NATIONAL ACCORD FOR PEACE, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

May 5-6, 2023

Jointly Organized by:

Paigham-e-Pakistan Centre for Peace, Reconciliation and Reconstruction Studies Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad (Pakistan) & International Islamic Institute for Peace, Islamabad

in collaboration with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Pakistan is a unique combination of tradition and modernity. Despite many economic, social, and strategic disadvantages in its early decades, the performance of Pakistan was among the top ten developing countries. Pakistan was a peaceful country. The crisis of national identity, the irregular economy, ethnic divisions, and ineffective foreign policies are some of the reasons for the weakness of the Pakistani state. In the war against terrorism, Pakistan has lost tens of thousands of lives. Its infrastructure and social fabric were destroyed, and it lost almost 3 per cent of its GDP annually. These losses widened the fiscal deficit and halted economic development. The violent narratives prevailing in Pakistan can be addressed only through an effective, carefully prepared strategic and proactive national narrative. The proposed conference will generate national discourse for achieving a national accord on peace, inclusive education, social reconstruction and sustainable economic development.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference deals with a variety of issues and aims at

- 1. evaluating various challenges Pakistan faces on social, economic, strategic, and educational fronts;
- suggesting the opportunities Pakistan can attain through a collective, inclusive, and comprehensive national accord;
- reviving the National Action Plan (NAP)'s integrated approach to engage all stakeholders to sit together and adopt a multipronged approach to counter terrorism and extremism;
- promoting peaceful and inclusive social values in Pakistan through academic discourse;
- identifying the reasons for interconnected social, strategic, and economic problems;
- creating new dynamism and a promising environment for development through a national accord;
- suggesting mechanisms for the provision of justice for all through an easy, effective, fast, and inclusive justice system;
- 8. building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions for revival and reinforcement of effective governance; and
- measuring the impact of armed violence, insecurity, and destructive acts on the economy and national integration of Pakistan.

THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

The themes of the conference are designed in such a way that they can help policymakers, executives, and government officials to make appropriate decisions for leading the nation out of the present crises.

1. CHALLENGES TO PAKISTAN

- a) Socio-political challenges
- b) Economic challenges
- c) Strategic and security challenges

2. NATIONAL RESPONSES TO THE CHALLENGES

- a) Responses to socio-political challenges
- b) Responses to economic challenges
- c) Responses to strategic and security challenges

3. WAY FORWARD FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PAKISTAN

Further details can be seen in the brochure of the conference

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE?

The call for papers is open for academicians, parliamentarians, researchers, policymakers, religious leaders, opinion-makers, members of the civil society, and political workers. Papers can be submitted in Urdu, English or Arabic language. However, due to the highly academic nature of the conference, only the authors whose articles will be approved after peer review will be invited to present their papers at the conference.

PATRON-IN-CHIEF OF THE CONFERENCE

Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives

Chairman International Institute for Peace, Islamabad



Chairman Higher Education Commission Government of Pakistan



Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi President

International Islamic University, Islamabad

CHIEF ORGANIZER OF THE CONFERENCE

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq

Director General

Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University

Faisal Masjid Campus, Islamabad

Ph. No.: 051-2281289 Email: conferences.iri@iiu.edu.pk

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PLEASE SUBMIT THE ABSTRACT/ARTICLE BY GOOGLE FORM:

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CONFERENCE COORDINATORS AND CONTACTS

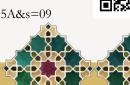
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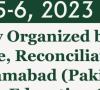
Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Faisal Masjid Campus, Islamabad

Ph. No.: 051-9261761, Ext. 311

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NATIONAL ACCORD FOR PEACE, INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



May 5-6, 2023

Quaid-i-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Masjid Campus, IIU, Islamabad



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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Pakistan, as a natural entity, emerged from the Indus civilization. Indus and Indian rivers survived side by side for centuries but never met together. Pakistan adopted Western constitutionalism and common law legal tradition under the supervision of the Qur'an and Sunnah. So, a unique combination of tradition and modernity emerged. Due to political instability, economic decline, ideological conflicts and lack of social development, it became unclear to many Pakistanis what it stood for. Due to the absence of a widely accepted national narrative for a long time, the nation is still in search of a coherent national identity which would ensure the process of adoption, adaptation and syncretism among various segments, cultures and ethnicities of the country through national integration. Due to the non-existence of national consensus on core issues such as political system, national identity, educational policies, social reconstruction and sustainable economic development, many state organs related to collective life are dysfunctional or not working properly. Pakistan has been facing the sustainability challenge from its inception, and shadows of "fragility syndrome" are found everywhere. Fragility syndrome is a topic of political discourse as political activists blame each other for a conspiracy against the country. Security risk is the usual talk in political conversation. We must realize in Pakistan that such allegations are not found in the political discourse of any other country. This attitude is Pakistan-specific that haunts political analysis around the globe.

It is a time to do something urgently, consistently, wisely and on suitable grounds to restore the position of Pakistan from which it has been derailed. Despite many economic, social and strategic disadvantages in its early decades, the performance of Pakistan was among the top ten developing countries. It was ahead of many countries such as India, China, Vietnam, and many other economies in social indicators. As per credible statistics, Pakistan's average GDP growth rate till 1990 was six percent annually. By and large, Pakistan was a peaceful country respected among the global community of nations. Visitors from abroad were visiting all parts of Pakistan without any hesitation. Pakistan was a safe and secure country with a friendly environment and hospitable and caring people. Pakistan was not

only a famous tourist destination but also a starting point of the journey for education for thousands of students from the Middle East, Asia and Africa in Pakistani professional colleges and universities.

The decline of Pakistan started in 1990 and continued until 2015. Many countries in the region surpassed Pakistan in economic and social development. During these 25 years, it became a dangerous country in the international media. Acts of violence and terrorism have virtually vanished tourism. Due to the lack of a common agenda based on a strong national narrative, the process of social integration in Pakistan was not at the level it required. Various components of the national identity of Pakistan which shaped the idea of Pakistan are influenced by Islam but are contested by many competing views. The intellectual and political discourse among South Asian Muslims during the 19th and 20th centuries reflected various opinions about the meaning of Islam and its socio-political role. This discourse resulted in competing notions of nationhood, religious community, and the end of Muslim power in the subcontinent. These conflicting notions have influenced Pakistani society, particularly in resolving its 'consensus problem.' Different opinions on national issues, compelling elucidations of important problems, particularly on national identity, irregular economic and social development, severe ethnic divisions, and questionable foreign policies and dictatorships are some of the reasons for the weakness of the state. The weakness of the state created uncertainty. The lack of agreement over the role of religion in the public sphere is also a reason for uncertainty in Pakistan. For the future of Pakistan, we must learn from our history. Through this learning, we can appropriately change our present. This change will lead us toward a successful future.

Pakistan did not suffer any suicide attacks until 2001. Pakistan experienced around 87 suicide attacks in 2009 alone. These attacks reached 200 and about 500 bomb explosions and IED detonations in the coming years, largely in the FATA regions and KPK province. Pakistan's human and economic losses cannot be calculated easily as it has gone extreme. The actual losses inflicted on Pakistan after 9/11 are immeasurable since it is not always possible to quantify the opportunities that were missed by the country each passing day. We lost tens of thousands of lives; our

infrastructure and social fabric were destroyed. Estimates show that Pakistan lost almost 3 percent of its GDP annually. While the US provided \$20 billion in aid, losses to the Pakistani economy have exceeded \$150 billion. The war against terror and the recovery of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are taking a large portion of public finance. These expenditures not only widen the fiscal deficit but also halt economic development. There is an inverse relationship between suicide attacks in Pakistan and GDP growth. Low terrorism results in high economic growth, while high terrorism leads to low economic growth.

Economic development is not possible without peace. Terrorism affects economic growth both directly and indirectly. Building up human and physical capital is the main source of economic progress. Violence, conflicts and terrorism destroy human and physical capital. The violence damages local and global investments. Terrorist activities shift financial and human resources abroad. The unrest forces the states to earmark considerable financial resources to counter violence. Spending more on security and counter-terrorism and less on social development impedes human and physical capital development. Due to prevailing violence and unrest, normal business activities have also been halted. Terrorism has also damaged international trade in Pakistan. Confronted with a massive security deficit and proliferating suicide bombings, Pakistan has taken many courageous military initiatives in the areas affected by terrorism in compliance with National Internal Security Policy 2014 and National Action Plan (NAP). NAP suggested kinetic and soft approaches to counter terror, violence and extremism. It recommended lifting the ban on the execution of terrorists and speedy trials through military courts. Wiping out armed militias in the country is also a part of the NAP strategies. On soft approaches, it suggested countering hate material and introducing reforms, particularly in FATA, FANA and Baluchistan, through reconciliation. Introducing reforms in the criminal justice system is also a part of NAP. It also suggested the presence of an effective national religio-ideological discourse. The violent narratives prevailing in Pakistan are the outcome of the national and international environment. They gave birth to radical ideologies that stemmed from violence, sectarianism, extremism and terrorism. The radical ideologies can be addressed only through an effective,



carefully prepared strategic, national proactive narrative that can counter hate narratives and provide a way forward for the nation.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The national accord on core issues such as establishing peace and countering violence, quality and inclusive education, and sustainable economic development can be achieved only through a national narrative. The proposed conference will generate national discourse for achieving a national accord on peace, inclusive education, social reconstruction and sustainable economic development. The conference will deal with a wide variety of issues and will aim at the following:

- 1- Evaluating various challenges Pakistan faces on social, economic, strategic and education fronts. It will also be an effort to access our collective response to these challenges. Moreover, it will also discuss the possible forward gating out from the present state of decline and ineffective governance.
- 2- Suggesting the opportunities Pakistan can attain through collective, inclusive and comprehensive national accord on peace, inclusive education, social reconstruction and sustainable economic development.
- 3- Reviving the National Action Plan's (NAP) integrated approach to engage all political, social, educational, financial and strategic actors to sit together and adopt a multipronged approach to address the causes of terrorism, extremism and radicalism and formulate a long-term national response in the shape of a national narrative.
- 4- Promoting peaceful and inclusive social values in Pakistan through academic discourse to foster communal actions to find lasting solutions to the challenges of peace, such as social divide, ethnic and sectarian conflicts, incitement to violence and conflict, and insecurity.
- 5- Finding the reasons for interconnected social, strategic and economic problems affecting every segment of society and recognizing the problems that require a collaborative approach to resolve them.



- 6- Creation of new dynamism and promising environment for development through National Accord for inclusive education, social reconstruction and sustainable economic development for a prosperous future.
- 7- Suggesting mechanisms for the provision of justice for all through an easy, effective, early and inclusive justice system at all levels, particularly in the superior courts and signifying ways for sustainable peace, so that all segments of the society in Pakistan, free from all forms of violence can live safely without any discrimination based on ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation. It is also an effort to strengthen the rule of law and promote human rights, which are key to reducing the flow of illicit arms, combating corruption, and ensuring inclusive participation at all times.
- 8- Contributing to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels for revival and reinforcement of effective governance to take necessary and tough decisions at this crucial time of history of Pakistan.
- 9- Measuring the impact of high levels of armed violence and insecurity on the development and economy of Pakistan and identifying the role of various distractive acts such as sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture on sustainable economic development and strengthening national integration.

THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

Civilizations, nations, and countries do not vanish due to wars, pandemics, floods, earthquakes or natural disasters but die when their leadership has to make decisions, but they cannot do so. The themes of the conference are designed in such a way that it can be helpful to the policymakers and executives, and officials of government to make appropriate decisions for leading the nation out of the present crises.



CHALLENGES TO PAKISTAN

i- Socio-Political Challenges

The political blame games, poverty, lawlessness or unemployment, illiteracy, overpopulation, child labour, poor health infrastructure, injustice, water scarcity; unstable constitutionalism and fragile democracy; unstable and non-transparent political process, bad and non-effective governance.

ii- Economic Challenges

Economic instability, lack of transition to geoeconomics, lack of sustainable development projects; an increasingly unemployed youth population; the lack of focus on human development projects; reduction in the foreign exchange reserves; increase in non-developmental expenditures; the increase in public debt; the unequal distribution of wealth; the rising deprivation in Baluchistan, interior Sindh, and Southern Punjab; the poor condition of small and medium enterprises (SMEs); weak political institutions in the country; lack of economic sovereignty, unsuccessful domestic policies.

iii- Strategic and Security Challenges

Terrorism, extremism, radicalism; incitement to violence, sectarianism, prolonged conflict in Afghanistan and its extension in Pakistan, unresolved Kashmir dispute, unpleasant relations in the region, especially with the eastern and western neighbours, inherited an economy in shambles compounded by corruption and misrule; insufficient action to eliminate and dismantle terrorist cells, extremism and terrorism as formidable challenges to a moderate and progressive society, extremism and terrorism as regressive forces to de-stabilize Pakistani society.

NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE CHALLENGES

i-Response to Socio-Political Challenges

Constitutionalism and positivism under the supervision of the Quran and Sunnah; the existence of an agreed-upon constitution is accepted by all segments as a social contract. Efforts to build grass root level democratic

structures, accountability and transparency to eradicate corruption and promote good governance. Democratic reforms included empowerment at the grass root level and of vulnerable sections of the population; struggle for representation of women and minorities in all forums; efforts to strengthen parliament and other democratic institutions through constitutional reforms; independent judiciary, comparatively free print and electronic media; emerging free, dynamic and assertive civil society; inputs and resources for education, health and poverty alleviation; education sector reforms; single national curriculum; transformation of UGC into HEC for sustainable reforms in the higher education sector of Pakistan; establishing new educational institutions.

ii-Response to Economic Challenges

High growth and strong economy till the 90s; CPEC opportunities; confidence building through dynamic approaches for achieving high growth; liberalization, privatization and deregulation of the economy with increasing emphasis on the growth of the private sector; consistent efforts for achieving economic recovery and sustainable growth; economic sovereignty; Benazir Income Support Programme; rural and urban development projects; micro-credit schemes and targeted intervention to help the poorest sections of the population; efforts to build a dynamic economy through modernized agriculture, industry, and advancement in science and technology; creation of new dynamism and promising environment for inclusive and sustainable economic and social development; realization of the full economic potential for the region.

iii-Response to Strategic and Security Challenges

National security policies; National Action Plan; National Narrative Paigham-e-Pakistan; efforts to ensure durable peace in the South Asia through peaceful dialogue; efforts for initiating Pakistan-India peace process, efforts to peacefully resolve core dispute over Kashmir, Pakistan's commitment to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; adoption of multipronged strategy to address extremism combining military, political, economic and social elements; use of force who refuse to renounce violence; banning militant outfits, frozen their financial assets and have



acted against those spreading prejudice and hate; efforts to win hearts and minds by expanding economic opportunities, increasing education, reforming madrassas, broadening political participation and mobilizing civil society to help spread the message of tolerance and moderation through initiatives such as Paigham-e-Pakistan; adoption of comprehensive strategy combining military action with political measures and socio-economic development in tribal area; efforts to wean away local population from militants and extremists.

Advancing National Accord for Peace, Inclusive Education, Social Reconstruction and Sustainable Economic Development as a Way Forward for the Development of Pakistan

Contribution to globalization; taking advantage of our strategic location at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia and West Asia; unitization of the geographical potential to make Pakistan the hub of economic activity in the region; Strengthening grass root democratic structures accountability and transparency to eradicate corruption and promotion of good governance. Democratic reforms included empowerment at the grass root level and of vulnerable sections of the population especially guaranteed representation for women and minorities. Ensuring smooth and effective functioning of the state institutions, particularly parliament, judiciary and administration. Ensuring independent, free, dynamic and assertive but responsible print and electronic media; consensus for the development of inclusive education, social reconstruction and sustainable economic development; collective response to the social challenges; Pakistan's vibrant democracy in the Muslim world with media enjoying full and unprecedented freedom; Pakistan as a hub for economic activity with trade, energy and communication corridor, linking the adjoining regions; transforming challenges into opportunities through consensus-based efforts; taking advantage of our geography and are determined to build on the sustained economic growth, political stability and peaceful regional environment; commitment to play its part in the promotion of peace, stability and development in the region and the world.



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PATRON OF THE CONFERENCE

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed

Chairman, Higher Education Commission

Government of Pakistan



CHAIR OF THE CONFERENCE

Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi President

International Islamic University, Islamabad



CHIEF ORGANIZER OF THE CONFERENCE

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Dr. Danish Khan (IIIP), Dr. Muhammad Islam (IRI)

Dr. Muhammad Haseeb Sarwar (University of Narowal)

Contact:

Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University

Faisal Masjid Campus, Islamabad

Ph. No.: 051-9261761, Ext. 311

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STEERING COMMITTEES OF THE CONFERENCE:

1. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry
Federal Minister for Planning, Development
and Special Initiative
Chairman International Institute for Peace, Islamabad

Chairman

2. Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi
President
International Islamic University, Islamabad

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3. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Former Vice Chancellor Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad Member



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Niaz
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6. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq Director General, IRI Member/Secretary

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Dr. Munazza Hayat,
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 Department of Islamic Studies, BZU,
 Multan

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5. Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Munir Editor *Islamic Studies*, IRI Member



6. Dr. Muhammad Islam Lecturer, IRI

Member/Secretary

7. Dr. Muhammad Rizwan
 Associate Professor
 Department of Psychology

 Haripur University, Haripur

Member

ORGANIZING AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq Director General, IRI Chairman

 Dr. Muhammad Haseeb Sarwar Registrar University of Narowal Member

3. Dr. Danish Khan Representative, IIIP

Member

4. Brig. (R) Muhammad Saleem Chief Security Officer, IIUI Member

Dr. Hafiz Aftab Ahmad Assistant Professor, IRI Member

6. Dr. Muhammad Islam Lecturer, IRI Member/Secretary

7. Mr. Nasir Fareed Incharge Protocol, IIUI

Member

8. Mr. Rustam Khan Deputy Director (IRI), IIUI Member

9. Mr. Liaqat Ali Supervisor, IRD Guest House, IIUI Member

Introduction of IIIP:

International Islamic Institute for Peace (IIIP) aims to address extremism, resultant violence, and the deeply associated ideological and socio-economic challenges in Muslim societies through data and evidence-backed approaches. Founded by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, former Interior Minister of Pakistan and a victim of terrorism, the Institute seeks a just, peaceful and inclusive society by promoting peaceful coexistence, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law.

Introduction of Paigham-e-Pakistan Centre for Peace, Reconciliation and Reconstruction Studies, Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad

Paigham-e-Pakistan Centre for Peace, Reconciliation and Reconstruction Studies is a BOG-approved centre exploring the significance of ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity. It is housed at the Islamic Research Institute, proposed in Article 197(1) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1956 to assist in reconstructing Muslim society on a truly Islamic basis. Established in 1960, the Institute became the research arm and constituent unit of the International Islamic University, Islamabad, in 1985.

Paigham-e-Pakistan Centre is developing and disseminating research methodology to contribute to the scientific study of Islam in the context of intellectual and scientific progress of the modern world through publications and training. The centre organizes seminars, conferences, workshops and training programmes to advance the Paigham-e-Pakistan narrative. In addition, it facilitates research on peace, reconciliation, reconstruction, and conflict resolution studies. Furthermore, it collaborates with national and international organizations with a common interest in peace and conflict resolution through community engagement programmes.

