooperation, which can and must be harnessed through our joint resolve and concerted efforts. Of primary importance in this regard are: optimal implementation of existing agreements and MoUs; establishment of a permanent platform for our private sectors to engage in sustained B2B interface; governmental facilitation of business travel and exchanges for trade and investment promotion; and measures to reinforce air and land connectivity.

It is important that we focus on our respective comparative advantages and decide on concrete initiatives to intensify bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture, industry, communications, IT, and energy.

Excellency,

Pakistan is currently engaged in wide-ranging efforts to address severe energy shortages. In this regard, we are cognizant of Turkmenistan's potential as a reliable partner to help strengthen our energy security. The two countries have embarked upon a project for the export of 1000 MW of Turkmen electricity to Pakistan, through Afghanistan. We look forward to swift completion of this important undertaking.

Most importantly, we must continue to proactively pursue efforts for the early realization of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline project. This would not only yield rich dividends to the countries involved, but also advance the cause of regional cooperation for development.

Excellency,

Pakistan lies at the crossroads of South, Central and West Asia. Besides being a big market of more than 184 million people, Pakistan is a neighbor to big emerging economies, especially China with which we have launched a landmark “Economic Corridor” Project. Pakistan’s geographical location, and our investment friendly policies, offer vast opportunities. I am hopeful that the investors from Turkmenistan would take full advantage of these possibilities. Our government would extend maximum possible facilitation for this purpose.

I would also like to briefly highlight Pakistan’s recent economic performance and future prospects. Despite internal and external challenges — including global financial crisis, natural disasters, fight against terrorism, and energy crisis — Pakistan has been able to maintain a reasonable growth trajectory. Since 2008-09, the economy grew, on average, at around 3% annually. Despite all odds, the GDP growth rate during the first financial year of the present government was 4.14%. We will endeavor to increase the GDP growth by a further 1% per year, aiming to take it to 7% by 2017.

Our consistent efforts for economic revival are yielding impressive results, as illustrated by macro-economic stability, increase in foreign exchange reserves, robust performance of the stock market, growth in domestic revenue generation, reform of the public sector enterprises, and strengthening of social safety nets. Cumulatively, this improving economic outlook opens up further opportunities for profitable collaboration with international partners.

Excellency,

I should also note that our Session is taking place at a time when the region is going through a significant transformation. The success of many of our bilateral and regional initiatives depends on continued peace and stability, particularly in Afghanistan. We look forward to exchanging views on these important developments and reaffirming our common resolve to work together on the basis of our convergent interests and shared goals.

In conclusion, I once again warmly welcome you, Excellency, and the accompanying delegation, to Pakistan. I wish you a pleasant stay and a productive outcome of this Session.

Thank you.

Islamabad, 7 August 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

2. Concluding Remarks by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, at the conclusion of the 4th Session of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Joint Governmental Commission

“Excellency, Mr. Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkmenistan

**Distinguished delegates from both sides,
Ladies & Gentlemen,
Assalam-o-Alaikum and Good Afternoon!**

Excellency,

I am delighted to say that after extensive discussions by experts of both sides, we have taken a number of decisions to further intensify bilateral economic cooperation.

The Protocol of the Joint Governmental Commission, which we have signed, offers an elaborate road-map with time-lines for implementation and follow-up.

During this Session, our commonality of views was reaffirmed on the whole range of bilateral economic issues – including trade, commerce, energy, agriculture, industry, transportation, IT, civil aviation, and science & technology.

The outcome of the Joint Governmental Commission reflects our shared commitment to infuse a new dynamism in our bilateral relations.

Excellency,

Both sides recognize that there is a tremendous potential to significantly increase and diversify our trade. Pakistan, over the years, has successfully produced highly competitive and value-added products, such as garments, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, agricultural machinery and defence equipment. We would be happy to meet Turkmenistan’s requirements in these areas.

Moreover, good governance and prudent fiscal management in Pakistan have created an enabling and conducive environment for foreign investment and joint ventures in diverse fields. I reiterate our message for Turkmen investors to take advantage of these opportunities.

Excellency,

As we all know, in the present day market-based and deregulated global economy, the private sector’s role in boosting bilateral trade and investments is critical. It is imperative that our two governments facilitate interaction and collaboration between our business communities. Regular exchange of information on the facilities and incentives provided by each side would be an important step in that direction.

I welcome the decision for organizing the Joint Business Forum later this year, which will provide an opportunity to the businessmen and

entrepreneurs on both sides to learn about each other's trade and investment opportunities and thus help in enhancing bilateral trade. The two countries must also reinforce institutional arrangements to ensure regular, sustained and productive interface between the private sectors.

Excellency,

As we underlined during this Session, addressing energy shortages and enhancing energy security is one of Pakistan's top priorities. This is imperative for our economic growth and development. In this context, Pakistan-Turkmenistan partnership in the energy sector assumes great significance. I welcome the resolve from both sides to take steps for the early completion of the TAPI gas pipeline project.

I also welcome the broad range of possibilities we have considered to deepen bilateral collaboration in the oil and gas sector. I am confident that energy collaboration would form the nucleus of our economic partnership in the months and years to come.

I am equally pleased about our common commitment to strengthen regional connectivity *inter alia* through integrated transport corridor. Clearly, a more integrated region means a more prosperous region — a goal that we share and are committed to realize.

Excellency,

It has been a great pleasure having you and the distinguished members of the Turkmen delegation. Our exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues has further deepened our mutual trust and understanding and strengthened the growing Pakistan-Turkmenistan partnership. I have no doubt that our fraternal relationship, reinforced by common history and shared heritage, would continue to grow from strength to strength.

On behalf of the government of Pakistan, and on my own behalf, I thank you once again for your visit. It has undoubtedly helped us move forward in advancing our common goals and objectives.

I also take this opportunity to thank all members of the two delegations, who have contributed to the successful conclusion of this 4th Session of the Joint Governmental Commission. I wish you safe journey back to Ashgabat.”

I thank you.

Islamabad, 8 August 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

M. TUREKY

1. Message of Felicitations from Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his election as the President of the Republic of Turkey

“Excellency,

It is with profound pleasure that I extend my heartfelt felicitations to you and members of the AK Party on your election as the 12th President of the Republic of Turkey.

Your elevation to the highest office in Turkey is a reaffirmation of the Turkish nation's trust in your dynamic leadership, under which Turkey has made impressive strides in all fields.

I am confident that under your sagacious and visionary leadership, Turkey will continue its march towards greater prosperity, success and stability.

Pakistan and Turkey are bound by a deep-rooted, fraternal and abiding relationship. I have no doubt that during your Presidency, these bonds will further deepen and our strategic partnership will continue to grow from strength to strength.

I once again congratulate you on this historic electoral victory and wish you a very successful term in office.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Muhammad Nawaz Sharif)

Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan,
President-elect,
Republic of Turkey,
Ankara"

Islamabad, 11 August 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

2. Message of felicitations from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, addressed to H.E. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu, on his assumption of office as the Prime Minister of Turkey

"Excellency,

On behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, and on my own behalf, I take great pleasure in conveying our warmest felicitations on your assumption of the office of Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey.

Your elevation to this high office is a reflection of the confidence that the brotherly Turkish people repose in your leadership and forward-looking vision. We have no doubt that Turkey would continue its impressive march towards peace and progress under your wise guidance.

Pakistan and Turkey are bound by a special relationship, nurtured by successive generations in our two countries. It is deeply gratifying that our close, cordial relationship continues to acquire strategic dimensions.

I look forward to working closely with you in further expanding the horizons of our growing partnership, serving the best interests of our two nations and the cause of regional peace, stability and prosperity.

I pray to the Almighty to grant your Excellency success in your new responsibilities and wish continued progress and prosperity for the brotherly people of Turkey.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

His Excellency,
Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu,
Prime Minister of the
Republic of Turkey
Ankara”

Islamabad, 30 August 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

3. Statement by Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Heart of Asia partners meeting

**“H.E. Mr. Wang Yi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China,
H.E. Mr. Zazar Ahmad Osmani, Foreign Minister of Afghanistan,
Ministers,
Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished participants!**

It was Pakistan’s poet-philosopher, Allama Mohammad Iqbal, who in the 1930s characterized Afghanistan as *Qalb-e-Asya* -- the ‘Heart of Asia.’

In his inimitable style, Iqbal wrote in Persian, and I translate: “Asia is comparable to a living body. The heart that beats inside the body is the homeland of Afghans. The destruction of Afghans would be the destruction of Asia. In their [Afghan] progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia.”

Over eight decades later, these lines remain prophetic. Asia’s well-being remains tied to Afghanistan’s future.

We appreciate the inspiring inaugural address delivered by His Excellency Premier Li Keqiang. Pakistan fully supports China’s constructive contribution and Premier Li’s five point proposal for Afghanistan’s peace and economic development.

We are also grateful to His Excellency President Ashraf Ghani for his comprehensive statement. His bold vision and reform agenda and strong leadership are key to building a secure and prosperous Afghanistan.

This Ministerial Conference is a powerful illustration of the international community’s commitment to support Afghanistan in its quest for peace, progress and prosperity.

Excellencies,

Afghanistan is at the threshold of the Transformation Decade. There is well-placed optimism in the air.

Ensuring the success of political, security and economic transitions is critically important to preserving this precious moment of hope.

Pakistan has welcomed the historic transfer of power from one elected President to another elected President -- as part of the peaceful democratic transition that we have all along supported.

The agreement to form a national unity government is both a testimony to the statesmanship of the new Afghan leadership, and an essential framework for ensuring a stable and unified Afghanistan.

It is imperative to preserve and consolidate the gains made over the past 13 years.

For this purpose, the troop drawdown and the security transition must be managed in the most orderly and responsible manner.

No one from outside should seek to fill any perceived security vacuum. A regional consensus on non-interference remains indispensable for the stability of Afghanistan and the region.

An economic vacuum in Afghanistan could have fateful consequences.

Continued international engagement for financial support to Afghanistan is, therefore, indispensable.

The Afghan government must be helped with its urgent economic needs, and with its longer term goal of building a self-reliant economy.

Excellencies,

The cause of peace and stability in Afghanistan would be greatly advanced with an inclusive intra-Afghan reconciliation process.

We welcome and support the new Afghan leadership's call to the armed opposition for political talks with the government.

The international community should also be unanimous in calling upon all Afghan stakeholders to seek a peaceful solution, as a return to the 1990s would be unacceptable.

It cannot be stressed enough that reconciliation must be a truly Afghan-owned and Afghan-led process.

Countries in the region and beyond can support and facilitate, in ways that Afghanistan suggests.

Excellencies,

The fraternal ties between the peoples of Pakistan and Afghanistan go back several millennia, and have been fortified by geographical proximity, cultural affinity, and shared history.

Today, these are reinforced by the shared vision of our respective leaders for a comprehensive, forward-looking and enduring partnership.

We are working constructively to build the edifice of such partnership – committed to address common challenges through common endeavors.

We also have a common resolve to seize the historic opportunities before us and realize the immense untapped potential of our relationship.

Our engagement on the bilateral plane is deepening — as it encompasses peace and stability, counter-terrorism, counter drug efforts, border security and management, trade and economic cooperation, energy and connectivity, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

As countries situated at the confluence of major regions, Pakistan and Afghanistan also have a shared interest in enhanced regional cooperation.

President Ashraf Ghani's visit to Pakistan in the coming weeks would take forward this process of engagement in concrete terms.

Excellencies,

The 'Heart of Asia' process has evolved into an important platform for our collective endeavors in support of Afghanistan's stabilization.

We must all remain faithful to the common principles and commitments guiding the Istanbul Process.

Pakistan's involvement with all the six CBMs is a manifestation of our abiding interest in promoting the shared goals of stability and prosperity in the Heart of Asia, through constructive regional cooperation.

As co-lead with Kazakhstan on the Disaster Management CBM, Pakistan has been steering the agreed priority activities. We thank the member countries as well as supporting countries and organizations for their invaluable support.

I do also wish to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the wise stewardship provided to this process by China and Afghanistan as co-chairs since the Almaty Ministerial in 2013.

As we move forward, Pakistan will further enhance its contributions and work closely with our "Heart of Asia" partners to help advance the cause of regional cooperation and confidence building.

In consultation with the two co-chairs, China and Afghanistan, Pakistan has offered to host the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Istanbul Process. With renewed spirit of cooperation in the Heart of Asia region, Pakistan looks forward to intensifying our joint efforts for peace and development of Afghanistan.

I also reassure our brothers from Afghanistan that as they become masters of their destiny and continue their journey of peace and progress, the people of Pakistan will walk with them every step of the way.

I thank you."

31 October 2014. *Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.*

N. UNITED NATION**1. Statement by Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the General Debate of the Sixty-Ninth Session of the UN General Assembly****Mr. President,**

I congratulate Mr. Sam Kutesa over his election as the President of this Assembly. I assure him that his priorities – revitalization of the General Assembly, sustainable development, climate change and peaceful settlement of disputes – are also our priorities. Our delegation will extend its support to him, to achieve these objectives.

I also pay tribute to Mr. John Ashe for his effective leadership of the past session of the General Assembly.

We commend the Secretary General's efforts to find diplomatic solutions to complex challenges to international peace and security. We appreciate his leadership in hosting a Climate Summit.

Mr. President,

Extreme weather patterns are disrupting world economies. In Pakistan, we have directly experienced such a calamity only recently. The monsoon floods in Pakistan have killed hundreds of people, displaced millions, destroyed and damaged homes, livelihoods, infrastructure, cattle and crops. We are mobilizing all our resources and ingenuity to provide relief and to ensure recovery.

The international community should intensify its efforts to move from awareness to commitments to actions on climate change, which is playing havoc with the economies, particularly in the developing countries.

Mr. President,

This is a defining moment for the United Nations, as it embarks on the task of transforming the lives of billions of people, by investing in sustainable development in the next fifteen years.

We are setting ourselves a vital target of eradicating poverty by 2030. To do that, we need to go beyond the Millennium Development Goals. We need a new approach to eliminate conflict and violence and reduce inequality within and among nations. Only then, we will be able to ensure healthy lives, empower women and girls, improve quality of education, create jobs and guarantee supply of affordable energy.

The time is ripe for such ambition and action. The sustainable development goals crafted so far, must be woven in an overarching framework. We must prioritize them. First things should come first. Peace, stability, and inclusive economic growth – *all come first*.

Mr. President,

At the national level, we have launched our Vision 2025, which puts people *first*. This is inspired by our founding father, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali

Jinnah's vision of a welfare state, based on the principles of justice, equity and responsibility.

In the coming decade, we will develop human and social capital through investment in education, health and gender parity; stimulate sustained economic growth; prioritize energy, water and food security; modernize public sector, and encourage private sector-led entrepreneurship.

We have determined that regional peace and security, political stability in the country, the rule of law and social justice are absolutely crucial for the realization of these goals. Above all, we will continue to work for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Energy is key to economic development. Pakistan Co-Chairs the Group of Friends of UN Secretary General's initiative on Sustainable Energy for All. The objectives of this initiative are also our national goals.

Mr. President,

It is my government's aspiration and effort to build a peaceful neighborhood by pursuing a policy of constructive engagement.

In South Asia, our people have missed opportunities for prosperity because of unresolved conflicts. We have a choice today: continue with the *status quo* or to seize the moment to resolve all outstanding issues and free up our shared energies for cooperation. To take this course of high statesmanship, we need more, not less, dialogue and diplomacy. We need to respect each other's rights and sensibilities. We must have relationships based on equality, mutual respect and transparency.

We were disappointed at the cancellation of the Foreign Secretary-level talks by India. The world community, too, rightly saw it as another missed opportunity.

Pakistan is convinced that we must remain engaged in the dialogue process for settling disputes and building economic and trade relations. Let us not ignore the dividends of peace.

Mr. President,

More than six decades ago, the United Nations passed resolutions to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are still waiting for the fulfillment of that promise.

Many generations of Kashmiris have lived their lives under occupation, accompanied by violence and abuse of their fundamental rights. Kashmiri women, in particular, have suffered immensely.

For decades, attempts have been made, both under UN auspices and bilaterally in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration, to resolve this dispute.

The core issue of Jammu and Kashmir has to be resolved. This is the responsibility of the international community. We cannot draw a veil on the issue of Kashmir, until it is addressed in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan is ready to work for resolution of this issue through negotiations. Our support and advocacy of the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir is our historic commitment and a duty, as a party to the Kashmir dispute.

Mr. President,

Afghanistan is going through momentous security, political and economic transitions. As always, Pakistan stands in solidarity with the fraternal Afghan people. I congratulate the people of Afghanistan over the successful completion of the electoral process and offer our warm felicitations and good wishes to the new Afghan leadership.

It is our earnest hope that these landmark processes would culminate in the emergence of a stronger, more stable, and unified Afghanistan. We also hope that the process of inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation would move forward, contributing to greater harmony, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan.

Pakistan remains committed to forging a deeper bilateral relationship with Afghanistan on the basis of equal security and shared prosperity. Our two nations confront common challenges, which call for greater cooperation and understanding.

Afghanistan should become a pivot of strategic cooperation, rather than of rivalry. In the past year and a half, we have consciously reached out to Afghanistan to address difficult issues and build on convergences. We have made headway in this effort.

Pakistan continues to host, for the past 30 years, millions of Afghan refugees on its soil. This is the largest refugee caseload in the world. The international community must maintain and enhance support for the repatriation of these refugees and provide for their reintegration in Afghanistan.

To stem drug trafficking, it is important to pursue a comprehensive approach to eliminate poppy cultivation, reinforce border security, and interdict criminals. Pakistan is mainly a victim of drugs transit and trafficking. Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan and other states in the region, together with the UN, should step up their efforts to fight this menace.

Pakistan has launched a massive operation to eliminate terrorism. Complementary counter-terrorism measures on the Afghan side of the border are essential to achieve optimal results.

Mr. President,

This past summer, the people of Gaza were subjected to mass atrocities by Israel. We condemned the indiscriminate killings of civilians – which amounted to genocide. From this platform, I once again convey Pakistan's condolences and sympathies to the people of Palestine over their continuing plight.

We welcome the ceasefire between Gaza and Israel. But next steps must also be taken. The blockade of Gaza must be lifted, Palestinian prisoners freed and illegal settlements halted. The United Nations should facilitate a just

and lasting solution of the Palestinian issue, based on the relevant UN resolutions.

We call on all parties in Syria to renounce military and militant means and hold dialogue to restore peace and stability in their historic land.

The emergence of new militant entities in the Middle East once again illustrate that terrorism is a global threat. This primitive force in Iraq and Syria is an aberration, which has no sanction of any religion. It must be countered with unified and resolute will.

Mr. President,

We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We are fighting terrorism planted on Pakistan's soil. Our valiant soldiers are laying down their lives to take out terrorists and tear down their evil networks. The entire nation is behind them.

In the past thirteen years, as a frontline state, we have given enormous sacrifices in blood and resources. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and injured. Our economy too has lost hundreds of billions of dollars in direct costs and denied investment opportunities.

Yet, in this fight, each time a soldier falls, another takes his place proudly. It is the resolve of our nation to fight this scourge to the finish.

At the same time, we have made a plan of action for the relief and rehabilitation of nearly one million internally dislocated persons. This includes a strategy to prevent return and resurgence of militancy and creation of a safe environment for the local population.

Mr. President,

It is important to counter the narrative of extremists. Inter-racial tensions and defamation of religions provide fertile ground for conflict. Constructive and serious dialogue among religions is essential to promote understanding, tolerance and harmony. We remain committed to the UN-led efforts to support these objectives.

Mr. President,

Pakistan's strong commitment to peacekeeping is rooted in our foreign policy and in our belief that every nation should contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. Inspired by this ideal, Pakistan has maintained high levels of participation in the UN peacekeeping, becoming the largest troop contributing country. We are contributing more than 1,100 troops to the Central African Republic, despite the dire situation there.

Mr. President,

As a responsible nuclear weapon state, we will continue to support the objectives of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; and pursue a policy of nuclear restraint and credible minimum deterrence.

Pakistan is not participating in any arms race in the region. Yet we cannot be oblivious to the emerging security scenarios and buildup of armaments. We too, have the obligation to maintain a robust and reliable deterrence.

I would reiterate the need for an inter-linked mechanism for pursuing nuclear restraint, conventional equilibrium and conflict resolution. To promote stability, we are prepared to explore new Confidence Building Measures.

Mr. President,

Pakistan has maintained the highest standards of nuclear safety and security. At the last Summit at The Hague that I attended, Pakistan's recent nuclear measures, especially the establishment of a Centre of Excellence, were appreciated.

Pakistan is a State with advanced nuclear technology, with an experience of more than 40 years. We are a mainstream partner in the international non-proliferation regime. Pakistan also has a stringent national export control system that is fully harmonized with international export control regimes. Though a non-member, we are abiding by their guidelines.

Pakistan ought to be a part of these export control regimes, especially the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Pakistan also qualifies for full access to civil nuclear technology, to overcome its energy shortages and spur economic growth.

Mr. President,

The ongoing UN reform must be comprehensive. We support a reform of the Security Council that would reflect the interests of all members' states – small, medium-sized and large – and not the ambitions of a few. There should be no new permanent seats in the Council. This will be contrary to the democratic character of this world body. We want the Council to become more representative, equitable, accountable and transparent.

Mr. President,

We meet here today on the cusp of a new era for the international community. Never before has the United Nations embraced such lofty goals to banish poverty, stimulate development, protect environment and foster peace, as it will during this session. The future of our planet hinges on our decisions. Let us deliver them with full responsibility and wisdom. Pakistan will assist this Assembly and the United Nations as a whole, to make this world a better place for all mankind.

I thank you.

Islamabad, 26 September 2014.

2. Letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General from the Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs

Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, yesterday, addressed a letter to Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, on the security situation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and the Working Boundary between Pakistan and India, owing to deliberate and unprovoked violations of the ceasefire agreement and cross-border firing by the Indian forces over the past weeks. The letter also underlines the need to resolve the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council, and recalls the role and responsibility of the United Nations and the international community in that regard.

The text of the letter is as follows:

Quote

“Excellency,

I write to bring to your urgent attention the deteriorating security situation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as along the working boundary between Pakistan and India, owing to deliberate and unprovoked violations of the ceasefire agreement and cross-border firing by the Indian forces over the past weeks.

As you are aware, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is one of the long outstanding issues on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, whose resolutions promising the holding of a plebiscite, under the auspices of the United Nations, for self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, remain valid though unimplemented to date. For decades, Pakistan has been reminding the United Nations and the international community to fulfill that promise, in the interest of durable peace and security in the region.

In his address to the UN General Assembly on 26 September, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had emphasized that the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir needed to be resolved. This is the responsibility of the international community. We cannot draw a veil on the issue of Kashmir, until it is addressed in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister had also reiterated Pakistan’s readiness to work for resolution of this issue through negotiations.

You would also recall that, in his meeting with you last month, the Prime Minister had underlined the need to implement UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, and had also stressed the need to resolve the core issues between the two countries.

Unfortunately, India has adopted a policy that runs counter to its stated desire to engage in a serious bilateral dialogue with Pakistan. India cancelled, unilaterally and without any plausible justification, the Foreign Secretary level talks that were scheduled to be held on 25 August 2014.

India has now escalated the situation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and the Working Boundary. Persistent shelling and firing

by Indian forces has resulted in heavy civilian casualties on the Pakistan side. During the period 1-10 October, 2014, 20 ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and 22 violations along the Working Boundary were reported, resulting in 12 civilian casualties, 52 injured civilians and 9 injured military personnel on the Pakistani side. From June to August 2014, there were 99 ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and 32 along the Working Boundary. In all, during 2014, 174 ceasefire violations along the Line of Control and 60 along the Working Boundary have been reported.

While exercising its right to self-defence, Pakistan has exercised utmost restraint and responsibility in responding to these provocations. The Government of Pakistan sincerely hopes that better sense would prevail on the Indian side to prevent the situation from spiraling out of control.

Pakistan appreciates your statement of 9 October in which you expressed concern about the recent escalation of violence along the Line of Control between India and Pakistan, and have deplored the loss of lives and the displacement of civilians on both sides. You have also encouraged the Governments of India and Pakistan to resolve all differences through dialogue.

Your statement is timely and significant given the historic role and responsibility of the United Nations towards the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, where the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) also continues to carry out its mandate related to the strict observance of the ceasefire. Incidentally, as I write, UNMOGIP personnel are being escorted to areas along the Line of Control, to observe first-hand the ongoing ceasefire violations by the Indian side.

Pakistan remains committed to peaceful resolution of all issues between India and Pakistan, including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. This is in the best interest of both India and Pakistan and the region. Pakistan believes that the United Nations has an important role to play in promoting this objective, including through your good offices, which we have always welcomed, and the crucial role of the UNMOGIP on ground, which needs to be strengthened and facilitated under the current circumstances.

I would also be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration".
Unquote

Islamabad, 12 October 2014. Source: www.mofa.gov.pk.

II: Human Rights

Text of Malala Yousafzai's speech after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize

In the name of God, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful. Honourable UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki-moon, Respected President General Assembly Vuk Jeremic Honourable UN envoy for Global education Mr Gordon Brown, Respected elders and my dear brothers and sisters; Today, it is an honour for me to be speaking again after a long time. Being here with such honourable people is a great moment in my life.

I don't know where to begin my speech. I don't know what people would be expecting me to say. But first of all, thank you to God for whom we all are equal and thank you to every person who has prayed for my fast recovery and a new life. I cannot believe how much love people have shown me. I have received thousands of good wish cards and gifts from all over the world. Thank you to all of them. Thank you to the children whose innocent words encouraged me. Thank you to my elders whose prayers strengthened me.

I would like to thank my nurses, doctors and all of the staff of the hospitals in Pakistan and the UK and the UAE government who have helped me get better and recover my strength. I fully support Mr Ban Ki-moon the Secretary-General in his Global Education First Initiative and the work of the UN Special Envoy Mr Gordon Brown. And I thank them both for the leadership they continue to give. They continue to inspire all of us to action.

Dear brothers and sisters, do remember one thing. Malala day is not my day. Today is the day of every woman, every boy and every girl who have raised their voice for their rights. There are hundreds of Human rights activists and social workers who are not only speaking for human rights, but who are struggling to achieve their goals of education, peace and equality. Thousands of people have been killed by the terrorists and millions have been injured. I am just one of them.

So here I stand... one girl among many.

I speak – not for myself, but for all girls and boys.

I raise up my voice – not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.

Those who have fought for their rights:

Their right to live in peace.

Their right to be treated with dignity.

Their right to equality of opportunity.

Their right to be educated.

Dear Friends, on the 9th of October 2012, the Taliban shot me on the left side of my forehead. They shot my friends too. They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came, thousands of voices. The terrorists thought that they would change our aims and stop our ambitions but nothing changed in my life except this: Weakness, fear and hopelessness died. Strength, power and courage was born. I am the same

Malala. My ambitions are the same. My hopes are the same. My dreams are the same.

Dear sisters and brothers, I am not against anyone. Neither am I here to speak in terms of personal revenge against the Taliban or any other terrorists group. I am here to speak up for the right of education of every child. I want education for the sons and the daughters of all the extremists especially the Taliban.

I do not even hate the Talib who shot me. Even if there is a gun in my hand and he stands in front of me. I would not shoot him. This is the compassion that I have learnt from Muhammad-the prophet of mercy, Jesus christ and Lord Buddha. This is the legacy of change that I have inherited from Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Muhammad Ali Jinnah. This is the philosophy of non-violence that I have learnt from Gandhi Jee, Bacha Khan and Mother Teresa. And this is the forgiveness that I have learnt from my mother and father. This is what my soul is telling me, be peaceful and love everyone.

Dear sisters and brothers, we realise the importance of light when we see darkness. We realise the importance of our voice when we are silenced. In the same way, when we were in Swat, the north of Pakistan, we realised the importance of pens and books when we saw the guns.

The wise saying, "The pen is mightier than sword" was true. The extremists are afraid of books and pens. The power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women. The power of the voice of women frightens them. And that is why they killed 14 innocent medical students in the recent attack in Quetta. And that is why they killed many female teachers and polio workers in Khyber Pukhtoon Khwa and FATA. That is why they are blasting schools every day. Because they were and they are afraid of change, afraid of the equality that we will bring into our society.

I remember that there was a boy in our school who was asked by a journalist, "Why are the Taliban against education?" He answered very simply. By pointing to his book he said, "A Talib doesn't know what is written inside this book." They think that God is a tiny, little conservative being who would send girls to the hell just because of going to school. The terrorists are misusing the name of Islam and Pashtun society for their own personal benefits. Pakistan is peace-loving democratic country. Pashtuns want education for their daughters and sons. And Islam is a religion of peace, humanity and brotherhood. Islam says that it is not only each child's right to get education, rather it is their duty and responsibility.

Honourable Secretary General, peace is necessary for education. In many parts of the world especially Pakistan and Afghanistan; terrorism, wars and conflicts stop children to go to their schools. We are really tired of these wars. Women and children are suffering in many parts of the world in many ways. In India, innocent and poor children are victims of child labour.

Many schools have been destroyed in Nigeria. People in Afghanistan have been affected by the hurdles of extremism for decades. Young girls have to do domestic child labour and are forced to get married at early age. Poverty,

ignorance, injustice, racism and the deprivation of basic rights are the main problems faced by both men and women.

Dear fellows, today I am focusing on women's rights and girls' education because they are suffering the most. There was a time when women social activists asked men to stand up for their rights. But, this time, we will do it by ourselves. I am not telling men to step away from speaking for women's rights rather I am focusing on women to be independent to fight for themselves. Dear sisters and brothers, now it's time to speak up.

So today, we call upon the world leaders to change their strategic policies in favour of peace and prosperity.

We call upon the world leaders that all the peace deals must protect women and children's rights. A deal that goes against the dignity of women and their rights is unacceptable.

We call upon all governments to ensure free compulsory education for every child all over the world.

We call upon all governments to fight against terrorism and violence, to protect children from brutality and harm.

We call upon the developed nations to support the expansion of educational opportunities for girls in the developing world.

We call upon all communities to be tolerant – to reject prejudice based on cast, creed, sect, religion or gender. To ensure freedom and equality for women so that they can flourish. We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.

We call upon our sisters around the world to be brave – to embrace the strength within themselves and realise their full potential.

Dear brothers and sisters, we want schools and education for every child's bright future. We will continue our journey to our destination of peace and education for everyone. No one can stop us. We will speak for our rights and we will bring change through our voice. We must believe in the power and the strength of our words. Our words can change the world.

Because we are all together, united for the cause of education. And if we want to achieve our goal, then let us empower ourselves with the weapon of knowledge and let us shield ourselves with unity and togetherness.

Dear brothers and sisters, we must not forget that millions of people are suffering from poverty, injustice and ignorance. We must not forget that millions of children are out of schools. We must not forget that our sisters and brothers are waiting for a bright peaceful future.

So let us wage a global struggle against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism and let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weapons.

One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world.

Education is the only solution. Education First.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/asianhumanrightscommission/posts/10152927310367002> 15 December 2014.

III: Judiciary

Decision of the Supreme Court on suicide bomb attack on a church in Peshawar and regarding threats given to Kalash tribe and 15 Ismailis in Chitral

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN (ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

PRESENT:

MR. JUSTICE TASSADUQ HUSSAIN JILLANI, HCJ

MR. JUSTICE SH. AZMAT SAEED

MR. JUSTICE MUSHIR ALAM

S.M.C. NO. 1 OF 2014 AND C.M.A. NOs. 217-K/2014 IN S.M.C. NO. 1/2014, H.R.C. NO. 29960-P/2012, C.M.A. NO. 110-K/2014 IN C.M.A. NO. 737/2014, C.M.A. NO. 120-K/2014 IN C.M.A. NO. 737/2014, C.M.A. NO. 1388-K/2014 IN C.M.A. NO. 737/2014, C.M.A. NO. 139-K/2014 IN C.M.A. NO. 737/2014, C.M.A. NO. 142-K/2014 IN C.M.A. NO. 737/2014, CRIMINAL M.A. NO. 322/2014 IN CRIMINAL ORIGINAL PETITION NO. 17-L/2013 & CONSTITUTION PETITION NO. 98/2011

(Suo moto actions regarding suicide bomb attack of 22.9.2013 on the Church in Peshawar and regarding threats being given to Kalash tribe and Ismailies in Chitral)

In Attendance:

Mr. Salman Aslam Butt, Attorney General Kh. Saeed uz Zafar, Addl. Attorney General

Mr. Sajid Ilyas Bhatti, DAG

Mr. Sohail Mehmood, DAG

Mr. Razaq A. Mirza, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab

Mr. Zahid Yousaf, Addl. A.G. KPK

Mr. Ayaz Swati, Addl. A.G Balochistan

Mr. Muhammad Farid Dogar, AAG Balochistan Mr.

Muhammad Kassim Mirjat, Addl. Advocate General, Sindh

Mr. Ali Sher Jakhrani, AIG Legal, Sindh Rev. Shahid P. Mehraj, Dean of Lahore cathedral

Mr. Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta, ASC (for Mr. J. Salik, ex-MNA)

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chairman, Pakistan Hindu Council

Mr. Saleem Micheal, Justice Helpline

Mr. Nadeem A. Sheikh, Advocate, Justice Helpline

Mr. Gabriel Francis Khan, ASC

Date of Hearing:

19.06.2014

JUDGMENT**TASSADUQ HUSSAIN JILLANI, CJ.-**

“All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety (taqwa) and good action.”¹

These suo moto proceedings under Article 184(3) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan were initiated on a letter received from the Justice Helpline, an NGO, regarding an attack on a Church in Peshawar in which 81 persons died (subject matter of FIR No. 728 dated 22.9.2013 under Sections 302/324/427 PPC, 3/4 of the Explosive Substances Act and Section 7 of the Anti Terrorism Act at Police Station Khan Raziq Shaheed (Kabuli), Peshawar). Complaints were also received from adherents of Hindu faith and it was prayed that the Court should direct the authorities to take remedial measures so that their places of worship are protected. On 20.2.2014 there was a news item and article published in Daily Dawn wherein it was averred that the Kalash tribe and Ismailies in Chitral were being coerced to convert to a different sect within Islam or to face death. The Court considered all such incidents to be violative of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed to these citizens as also of the Principles of Policy enshrined in the Constitution. It considered it imperative to find out the causes which lead to such incidents with a view to lay down guidelines for effective enforcement of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed to the people. Notices were issued to the learned Attorney General for Pakistan and all the four Advocate Generals. The learned Attorney General for Pakistan pursuant to the direction of this Court placed on record the names of different minority community organizations and the persons who were heading those so that their points of view could be heard before passing any final order. Those are:-

S.No.	Name and Designation	Address	Telephone Nos.
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY / PROTESTANTS / CHURCH OF PAKISTAN			
1.	Rev. Bishop Irfan Jamil Bishop of Lahore, Church of Pakistan	Bishop House Cathedral Close, the mall, Lahore	0333-4756730
2.	Mr. Shahid Miraj, PS to Bishop of Lahore, Church of Pakistan	Bishop House Cathedral Close, the mall, Lahore	0300-8433287
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY / CATHOLICS			
3.	Arch Bishop Subastain	1-Lawrence	0307-2346072

¹ The Last Sermon (Khutbah) of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (Farewell Sermon).

	Francis Shaw Archbishop of Lahore	Road, Lahore	
4.	Mr. Tariq Inayat, PS to Archbishop of Lahore	1-Lawrence Road, Lahore	0333-4285290
HINDU COMMUNITY			
5.	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, MNA	Patron Inchief, Pakistan Hindu Council.	0333-2277370
SIKH COMMUNITY			
6.	Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, being reconstituted	Mr. Junaid Ahmad, Secretary, Evacuee Trust Property Board, Lahore.	042-99211035 0300-4661285

2. During the course of proceedings, some of the issues brought before the Court were broadly as follows:-

- i) the allegation that Hindu girls were forcibly converted into Islam regarding which criminal cases were registered but there has been no progress;
- ii) the compensation announced by the Federal Government and Provincial Government for the victims of Church blast in Peshawar had not been disbursed;
- iii) the allegation that Kalash tribe and Ismailies were facing threats to leave their sect or face death;
- iv) the complaint regarding Hindu gymkhana established in Karachi in 1926;
- v) the complaint regarding Christian Mission School, Karachi, wherein the founder of this country Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had his early education;
- vi) the complaint regarding the desecration of historical Hindu Temple of Amrapur Asthaan;
- vii) the complaint of Mr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani alleging that in the preceding two months there have been six incidents of desecration of Hindu Temples / places of worship in the Province of Sindh alone;
- viii) the complaint regarding non-registration of Hindu marriages by the NADRA and Local Council Authorities;
- ix) the complaint regarding non-registration of marriages of Christians; and
- x) the complaint regarding the issue of Smadhi of Param Hans G. Maharaj.

3. The Court heard at some length the representatives of the Christians and Hindu communities as also learned Attorney General and learned Advocate General of Sindh, Punjab and KPK. So far as the question of Hindu Gymkhana is concerned, the issue was subject matter of a Constitution Petition No. 6/2009 before the High Court of Sindh and currently it is subject matter of Civil Appeal No. 16-K/2014. The said issue, therefore, would be dealt with separately in that case. Regarding the desecration of Temples in District Larkana, the learned Additional Advocate General confirmed that cases had been registered against the miscreants under the relevant provisions of Pakistan Penal Code and the accused shall be brought to justice. Mr. Ali Sher Jakhrani, AIG (Legal) Sindh has filed CMA No. 2878/2004 wherein the detail of the cases registered in this regard has been given, which is as follows:-

S#	Range	Attack on Hindu Temples in area of responsibility FIR No. including date of incident	Arrested person	Name of the Court	Date of Challan in the Court of Law	Whether Section 295 invoked or not if not give the justifications	If Challan has not submitted the challan should be submitted within a week	If there is justification for case has not been challaned as yet	Computerized copy of FIR	Whether the FIR registered on the complaint of victim or by the State	Name of the Victim & witness
01.	Karachi Range	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
02	Sukkur Range	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
03	Hyderabad Range	36/2014 u/s 295(A) 436/34 PPC 6/7 ATA, PS SITE Hyderabad Dt. 28.3.2104	=	ATC Hyderabad	Final Report u/s 173 Cr.PC dt. 10.4.2014	invoked	Final report u/s 173 Cr.PC submitted on 10.4.2014	Final report submitted on 10.4.2014	Attached	Complainant Kiraban Kumar Menghwar Hindu	=
04	Mirpurkhas Range	20/2014 u/s 295, 380 PPC PS Diplo District Tharparkar Dt. 30.3.2014	1. Allah Bux s/o Wasayo Porho. 2. Allah Bux s/o Mirho 3. Jeen Khaniso s/o Porho 4. Moul Bux s/o Porho 5. Satar s/o Mubhan mad	Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrate Diplo	15.4.2014	invoked	Challan submitted on 15.4.2014	Challan submitted on 15.4.2014	Attached	On the complaint of victim	1. Jhaman Das s/o Mangla ram (Victim) Malho Thakur and Balho Menghwar (Witnesses)
		15/2014 u/s 295, 297, 436 PPC PS Madaji District Shikarpur Dt. 08.05.2014		4 th Civil Judge & Judicial Magistrate Shikarpur	Case is Under investigation		Case is Under Investigation	Case is Under Investigation	Attached	On the complaint of victim	VICTIM Mubhin Sunder Das WITNESSES 1. Saran Das 2. Jeend Rai
05	Larkana Range	34/2014 u/s 6/7 ATA, 436, 380, 427, 461, 355, 295, 147/14 8 PPC PS Marwar Larkana Dt. 16.03.2014	1. Imran Shaikh 2. Abdul Khaliq Brohi 3. Yasar Samito 4. Pervez Ali Abbasi 5. Abdul Manan Shaikh	ATC Larkana	21.4.2014	Invoked	Challan Submitted on 21.04.2014	Challan Submitted 21.4.2014	Attached	By the State	WITNESSES 1. PC Imtiza Ali 2. PC Ghulam 3. PC Muhammad Sajjan

4. The issue of non-registration of Hindu marriages was resolved by NADRA and Mr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani confirmed that NADRA had started issuing registration certificates with regard to the Hindu marriages. So far as the allegation of forcible conversion of Hindu girls is concerned, although criminal cases were registered in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan yet generally it was found that most of the girls had eloped with persons of their choice and married at their own free will. Nevertheless, the Court would not like to comment lest it may prejudice the case of either side as some of those cases are pending trial before the appropriate Courts. The learned Acting Advocate General, Punjab, submitted that in terms of the Christian Marriage Act, 1872, 150 Pastors and Bishops already stand registered in 20 Districts and any Christian marriage solemnized by a license holder under the afore-mentioned Act from the concerned Church / denomination is duly registered under the Punjab Local Government Act and the Rules framed thereunder. Regarding the question of non-payment of compensation announced by the Prime Minister, the learned Advocate General, KPK, has pointed out that the Provincial Government had already disbursed the requisite funds to the victims of bomb blasts. So far as the threats to Kalash minority by extremists was concerned, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took effective steps and learned Advocate General KPK has placed on record the report of the Commissioner, Malakand, which is to the said effect:-

- i. *The Commissioner Malakand in this connection visited District Chitral on 21st and 22nd February, 2014. On 21st he went to Bumburet Valley of Kalash community by road, where he held a meeting with the Kalash minority. The issue was personally discussed by the Commissioner in present of the stakeholders at district level. It was confirmed that the threat mentioned earlier by the TTP is not new and in this regard the video referred to in the various international newspapers and reflected in electronic media has not been circulated to the general public in Chitral. The Kalash minority, the district administration and the DPO Chitral expressed the opinion that the news story is old and it has been re-picked by some sections of media for vested interests.*
- ii. *The Commissioner assured the Kalash minority that government will provide security to them and it was further communicated to them that a unit of Pak Army AK-42 regiment is already deployed in the area. Another platoon of police in addition to the already present one has reached the Bumburet valley. Police station Bumburet has a strength of 55 personnel in addition to special force of 15 personnel and 15 personnel of border police are also vigilantly performing duties in the area. The district police officer informed that Kalash valley has its border with Nooristan province of Afghanistan but the area is presently inaccessible and snow bound totally and right from Arandu to*

Lutkoh there are 16 check posts located. At these 16 check posts Pak Army and other LEAs are regularly patrolling the Pak-Afghan border and any incursion from Nooristan into Pak territory is almost impossible. However, as mentioned, LEAs at these 16 check posts are vigilant to counter any such attempt by the TTP.

- iii. The representatives of Kalash minority expressed complete satisfaction over the response of the administration and they were satisfied with the security arrangements in the valley. They appreciated the visit of the Commissioner, the aim of which was to assess the ground situation and have a direct interaction with the Kalash minority and share their grievances. The Commissioner also attended funeral of an elder of the Kalash community, who died on that very day. The Kalash minority appreciated the Commissioner for participating in the funeral ceremony of their elder. On this occasion the Commissioner allowed the community to perform their rituals according to their traditions and assured them that there will be no hindrance in the way.*
- iv. On 22nd a meeting was held in the Governor's cottage Chitral with the Ismaili community in presence of the district administration. A direct feedback was obtained from the community. The Ismaili community of Chitral pointed out the broadcasting of provocative speeches from a local FM channel. It was revealed that the FM channel is a religious one and has been allowed by the PEMRA under the law, however the owner has been summoned by the district administration. He has been warned and strictly directed not to broadcast live discussions and only recorded programs will be allowed for broadcasting subject to the screening by the district administration. A timely action has been taken in order to prevent any communal problem in Chitral and to promote complete harmony amongst the different sections of Muslim communities and minorities. The Commissioner directed the district administration to monitor the broadcasting of the FM channel and in case it violates the agreement with the district administration, PEMRA will be requested for cancellation of its license accordingly.*
- v. The Ismaili community was assured that the administration is fully aware of the situation and the Commissioner informed them, that it is right of every citizen to be given protection by the state as enshrined in the constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the government will leave no stone unturned for the safety and security of the Ismaili community, who have contributed for the development of not only Chitral but for the entire country. The Commissioner appreciated the role played*

by the Ismaili community in progress and development of the country, particularly Chitral and Northern areas. There is no one to deny the services of Sir Sultan Muhammad Agha Khan-III, for founding Muslim League in 1906 and subsequent struggle for freedom movement. The district administration was directed to keep on board the representatives of the Ismaili community for durable peace in the area.

vi. *Moreover the administration and the Pak Army have taken all possible steps and security has been further beefed up in the area. It is worthy mentioning that on 22nd February General officer Commanding, 17 Div of Pak Army, general Javed Bukhari also visited Kalash valley and reviewed the security arrangements. This also has boosted the morale of the people of Chitral, particularly the Kalash minority and Ismaili Community.*

2. *The Ismaili community and Kalash minority of Chitral acknowledged the prompt response of the administration and they expressed complete satisfaction over the security measures taken in the aftermath of the appearing of the news story in the media. In this respect, both the communities appreciated the efforts of the provincial government for direct interaction with the stakeholders on the issue. It was confirmed that there is no indigenous sectarian issue in Chitral and all the Communities including the Ismailies and Kalash tribes live in complete harmony, and the story reflected in the international media has been reported with ulterior motives.”*

5. *Learned Attorney General for Pakistan placed on record (CMA No. 3426/2014) a notification issued by the Government of Pakistan, Cabinet Secretariat, Establishment Division dated 26.5.2009, which is to the following effect:-*

“The undersigned is directed to state that it has been decided by the Federal Government to reserve, with immediate effect, 05% quota for employment of Minorities (Non-Muslims), as defined in Article 260(3)(b) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, to all posts across the board in the Federal Government Services / jobs to be filled by direct recruitment including CSS, in addition to their participation in the open merit.

2. *This reservation will have the same parameters as were prescribed for reservation quota for women vide Establishment Division’s O.M. No. 4/15/2006-F.2 dated 22.5.2007 and will count as part of overall provincial allocation as contained in the Establishment Division’s O.M. No. 4/10/2006 R-2 dated 12.2.2007 and will be calculated against the quota of the province of origin of the Minority (Non-Muslim) candidate concerned.*

3. *The above reservation will not apply to:-*
- i) *the percentage of vacancies reserved for recruitment on the basis of merit;*
 - ii) *recruitment made by promotion or transfer in accordance with the relevant rules.*
 - iii) *short terms vacancies likely to last for less than six months; and*
 - iv) *isolated posts in which vacancies occur only occasionally;*

4. *The vacancies reserved for Minorities (Non-Muslims) for which qualified candidates are not available shall be carried forward and filled by Minority (Non-Muslim) candidates.*

5. *These orders shall also apply to initial appointments in all attached departments / autonomous / semi autonomous bodies / corporations / Public corporations and Companies etc. administratively controlled by the Federal Government.*

6. *Ministries / Divisions are requested to kindly bring the above instructions to the notice of all concerned for information and compliance while making future recruitment.*

7. *For removal of any difficulty the interpretation of the Establishment Division shall be final."*

6. Learned Law Officer adds that the afore-referred notification also finds mention in the Federal Public Service Commission Rules for Competitive Examination, 2014. Learned Additional Advocate General, Punjab, has also placed on record a notification dated 27.3.2010, which is to the following effect:

"No. SCR-III(S&GAD) 1-35893. In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 23 of the Punjab Civil Servants Act, 1974 (VII of 1974) and in supersession of Notification No. SOR-III(S&GAD)1-35/1993, dated 23.10.2009, the Governor of the Punjab is pleased to direct that notwithstanding anything contained in the method of recruitment prescribed in all the services / recruitment rules, 5% quota shall be reserved for Minorities (Non-Muslims) as defined in the Article 260(3)(b) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, against the total number of posts advertized in future, including the posts to be filled on the basis of competitive examination to be conducted by the Punjab Public Service Commission. However, all the conditions prescribed under the respective service rules shall continue to apply.

2. *The reservations of vacancies referred to above will not apply to:- (i) appointment made by promotion or transfer in accordance with the relevant rules;*

(ii) short term vacancies likely to last for less than six months;

- (iii) *isolated posts in which vacancies occur only occasionally; and*
- (iv) *vacancies reserved for Minorities for which qualified candidates are not available. These vacancies shall be treated as unreserved and filled on merit."*

7. Learned Additional Advocate General, KPK, also admits that in the KPK Civil Servants (Appointment, Promotion and Transfer) Rules, 1989, Rule 10 specifically provides reservation of 5% quota for minorities in all provincial services. Learned Additional Advocate General Balochistan has made a similar statement with regard to the reservation of special quota for minorities in provincial service.

8. We find that the incidents of desecration of places of worship of minorities could be warded off if the authorities concerned had taken preventive measures at the appropriate time. The Court also found that the inaction on the part of law enforcement agencies was on account of the lack of proper understanding of the relevant law. For instance, the Court was surprised when the learned Additional Advocate General, Sindh, on Court query submitted that the desecration of places of worship of minorities was not blasphemous and not an offence under the Pakistan Penal Code. When he was confronted with Section 295 PPC he had nothing to say but to concede that desecration of places of worship of even a non-Muslim is an offence under the PPC.

9. There is a general lack of awareness about minority rights among the people and those entrusted with enforcement of law are also not fully sensitized to this issue either. It needs to be reiterated that under the Constitution minorities have a special status. This Constitutional status has a historical background. It would be counter intuitive if the right to freedom of religion enshrined in Article 20 is interpreted in the manner which has the effect of encroaching upon religious freedoms of minority religions in Pakistan. According to Tayyab Mahmud, Professor at Seattle University School of Law and Director of the Centre for Global Justice, "The express guarantees for freedom of belief and practice of religion, rule of law, due process, equal protection, and a progressive legislative agenda, proffered by the leadership of the Pakistan Movement, constitute an implied social covenant with religious minorities in Pakistan."² The protection of the freedom of religious belief and practice of all communities was indeed the predominant right asserted in several propositions and resolutions passed by the All India Muslim League (AIML). Despite the fact that members of the AIML were being strongly influenced by secular liberal thought, the ideology underlying the Pakistan Movement was the creation of a separate nation state for the protection of the interests of the Muslim minority in India. However, these freedoms were not limited to the protection of the Muslim minority but all religious minorities. One of the famous Fourteen Points enumerated by Mohammad Ali Jinnah on proposed

² Freedom of Religion and Religious Minorities in Pakistan; A Study of Judicial Practice, Tayyab Mahmud, Fordham International Law Journal, 19:1 (1995), p.51

constitutional changes was that “full religious liberty, i.e. liberty of belief, worship and observance, propaganda, association and education shall be guaranteed to all communities.³” Furthermore, “adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards should be specifically provided in the Constitution for minorities in these units and in the regions for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them” as stated in the Resolution adopted by the 27th Annual Session of the AIML at Lahore on 22-24 March 1940, which we now celebrate as Pakistan Day. Thus the very genesis of our country is grounded in the protection of the religious rights of all, especially those of minorities.

10. It was because of the historical context given in the preceding para that in all the constitutional dispensations ever since the creation of this country besides Islamic provisions, the religious freedom and minorities’ rights were always provided for. The clauses and terms in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973, relatable to religion are as under:-

- (a) Religion [Preamble, Articles 2, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27].
- (b) Islam [Preamble, Articles 1, 2, 19, 31, 40, 62(d)(e), 203C(3A), 203D, 203E, 203H, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231]
- (c) Muslim [Preamble, Articles 31, 40, 41, 91, 203B(c), 203C(2), 203E(4), 203F(3)(a), 230, 260(3)(a), 227]
- (d) Quran and Sunnah (Preamble, Article 227, 228, 230)
- (e) Sects (Articles 20, 28, 33, 227)
- (f) Belief, Faith and Worship [Preamble]
- (g) Non-Muslim [Articles 37, 51, 59, 62, 106, 224, 227, 260(3)(b)]
- (h) Minorities [Preamble, Article 36]

11. An examination of the abovementioned various religion oriented provisions of the Constitution tells us that various rights and privileges are conferred on various persons and entities. These can be categorized as follows:-

- (a) A special place has been conferred to Islam as a religion.
- (b) Muslims have been conferred certain non-religious privileges in comparison to Non-Muslims [For example; The President and the Prime Minister can only be a Muslim under Articles 41 and 91].
- (c) Various provisions seek a positive enforcement of the Islamic way of life [For example, the establishment of the Council of Islamic Ideology and the Federal Shariat Court].
- (d) Within the positive enforcement of the Islamic way of life as described in para (c) above, the existence and importance of sects is recognized [For example, Article 227 & 228].
- (e) Various rights and protections are conferred on Non-Muslims/Minorities.
- (f) Regardless of the rights and privileges described in Para (a) to (e) above, the right to religious conscience is a right equally granted to all citizens, religious denominations and sects.

³ Point No. 7

12. A reference to the provisions which specifically provide for religious freedom and minorities' rights would be pertinent.

Those are:-

- “20. *Subject to law, public order and morality,--*
- (a) *every citizen shall have the right to profess, practise and propagate his religion; and*
 - (b) *every religious denomination and every sect thereof shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions.*
21. *No person shall be compelled to pay any special tax the proceeds of which are to be spent on the propagation or maintenance of any religion other than his own.*
22. (1) *No person attending any educational institution shall be required to receive religious instruction, or take part in any religious ceremony, or attend religious worship, if such instruction, ceremony or worship relates to a religion other than his own.*
- (2) *In respect of any religious institution, there shall be no discrimination against any community in the granting of exemption or concession in relation to taxation.*
- (3) *Subject to law,*
- (a) *no religious community or denomination shall be prevented from providing religious instruction for pupils of that community or denomination in any educational institution maintained wholly by that community or denomination; and*
 - (b) *no citizen shall be denied admission to any educational institution receiving aid from public revenues on the ground only of race, religious, caste or place of birth.*
- (4) *Nothing in this Article shall prevent any public authority from making provision for the advancement of any socially or educationally backward class of citizens.*
28. *Subject to Article 251 any section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture shall have the right to preserve and promote the same and subject to law, establish institutions for that purpose.*
36. *The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services.”*

13. Religion has played an important role in human history, and faith has influenced the minds and actions of individuals, societies and nations down the ages. By freedom of religion and belief is meant the right of a person to follow a doctrine or belief system which, in the view of those who profess it, provides spiritual satisfaction. However, it is impossible to define the term ‘religion’ in rigid terms. The freedom of religion must then be construed liberally to include freedom of conscience, thought, expression, belief and faith. Freedom,

individual autonomy and rationality characterize liberal democracies and the individual freedoms thus flowing from the freedom of religion must not be curtailed by attributing an interpretation of the right to religious belief and practice exclusively as a community-based freedom. The freedom of religion and conscience has been protected in several treaties and declaration.⁴ Article 18 of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966 provides as follows:-

“Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.”

14. The fundamental right to freedom of religion and belief was articulated at the international level by the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. These human rights norms then serve as moral checks and efforts are continually being made to incorporate these rights into domestic laws. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has invoked International Human Rights norms in numerous cases.⁵ It is evident from a bare reading of these provisions that the freedom of conscience cannot be separated from the freedom of religion. While the freedom of conscience is an individual right, the right to religion has both individual and community based connotations. Sub-article (a) of Article 20 of the Constitution also recognizes the individual and communal nature of the right to freedom of religion as it addresses “every citizen” and “every religious denomination and every sect thereof” and one aspect cannot trump the other. Moreover, the individual aspect to the freedom of religion applies both against inter-religion and intra-religion conflict.

15. Of all the Articles relating to the minorities’ rights, Article 20 is of prime significance. A close reading of this provision would indicate that the freedom to practice religion and manage religious institutions under this provision is multifaceted because:

- (a) The right to religious conscience conferred under this Article does not make any distinction between majority and minority or Muslim and Non-Muslim. It is in the nature of an Equal Religious Protection Clause conferred on every citizen, every religious denomination and every sect thereof. This equal religious protection clause is in the same nature as the equal justice under the law and equal protection under the law clauses conferred under Articles 4 and 25. In other words, every

⁴ European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Article 9), the American Convention on Human Rights (Article 12), the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Article 8)

⁵ Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari Vs. Federation of Pakistan [PLD 1999 SC 57] at page 191; Al- Jihad Trust Vs. Federation of Pakistan [PLD 1997 SC 84]

absolute equality and there is no distinction among citizens, religious denominations and sects thereof, as far as the right to religious conscience, is concerned.

- (b) The right to religious conscience is a fundamental right. It has not been subjected or subordinated to any other provision of the Constitution because it is only subject to law, public order and morality and not to any religious clauses of the Constitution. The very term law, public order and morality has been used in non-religious terms as the notion of law or public order or morality is not reducible to the Islamic meanings of these terms. Therefore, Article 20 has a certain preeminence in the Constitution being only subject to the general restrictions of law, public order and morality, which three terms cannot be interpreted or used in such a restrictive way as to curtail the basic essence and meaning of the pre-eminent right to religious conscience.
- (c) The right to profess and practice is conferred not only on religious communities but also on every citizen. What this means is that every citizen can exercise this right to profess, practice and propagate his religious views even against the prevailing or dominant views of its own religious denomination or sect. In other words, neither the majority religious denominations or sect nor the minority religious denomination or sect can impose its religious will on the citizen. Therefore, not only does it protect religious denominations and sects against each other but protects every citizen against the imposition of religious views by its own fellow co-believers. It needs to be mentioned here that every citizen would necessarily include both males and females (Article 263), which point needs emphasis considering the exclusion or subordination of women in relation to numerous forms of religious practices.
- (d) As far as every religious denomination is concerned, even sects within these religious denominations have been conferred the additional right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions. Therefore, even sects within these religious denominations have been protected against their own co-religious denominations.
- (e) The right of religious conscience conferred on every citizen is a right conferring three distinct rights i.e. Right to Profess, Right to Practice and Right to Propagate. What this means is that Article 20 does not merely confer a private right to profess but confers a right to practice both privately and publicly his or her religion. Moreover, it confers the additional right not only to profess and practice his own religion but to have the right to propagate his or her religion to others. It is important to note that this propagation of religion has not been limited to Muslims having the right to propagate their religion but this right is equally conferred on Non-Muslims to propagate their religion to their own community and to other communities. This should not be seen as a right to encourage conversions but more importantly, should be seen as

a right against forced conversions or imposing beliefs on others because if all citizens have the right to propagate then no citizen has the right of forced conversion or imposing beliefs on others.

16. Article 20 must then be interpreted to guarantee the rights of the community as well as the right of the individual against those from his own or other religious communities – the ultimate goal being the eradication of religious intolerance in the society. English political philosopher John Stuart Mill in his treatise ‘On Liberty’ (1859) stated that “the great writers to whom the world owes what religious liberty it possesses, have mostly asserted freedom of conscience as an indefeasible right, and denied absolutely that a human being is accountable to others for his religious belief. Yet so natural to mankind is intolerance in whatever they really care about, that religious freedom has hardly anywhere been practically realized, except where religious indifference, which dislikes to have its peace disturbed by theologically quarrels, has added its weight to the scale.”

17. Although in the West, the separation of the Church and the State and ultimately the Renaissance ushered in an era of objective reasoning, liberal democracy, freedom and secularism, it was soon realized that religion could not entirely be relegated to the private / individual realm. The political aspect of religion has been rife with conflicts, extremism and a claim of monopoly of truth which historically has not been without its toll in human suffering. A step towards resolution is promoting religious tolerance, which should be the underlying objective in interpreting the right to freedom of religion. In the subcontinent, the individual right of freedom to religion has occasionally been trumped by the right of the community, as in the above-cited Indian case of *Sardar Syedna*. It is imperative that the right to freedom of religion be restored as an individual and indefeasible right, while concurrently preserving and protecting this right at a communal level, where the latter does not infringe on the former. For, according to French writer, historian and philosopher Voltaire in his ‘Treatise on Tolerance’ (1763), “religion is instituted to make us happy in this life and the next. But what is required to make us happy in the life to come” To be just.”

18. However, the question which calls for consideration is: do the minorities in practice enjoy the rights guaranteed to them in terms of the afore-referred provisions of the Constitution?

19. This question can best be appreciated if the socio-political conditions in the country are kept in view. Pakistan is a transitional democracy and like all other countries (similarly placed) is confronted with competing political and social challenges. Most of the political institutions of consequence are in the process of evolution. However, the defining feature of a democratic governance is complete dedication and adherence in every day life to the seminal principles of equity, justice and inclusion of all irrespective of their colour, creed, caste, sex or faith. The sustainability of democracy depends on how best these challenges are met. Democracy is not an unmixed blessing; on the one hand it confers respect for minorities’ rights and on the other it provides a platform where

intolerance and hatreds get leeway leading to societal friction and violence. Such intolerance and hatreds have found their way in the social media as well and no effort has been made to check it. The English Daily Dawn alluded to this trend in social media in its editorial comment (dated 9th of June, 2014) and said that:-

“A Small-scale survey conducted by the online freedom of expression group Bytes for All of hate speech in social media used and frequented by Pakistanis has produced some disturbing, though not unexpected, results. Over 91pc of nearly 600 respondents surveyed claimed to have come across hate speech online and a partial analysis of 30 popular Facebook and Twitter pages and accounts has shown how user comments are usually peppered with some form of hate speech. The names of the targeted groups will also cause little surprise: Shias, Ahmadis, Indians / Hindus, atheists/unbelievers, state institutions, women, gender minorities, Jews and local ethnicities. To be sure, views expressed online do not automatically reflect the views of wider society especially in a country where roughly 10pc of the population is believed to be online. Yet, with the 3G/4G telecommunications revolution now just a matter of weeks or perhaps months, the number of Pakistanis online will certainly climb dramatically and soon. Hate speech online will be disseminated even further as a result. Also while the anonymity of sitting behind a screen tends to coarsen public comments and discourse in the online world internationally, there is a case to be made that the younger, tech-savvy Pakistanis online are taking their cultural, and hate, cues, from a society where such talk is increasingly acceptable currency.

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While not every hateful word can or does lead to violence, there is surely more than just a correlation between the amount of hate speech against and the violence suffered by groups such as the Ahmadis and other religious minorities. With access to the online world about to explode, now is the time for some serious thinking.”

It is because of absence of effective State action that despite elaborate textual guarantees for minorities’ rights, empirical realities reflect a mixed bag, rather a dismal state of affairs.

20. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan Report, 2013 on sectarian violence makes a sad reading. “In the first few weeks of 2013, sectarian violence claimed the lives of over 200 Hazara Shias in Balochistan. More than 200

sectarian attacks killed 687 people. Seven Ahmadis lost their lives in targeted attacks. In the deadliest attack ever against Pakistan's Christian citizens, over 100 people were killed in a Peshawar church. A Muslim mob torched a predominantly Christian neighbourhood in Lahore after a Christian man was accused of blasphemy. 100 houses were burnt as residents fled. Individuals charged with offences relating to religion included 17 Ahmadis, 13 Christians and nine Muslims. In Badin, dead bodies of two Hindus were dug up by mobs that claimed that the graveyards belonged to Muslims and only Muslims could be buried there."

21. On a query made from the Chief Secretary Balochistan, the letter intimated the Registrar of this Court that about 415 Hazaras who belong to Shia sect were killed on sectarian grounds in a period of 11 years.

22. The afore-referred report and other incidents of faith or ethnic based violence indicate that mere textual pledges in the Constitution, though important are not enough to ensure that those rights would be honored in practice. It is, therefore, important that the concerned governments / institutions take proactive lead to ensure that those rights are respected and enjoyed in practice.

23. No society or nation is bereft of its share in discrimination, ethnic or religious bias and the resultant violence. In 1526 the Bishop of London was tried on the charges of terrorism and the allegation was that he wanted to blow the Parliament House because the Protestants had won majority in the Parliament. In his final play Henry VIII, Shakespeare has his Archbishop predict, "*the future Elizabeth will rule by a mixture of peace, plenty, love and a just measure of terror.*" For hundred of years the Northern and Southern Irish fought with each other and wrecked violence in the name of faith.

24. When we think of such incidents of violence in the name of faith, we are always reminded of a quote from the Holy Quran⁶ wherein such acts have not only been condemned but have been classified as crimes against humanity. It ordains:-

Translation:

"On that account, We decreed to the Children of Israel the Eternal Moral Ordinance for all humanity (2:178) that whoever kills a human being, unless it is in the course of justice for murder or bloody crimes on the earth, it shall be as if he killed all mankind. And whoever saves one life it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind. Our Messengers came to people with clear Truth, yet many of them continued to transgress in the earth."

25. Islam does not compel people of other faiths to convert. It has given them complete freedom to retain their own faith and not to be forced to embrace Islam. This freedom is documented in both the Holy Quran and the Prophetic

⁶ Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:32). Translation by Moulana Shabbir Ahmed.

teachings known as Sunnah. ALLAH addresses the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the Quran:

"If it had been your Lord's will, they would all have believed all of who are on earth! Will you then compel humankind, against their will, to believe?"⁷

"Let there be no compulsion in religion; truth stands clear from error: whoever rejects false gods and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold that never breaks. And God hears and knows all things."⁸

26. Not only does Islam give the freedom of religions freedom to non-Muslims, its tolerant law extends to the preservation of their places of worship.⁹ ALLAH says in the Quran:

"(They are) those who have been evicted from their homes without right ---- only because they say, 'Our Lord is God.' And was it not that God checks the people, some by means of others, there would have been demolished monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques in which the name of God is much mentioned (praised). And God will surely support those who support Him (meaning His cause). Indeed, God is Powerful and Exalted in Might."¹⁰

27. The Muslim Caliphs used to order their military leaders who went on military campaigns to take steps to guarantee this matter. The first example is the command of Abu Bakr to Usman ibn Zayd:

"I command you to do then things: kill no woman, no child, nor an elderly person; do not cut down fruit trees, or vandalize homes, or burn it, do not be treacherous; do not be cowardly; and you will pass by people who have devoted themselves to monastery life; leave them alone to their devotions."¹¹

28. The second example is the treaty of Umar ibn al-Khattab with the people of Iliya of Jerusalem:

"This is the security given by the slave of God, Umar, the Commander of the Faithful, to the people of Iliya: they are guaranteed the security if their persons, possessions, churches, crucifixes, and everyone within, whether sick or in good health, as well as everyone in their community. Their churches will not be occupied or demolished, nor will anything be taken from them: neither furnishings nor crucifixes or money. They will not be

⁷ Holy Quran (10:99).

⁸ Holy Quran (2:256).

⁹ Aayed, Saleh Hussain, 'Huquq Ghayr al-Muslimeen fi Bilad il-Islam, p.23-24.

¹⁰ Holy Quran (22:40).

¹¹ Tabari, Tarirk al-Tabari, vol 3, p.210.

forced away from their religion, or harmed because of it. They will not be occupied by the Jewish settlers in Illiya.^{12,}

29. One of the foundational aims of all the major religions in the world has been to eradicate this bias and to preach humanism. However, in practice on account of misinterpretation of some of the religious tenets, religion instead of liberating human beings from these curses of bias have enslaved them which has resulted in violence and human misery. Governments and parliaments in almost all modern democracies have endeavored to undo the injustices done to the minorities in the past.

30. In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court in the case reported as Brown Vs. Board of Education of Topeka (347 US 483 (1954) abolished segregation in schools and ensured implementation of its judgment by directing the dispatch of federal troops to the concerned State. In the said judgment, the U.S. Supreme Court came a long way from its earlier judgment in Dred Scott Vs. Sandford (60 U.S. 393 (1857) where a colored was refused a status of a citizen. In not too distant past, the country elected a colored as its President i.e. Mr. Barack Hussein Obama.

31. In Canada only last month, the Parliament of British Columbia had to pass a resolution of apology for discrimination and injustices meted out to Chinese immigrants. The daily 'Globe and Mail' editorially commented on this development and said:-

"It continues to be shocking that, as recently as 1947, there was explicit institutional racism against Chinese immigrants to Canada.

Last Thursday, the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia finally passed a motion to apologize to Chinese Canadians.

Canada as a whole was deeply implicated. Though B.C. was the province chiefly concerned, the two most important laws that discriminated against Chinese immigrants were passed by the Parliament of Canada.

Eight years ago, after he became prime minister, Stephen Harper moved promptly to offer an apology.

According to the B.C. apology – a bipartisan motion presented by Premier Christy Clark – past B.C. governments enacted more than 100 laws, regulations and policies directed against the Chinese from 1871 to 1947. Jenny Kwan, an NDP MLA, gave the most substantial historical speech, pointing to 89 bills and 49 resolutions actually passed and seven reports delivered against Chinese Canadians and other non-whites. Almost every session of the House between 1872 and 1928 took such measures, and there were many other such motions, proposals and MLAs' questions.

¹² Tabari, Tarirk al-Tabari, vol 3, p.159.

Early on, the fear of wage levels being undercut by immigrants was at least briefly set aside at the urging of Sir John A. Macdonald, who argued that the CPR would never get built without the labour of Chinese railroad workers.

The head tax – an oppressive economic disincentive to Chinese immigration enacted in 1885 – was not in the end effective. But anti-Chinese xenophobia seems only to have begun to wane when the Canadian government started to conscript Chinese Canadians in the Second World War. The very restrictive and discriminatory Chinese Immigration Act was finally repealed in 1947, in the same year that Canada passed its first Citizenship Act, and in the period in which the Atlantic Charter, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights all emphasized our universal humanity.

Thus, war and peace both worked against institutional racism.

Of course, racism itself and some of its legacies are not dead. But progress, after all, is possible. And progress there has been.” (Globe Editorial “B.C.’s overdue apology to Chinese Canadians’ dated 18th of May, 2014)

32. It requires a strong moral courage for an individual or a nation to apologize for having wronged a community. It is time for us as a nation and as individuals to have a moment of reflection, a moment of soul searching and perhaps a moment of reckoning to ask ourselves; have we lived by the pledges made in the Constitution and by the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of this country who in his very first address to the Constituent Assembly on 11.08.1948 said:

“You are free; you are free to go to your temples. You are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed—that has nothing to do with the business of the State.”

33. The vision reflected in afore-quoted excerpt from the speech is the inspiration behind “Justice for All” (a poem created by one of us i.e. Mr. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jilani) which has been declared the Judicial Anthem by the Full Court and has been adopted by the Pakistan Bar Council as its theme song for its functions. The poem reads as follows:-

*The toil, the sweat, the tears and the blood,
Make up the labor for the land begot.
The freedom is won, but the chains are clung,
There are miles to cover,
The voyage is tough and the weather is rough,
The odyssey begins; The Founder declares his vision
Of Democracy, Faith, Tolerance and Compassion.
Discriminate the State shall not
Thou may belong to any religion, creed or caste.*

*Oh! The vision is distorted, the march is thwarted,
 Castles in the sand, babes in the woods,
 Recipes of fall abound in the books.
 The nation is cut, the land is bled
 When the message is lost, a die is cast,
 The wages are loud, Beware of the clouds.
 Long live the message, the Lamp and the rays
 That glow The Temple, which holds the scales,
 Pinning the dreams, the hopes and the oath
 Of Justice for All*

34. The Supreme Court, being the apex court in a liberal democracy, is mandated to protect and defend the Constitution which embodies the fundamental rights of its citizens. Thus, while deciding cases entailing inter-faith or intra-faith conflicts, the Courts should keep in view the fact that there are some in every faith who seek to interpret religion in myopic terms. In evangelistic exuberance, they tend to forget that the message of all faiths is common and for the benefit of the entire humanity.

35. As Voltaire aptly stated in his 'Treatise on Tolerance' (1763): "O different worshippers of a peaceful God! If you have a cruel heart, if, while you adore he whose whole law consists of these few words, 'Love God and your neighbor,' you have burdened that pure and holy law with false and unintelligible disputes, if you have lighted the flames of discord sometimes for a new word, and sometimes for a single letter of the alphabet; if you have attached eternal punishment to the omission of a few words, or of certain ceremonies which other people cannot comprehend, I must say to you with tears of compassion for mankind: 'Transport yourselves with me to the day on which all men will be judged and on which God will do unto each according to his works.'

36. The spirit of pluralism reflected in the Holy Quran constantly points out that Muhammad (PBUH) had not come to cancel the older religions, to contradict their Prophets or to start a new faith. To the contrary, His message is the same as that of Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon or Jesus. The cherished goal of creating a more pluralistic society where fundamental rights are respected would continue to elude us unless we realize that we are living in a world of globalized interdependence, a world of interconnectivity, of cyber space, of shrunken distances, of cross border migration, and a world of rapidly changing cultural identities. We are all members of one race of humans with common challenges, and we cannot confront these challenges without forging a common alliance. This paradigm shift in the world around us can be achieved at the international and domestic levels only by discouraging sectarian, racial and ethnic biases which are violative of shared values and fundamental rights, and by the promotion of and strict compliance with these values and rights.

37. For what has been discussed above, we hold, declare and direct:-

- (i) the Federal Government should constitute a taskforce tasked with developing a strategy of religious tolerance;

- (ii) appropriate curricula be developed at school and college levels to promote a culture of religious and social tolerance. In 1981 in one of its seminal declarations, the United Nations resolved that “the child shall be protected from any form of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief. He shall be brought up in the spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood, respect for freedom of religion or belief of others, and in full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow men.” (UN Declaration on the Elimination on All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief)
- (iii) the Federal Government should take appropriate steps to ensure that hate speeches in social media are discouraged and the delinquents are brought to justice under the law;
- (iv) a National Council for minorities’ rights be constituted. The function of the said Council should inter alia be to monitor the practical realization of the rights and safeguards provided to the minorities under the Constitution and law. The Council should also be mandated to frame policy recommendations for safeguarding and protecting minorities’ rights by the Provincial and Federal Government;
- (v) A Special Police Force be established with professional training to protect the places of worship of minorities.
- (vi) In view of the statement made by learned Attorney General for Pakistan and learned Additional Advocate Generals of Punjab, KPK and Balochistan regarding reservation of quota for minorities in the federal and provincial services, it is directed that the Federal Government and all Provincial Governments shall ensure the enforcement of the relevant policy directives regarding reservation of quota for minorities in all services.
- (vii) in all cases of violation of any of the rights guaranteed under the law or desecration of the places of worship of minorities, the concerned Law Enforcing Agencies should promptly take action including the registration of criminal cases against the delinquents.
- (viii) The office shall open a separate file to be placed before a three Members Bench to ensure that this judgment is given effect to in letter and spirit and the said Bench may also entertain complaints / petitions relatable to violation of Fundamental Rights of minorities in the country.

38. These proceedings stand disposed of having fructified in terms noted above.

CHIEF JUSTICE

JUDGE

JUDGE

Islamabad, the 19th of June, 2014.