

DOCUMENTS (JULY – DECEMBER 2011)

DOCUMENT 1

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DE-RADICALIZATION JULY 6, 2011

General Ashfaq Parvez Kiyani
Chief of the Army Staff
Barrister Masood Kosar
Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa
Honourable Participants of the Seminar,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalam-o-Alaikum and Good Afternoon,

At the outset, I would like to extend a very profound gratitude to all our distinguished foreign guests who have joined us from friendly countries in this seminar. It is, indeed, my profound privilege to be part of this seminar on de-radicalization which is a subject of immense national significance for all of us.

The experiences on radicalization challenges and various de-radicalization models being followed in different parts of the world, shared during the seminar, will prove extremely valuable and guide us towards formulating a more refined de-radicalization course for our similar initiatives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan, today, faces multi-dimensional challenges both at external and internal levels. The challenge of unintended radicalism and consequent terrorism is complex and a real barrier to our common goal of peace and stability. What we witness today is the consequence of history and has an internal, regional and global context. Without a dispassionate strategy appraisal, we can go wrong in our assessment as well as policy formulation on de-radicalization.

Therefore, it will be appropriate if I briefly dilate upon geo-strategic environment, twin challenges of extremism and terrorism and way forward to enduring national policy and strategy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan security paradigm owes its genesis to traumatic events of United States' led Afghan jihad, inept post-cold war handling of Afghanistan by the West, festering regional conflicts and post 9/11 war in Afghanistan.

The prolonged struggle against USSR brought various Jihadi organizations from around the world under one umbrella and encouraged the radicalized ideas and mindsets. The concept of Jihad, hitherto responsibility of a state, was privatized and politicized. Consequently, Pakistan continues to suffer from its ramifications.

Post 9/11, Pakistan embarked upon a mission to eliminate terrorism and militancy from its soil.

Pakistan's Armed Forces carried out successful operations in Swat, Malakand, South Waziristan, Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies against terrorists and militants. This was done with full support of the nation and in accord with the political will, articulated by the Parliament of Pakistan and a meeting of All Political Parties.

In war against terrorism, our nation has made great sacrifices and achieved tremendous successes. We lost over 30,000 men, women and children and more than 5000 personnel of the security forces. This phenomenon has not only created the law and order problem in the country but also cost the nation dearly in financial terms as economy has suffered a loss of billions of dollars as a consequence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now let me allude to Pakistan's role since 2008, at different levels to fight terrorism: -

- a) In line with our own national interest, we are working closely with our global partners to fight terrorists' groups and are determined not to allow use of our soil for terrorist activities against anyone.
- b) Regionally,
 - (1) Pakistan is committed to working in unison with all neighbours for establishment of peace and elimination of terrorism.
 - (2) Stable united, friendly and peaceful Afghanistan is in Pakistan's best interest. Pakistan wants independent and sovereign Afghanistan without any external influence.
 - (3) Pakistan views India as most important neighbour and desires sustained, substantive and result-oriented process of dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir. We sincerely hope that ongoing process of comprehensive engagement will be fruitful. Pakistan would like to resolve all outstanding issues with India in a peaceful and just manner. However, India will have to play more positive and accommodating role and respond to Pakistan's legitimate security concerns. India will not find Pakistan lacking in will to write a new chapter in our bilateral relations.
- c) Internally,
 - (1) Our Counter Terrorism Strategy is home-grown and indigenous in character and based on dictates of environment. We are following a "4 D strategy" at National level i.e. Dialogue, Deterrence, Development and Defeating the Terrorist's Ideology and Mindset.
 - (2) Pakistan has come a long way off from where it was in 2001-02. The government galvanized public support against terrorism and gave political ownership to the national struggle against terrorism.

Law Enforcement Operations conducted by our valiant security forces are a success story in arresting militancy, being emulated in Afghanistan as well as elsewhere.

- (3) Elimination of radical threat in Swat, once propagated in global media as hub of terrorists, is a significant success. It includes return and rehabilitation of 2.4 million displaced people in a record time.
- (4) We banned organizations that fomented terrorism and sectarianism in the society. Efforts of our intelligence agencies have led to apprehensions of hundreds of al Qaeda operatives and targeting of their leadership.
- (5) A National Counter-Terrorism Authority (NACTA) was constituted in 2008 to create a database of terrorists and terrorist organizations and coordinate and exchange important information between the federal and provincial civilian agencies and security organizations.
- (6) Process of de-radicalization of reconcilable detainees alone cannot pay the dividends unless the hardcore category of apprehended terrorists is awarded exemplary punishment through an appropriate judicial mechanism. Thus far, such a legal framework was missing.
- (7) Anti-Terrorism Act promulgated essentially to tackle law and order situation had no answer for the extraordinary situation confronted today.
- (8) I am glad to inform that through elaborate and cooperative efforts of Federal Ministries of Law and Interior, the Chief Minister and the Governor of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, a legal Framework Order has been prepared. As a first step, this framework, endorsed by the President after approval of the Federal Cabinet, has become a law for FATA and PATA.
- (9) In due course, it would be extended to the settled areas of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa and subsequently to entire Pakistan through acts of Provincial and National Assemblies respectively. It provides answers to a host of questions starting from requisitioning process of Army in Aid of Civil Power, prolonged detention of terrorists and most importantly, expeditious dispensation of justice.
- (10) My government has taken concrete steps to enhance capacity building of our Para-military forces and police. We have set up community policing system for intelligence gathering and networking arrangement with NADRA to trace terrorists.
- (11) Pakistan believes in democracy and pluralism. A society that strives for equality and dignity is undoubtedly essential for addressing the rage and anger arising from political or economic injustices. We acknowledge that without these steps, this rage will find new ways of expression.

- (12) Our Government is committed to ensure improved access to physical assets, education, vocational skills, training and other education services that enhance human capital of the poor and enable them to generate better income through gainful employment opportunities.

I must acknowledge the efforts made by Pakistan Army in not just fighting terrorism but in the sphere of rehabilitation as well. Within rehabilitation, de-radicalization is an important part to which the Army has again contributed immensely and provided us a nucleus to build on.

The Swat De-radicalization Programme is, therefore, in my opinion, a model for other relevant organizations to learn from and replicate. We are aware that without an effective national strategy marked by de-radicalization, we will not succeed fully and comprehensively.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On our way to fight terrorism, we have challenges too:

- a) Pakistan's efforts in political and military domain for combating terrorism need recognition at international level. There is a need to bridge trust deficit and allow Pakistan space to maneuver and contribute significantly without international pressure.
- b) Cooperation in counter-terrorism warrants a partnership approach which fully accommodates others' interests and respect for the clearly stipulated Red Lines. Drone attacks inside our borders are in conflict with the ground realities, impacting negatively on our efforts in controlling radical trends.
- c) Sustainable success would come from promoting socio-economic development and resolving long standing political disputes. The global resolve should manifest commitment in addressing root causes that militants exploit as psychological tools.
- d) Working out such a strategy calls for serious and enduring commitment amongst stakeholders. Pursuing narrow interests at the cost of coalition partners and aspirations of people will be self-defeating. Sovereignty and self-respect of partners is to be respected.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would conclude by saying that war against extremism and terrorism is a matter of national survival for us. Pakistan shares global concerns about extremism, militancy and terrorism. Pakistan's commitment is total and unwavering. Despite the challenges, the political leadership, Parliament and other state institutions stand united for elimination of terrorism in the country and addressing the socio-economic grievances of our people.

I am hopeful that with collective support and struggle of the masses, political parties and military leadership, we will overcome extremism and terrorism. Let me make this declaration that the Pakistani people and all state institutions are united in

their resolve to eliminate terrorism from our sacred land and take this campaign against terror to its logical end. Insha Allah.

I am sure that this seminar has provided a forum to benefit from this informed interaction by seriously debating the issue of de-radicalization. The Government will certainly consider your recommendations in formulating a national response to the challenge.

I thank you all.

Pakistan Paindabad! ■

*Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan, July 6, 2011,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>*

DOCUMENT 2

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE NATIONAL COMMAND AUTHORITY JULY 14, 2011

Cabinet Colleagues,
Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee,
Services Chiefs,
Secretary NCA and Distinguished Participants,

The National Command Authority is meeting at an important juncture. Several developments have taken place at the national, regional and international levels in the last months.

At the outset, I would like to express my sympathies and condolences on the loss of lives in the tragic blasts in Mumbai yesterday. Pakistan has already condemned the blasts. The President of Pakistan and I have also conveyed our deepest sympathies to the Indian leadership. Such incidents only confirm our resolve to work together for the elimination of the menace of terrorism in the region.

Distinguished Participants,

The recent incidents in Abbottabad and Mehran Base had raised concerns on the safety and security of our strategic assets. Simultaneously, there has been a propaganda onslaught against Pakistan and its nuclear programme. Such baseless, and certainly motivated, campaign against Pakistan will neither deter us from proceeding ahead sure-footed with our strategic programme nor succeed in undermining our national will. The strategic programme forms the core of our National Security paradigm. The Pakistan Armed Forces, and in fact the whole nation, takes its responsibility for national defence as a sacred duty. No one should ever underestimate our capability and resolve in this regard.

Concerns have also been expressed internationally over potential threats from non-state actors to the security of our strategic assets and facilities. Media reports have speculated on the possibility of sabotage and existence of contingency plans to take over our nuclear assets. Any such nefarious designs shall be thwarted effectively by the

armed forces with full support of the people of Pakistan. At the same time, we need to send out a message of assurance and responsibility. Pakistan is a responsible nuclear weapon state and we take this responsibility seriously.

Distinguished Participants,

Pakistan's strategic programme and assets are a sacred trust. They represent cumulative excellence and devotion of our scientists, engineers and professionals. Safeguarding these assets is a national duty that we shall perform with full determination and unity.

Our strategic programme is for national defence and deterrence. We have not and will never pursue an aggressive nuclear posturing or misadventure. At the same time, we will take all necessary measures to ensure the reliability and credibility of our minimum nuclear deterrence. We strongly reject policies of discrimination and selectivity, which are not inimical to Pakistan's national interests but also do no service to the realization of non proliferation goals.

Distinguished Participants,

Socio-economic development of Pakistan is the top most priority of the democratic Government. Clean and sustainable energy is a key ingredient to achieve this objective. Over the years, Pakistan has developed the expertise and the infrastructure to undertake nuclear power generation projects. Recently, I inaugurated the Chashma-II power which added 325 Mega Watts to the national energy grid.

As we move towards building more reactors, as part of our nuclear power programme-2050, the Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission have done commendable work in ensuring that our nuclear power plants are operating in a safe and secure manner. We would continue to adhere to the highest safety standards on the basis of global best practices.

Distinguished Participants,

Space science holds immense potential to contribute to the socio-economic advancement of societies and states. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Pakistan has developed a sound space faring capability. We must endeavour to bring benefits of full spectrum of space technology to the people of Pakistan. I look forward to the briefing on Pakistan's Space Programme 2040.

Before concluding, let me underscore that global political and security trends present a number of challenges to Pakistan. Our detractors are working over time to malign Pakistan as well as our nuclear and strategic assets. We must remain firm in our resolve to tide over these challenges. Promoting and protecting national interests of Pakistan is a sacred responsibility and we will never fail in this noble duty.

Thank you. ■

DOCUMENT 3**INDIA-PAKISTAN JOINT STATEMENT
July 28, 2011**

The text follows:

Both the foreign ministers reviewed the status of bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction on the holding of meetings on the issues of counter-terrorism (including progress on the Mumbai trial) and narcotics control; humanitarian issues; commercial and economic cooperation; Wular Barrage/Tulbul navigation project; Sir Creek; Siachen; peace and security including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; and promotion of friendly exchanges.

They affirmed the importance of carrying forward the dialogue process with a view to resolving peacefully all outstanding issues through constructive and result-oriented engagement, and to establish friendly, cooperative and good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India.

The ministers underlined the need for sustained effort by both countries to build a relationship of trust and mutually beneficial cooperation in conformity with the determination of the people of both countries to see an end to terrorism and violence and to realise their aspirations for peace and development.

They agreed that terrorism poses a continuing threat to peace and security and reiterated the firm and undiluted commitment of the two countries to fight and eliminate this scourge in all its forms and manifestations.

Both sides agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism, including among relevant departments as well as agencies to bring those responsible for terror crimes to justice.

They noted with satisfaction the fact that since the resumption of dialogue earlier this year, the process of release of prisoners and fishermen from both sides has continued. In this regard, the ministers agreed with the recommendations of the judicial committee on prisoners regarding early repatriation of the prisoners who have completed their sentences and whose travel documents are available; adoption of a humane approach in dealing with cases of fishermen, women, elderly, juvenile prisoners, prisoners terminally ill or suffering from serious illness or physical or mental disability and need to monitor the welfare of prisoners in order to ensure their humane treatment.

The ministers attached importance to promoting peace and security, including confidence-building measures, between India and Pakistan and agreed to convene separate meetings of the expert groups on nuclear and conventional CBMs, in Islamabad in Sept 2011.

They held discussions on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and agreed to the need for continued discussions, in a purposeful and forward-looking manner, with a view to finding a peaceful solution by narrowing divergences and building convergences.

On cross-LoC trade and travel facilitation for Jammu & Kashmir the foreign ministers decided to take different steps that include list of 21 products of permissible items for cross-LoC trade will be respected by both sides.

The Working Group will review the trading list with a view to further specifying permissible items to facilitate intra-Jammu and Kashmir cross-LoC trade.

Both sides will provide adequate facilities at the trade facilitation centres on each side.

The number of trading days stands enhanced from two to four days per week. Truck movements shall take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, both on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot routes.

The designated authorities will resolve operational issues concerning cross-LoC trade through regular interaction.

Regular meetings between the chambers of commerce and traders of both sides will be facilitated.

Existing telephone communication facilities should be strengthened.

The meetings of the designated authorities will be held alternately at the terminal of the crossing points on both sides of the LoC every quarter or as and when deemed necessary.

Regarding cross-LoC travelling, the two countries agreed that this travel would be expanded on both sides of the LoC to include visits for tourism and religious pilgrimage. In this regard, the modalities will be worked out by both sides.

Facilities including waiting area, terminal and clearing procedures at the operational crossing points will be streamlined by both sides for smooth cross-LoC travel.

The cross-LoC bus service between Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot routes will henceforth run on every Monday.

Application forms and requisite documentation in respect of travel across LoC will be exchanged by email between designated authorities of both sides. Such email transfer of application forms will be backed up by hard copies.

Both sides will expedite the processing time for applications, which shall not be more than 45 days.

Six-month multiple entry cross-LoC travel permits will be allowed by the designated authorities after completion of the required formalities at an early date.

Coordination meetings between the designated authorities will be held at the terminals alternately on both sides of the LoC every quarter or as and when deemed necessary. It was agreed that the Joint Working Group will henceforth meet on a bi-annual basis to review existing arrangements and suggest additional measures for Cross-LoC travel and trade.

The two foreign ministers agreed that increase in trade and economic engagement between the two countries would be mutually beneficial. In this context, they emphasised the importance of early establishment of a non-discriminatory trade regime between the two countries, including reduction/removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers.

They also emphasised the need for facilitating trade and redressing trade imbalance.

The ministers noted with satisfaction that during their meeting held in Islamabad in April 2011, the commerce secretaries of the two countries had decided on a number of important steps to realise the full potential of bilateral trade.

The two foreign ministers also agreed that discussions will continue on Siachen, Wular Barrage/Tulbul navigation project and Sir Creek to find a mutually acceptable solution to these issues.

They reiterated their commitment to seeking early and amicable solutions to all these issues. They reaffirmed their commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty.

The ministers also agreed that people of the two countries are at the heart of the relationship and that issue of people-to-people contacts and humanitarian issues should be accorded priority and treated with sensitivity.

They noted with satisfaction the progress made towards finalisation of a revised visa agreement which would help liberalise the visa regime and facilitate people-to-people, business-to-business and sports contacts.

The ministers also emphasised promotion of cooperation in various fields including, facilitating visits to religious shrines, media exchanges, holding of sports tournaments and cessation of hostile propaganda against each other.

The ministers decided to resume the work of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission and agreed that the technical level working groups should hold their meetings to identify avenues of further cooperation in these fields.

They reaffirmed their commitment to the goals and objectives of Saarc and agreed to make joint efforts to promote cooperation for regional development in the Saarc framework.

It was also decided that the Foreign Ministers will meet again in Islamabad in the first half of 2012 to review progress in the dialogue process.

The ministers agreed to the continuation of the dialogue process and to the convening series of secretaries-level meetings on counter-terrorism (including progress on Mumbai trial) and narcotics control; humanitarian issues; commercial and economic cooperation; Wular Barrage/Tulbul navigation project; Sir Creek (at the level of additional secretaries/surveyors general); Siachen; peace and security, including CBMs; Jammu & Kashmir; and promotion of friendly exchanges.

Dates of all these meetings will be decided through diplomatic channels and will be held prior to the next ministerial meeting. They noted that Shri Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry of India, has extended an invitation to his counterpart, Makhdoom Amin Fahim, to visit India at a mutually convenient date.

Dawn, July 28, 2011,
<http://www.dawn.com/2011/07/28/text-of-india-pakistan-joint-statement.html>

DOCUMENT 4**SPEECH OF SYED YOUSUF RAZA GILANI,
PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN, ON "MINORITIES DAY"
AUGUST 11, 2011**

Ministers,
Parliamentarians,
Excellencies,
Dignitaries,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is a matter of immense pleasure for me to address the representatives of the minority communities on this historic day of 11th August. It is singular honour of the present government that it declared the 11th of August as "Minorities' Day". The objective of celebrating this day at the national level is to acknowledge the contribution of the minorities in different walks of national life, highlight their rights and promote inter-faith harmony.

The minorities are our partners in development and rendering their valuable services in different fields of life such as defence, education, health and social welfare etc.

The declaration of the Minorities Day is in line with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, which he enunciated during his address to the Members of the Pakistan's first Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947.

I would like to read out a portion of his historic address to refresh its memory in your mind.

The Quaid-e-Azam said and I quote, "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... We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State...."

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This vision of the Quaid represents the values of tolerance, and moderation espoused by our great religion. You may be aware of the fact that the great Quaid appointed Mr. Jugander Nath Mandal, a member of the minority community, as the minister for law in the first cabinet after the establishment of Pakistan.

Pakistan is historically a multicultural society where people belonging to different faiths have traditionally been living together in peace, harmony, mutual respect and understanding. All great religions including Islam espouse universal values like equality, socio-economic justice, fair play and respect for human rights with special emphasis on equal and just treatment of the minorities.

Madina Pact the Holy Prophet (PBUH) signed with Jews gave full constitutional protection to the fundamental rights of non-Muslims including religious freedom to practice their religion freely. On this occasion, I would like to quote a very

famous incident from the Islamic history, which would illustrate the spirit of harmony and brotherhood between Islam and minorities.

Once a 40-member Christian delegation from Nijran came to hold dialogue with the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him). The Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) treated them as his personal guests and made them stay in the Prophet's Mosque. When the members of delegation enquired about the place to pray, the Last Prophet of Allah (peace be upon him) allowed them to pray in the Prophet's Mosque in accordance with their religious requirements.

The human history fails to offer any such example of tolerance, harmony and brotherhood. It is about time we rediscovered and highlighted our shared commonalities and values in the larger interest of peaceful coexistence and human development.

It is our moral, religious and social obligation to strengthen the bond of love and promote the culture of tolerance in the country. Growing intolerance and extremism is a serious threat to the fabric of our society. The present democratic government stands committed to ensure equal rights for all the minority communities as enshrined in the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the UN Declaration of Human Rights.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is honour of Pakistan People's Party that the ministry for minorities' affairs was established in the government of Prime Minister Zulifkar Ali Bhutto. In line with the party's manifesto, the present government has made necessary institutional arrangements which guarantee safeguards for political participation and welfare of the Minorities.

The government has taken a major step of reservation of 5% quota for minorities in the Government Jobs/Services which will ensure their due representation at all levels. We are making consistent efforts to impart a sense of equal citizenship so far as fundamental rights, safety, security, honour, life, liberty and properties of the Minorities are concerned.

Unfortunately some extremist elements with a view to advancing their own narrow and bigoted agendas have targeted the minorities. The people's government, however, stands fully committed to foil the designs of these extremist elements. The perpetrators of the crime against the minority community anywhere in Pakistan – must be brought to justice and they will be.

I must appreciate the role of religious scholars of different faiths who have consistently professed and practiced the ideals of interfaith harmony and brotherhood within the Pakistani nationhood. All of you present here today deserve my profound tribute and commendations for unwavering efforts made towards better and stable Pakistan.

I hope you will continue to contribute and promote national harmony to build a much greater and more tolerant Pakistan. Let us, on this day, dedicate ourselves to continue our journey along this road.

In the end, I would quote from the Quaid-e-Azam's address to the Parsi community of Sindh in 1948. The great Quaid said and I quote:

"I assure you Pakistan means to stand by its oft repeated promises of according equal rights to all its nationals irrespective of their caste or creed. Pakistan which symbolizes the aspirations of a nation that found it self to be a minority in the Indian subcontinent cannot be UNMINDFUL of minorities within its own borders."

Thanks you all,
Pakistan Paindabad.■

*Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan, August 11, 2011,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>*

DOCUMENT 5

SPEECH OF PRIME MINISTER GILANI ON OCCASION OF 65TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Following is the text of speech of Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani at a flag-hoisting ceremony here at Convention Centre on occasion of 65th Independence Day.

"My brothers and sisters,
Dear countrymen,
Asalam-o-Alaikum,

Today is the Independence Day of our dear homeland, Pakistan. I congratulate the entire nation and overseas Pakistanis on this auspicious occasion from the core of my heart. First of all, I pay my rich homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of the nation under whose inspiring leadership, statesmanship and wisdom, the first ideological state of the world came into being through a democratic struggle.

I would also pay tribute to the leaders and workers of Pakistan Movement who were at the forefront of the struggle with their Quaid. The establishment of Pakistan is the best example of democratic struggle. This reference is very authentic even today. The solution of all problems in the country lies in democracy.

My dear countrymen,

I would like to congratulate the entire nation in general and the people of FATA in particular on promulgation of political reforms in FATA. Two days ago, amended FCR was promulgated and Political Parties Order 2002 was extended to the FATA region. Resultantly, all political parties would now be able to launch political activities there. I have a firm belief that this decision of the government would usher in a new era of progress and prosperity and further empower the people. I also want to felicitate the nation on yet another success, which we achieved by sending our satellite in the space. Pakistan has joined a privileged club of the countries of Space Age. This satellite has been indigenously manufactured by SUPARCO. I also congratulate all the scientists of this institute on this great achievement. This satellite would be beneficial for TV broadcast and also help meet other satellite needs.

Our people are democratic in their conduct and attitude. We believe that it is important to respect the provincial rights at the federal level and running the affairs with provinces through consultation and mutual understanding is the foremost priority of the democratic government. It is under this spirit that provincial autonomy has been granted to the federating units through 18th Constitutional Amendment.

Prior to this, the Federation enhanced the financial resources of the provinces through the 7th National Finance Commission Award after a decade, which constitutes a major success of this democratic government.

The democratic government also gave back powers, rights and identity to the regions that were denied their rights and powers in the past. Today Gilgit-Baltistan enjoys domestic autonomy.

The educational department was devolved to the provinces in accordance with the 18th Amendment but this important area will not be ignored at the federal level. A National Educational Conference will soon be held with the concurrence of the provinces in which all decisions will be made collectively with the provinces so that educational harmony takes place in the country.

The democratic government has undertaken various steps to empower women, which include fixation of quota in the legislatures and appointment of a woman ombudsperson. The enactment to stop harassment of women at the workplace would give them more confidence and independence to discharge their duties efficiently without any fear. I am happy to know that the number of women has increased in the area of higher education and they are taking active part in the development of the nation. We are utilizing all available resources for the welfare of our succeeding generations. We are particularly focusing on encouraging the children who are physically challenged. It is a matter of immense pleasure that special children of our country not only won the Cricket World Cup but also bagged 56 gold medals in Special Olympics 2011 held at Athens in which thousands of sportsmen from 180 countries participated. These children promoted soft image of Pakistan and made their countrymen proud.

These children are worthy of our pride. Pakistan has ratified the United Nations' Convention regarding the rights of special people. Effective course of action will be worked out to implement this Convention. By grace of God, rehabilitation of the special people and protection of their rights at the community level will be ensured.

Our government is also taking important steps to protect minorities and their rights. In this regard, we are following the Quaid's vision as beacon of light which he enunciated during his address to the Constituent Assembly on August 11, 1947. The Quaid had said that the minorities in Pakistan would enjoy complete religious and social freedom and they would have equal rights as citizens of Pakistan. Our government fixed the 5% quota for minorities in the government jobs so that they could play their active role in the national development.

Pakistan is confronted with scourge of terrorism and the entire nation is united to tackle this menace. All political leaders and people are with the government in the war on terrorism. Personnel of the armed forces, police, para-military forces and other law enforcement agencies are playing their exemplary role along with civil society and administration to eliminate terrorism from our midst. I, on behalf of the entire nation, pay rich tribute to those officers and soldiers who laid down their lives

in the line of duty. By the grace of God, we will not rest until we eliminate this menace of terrorism. The success achieved by our armed forces in Swat fostered great confidence among the people of Pakistan.

The world saw that 3 million internally displaced were rehabilitated within a short span of time for the first time in history. Per person, 25 thousand rupees were paid to the displaced people which totals well over 8.5 billion rupees. The facilities of food, clean water and health were provided in the relief camps. I pay tribute to the political leadership, welfare organizations and the government of KPK for this. After the establishment of peace in Malakand and Swat, the security forces are working hard to restore peace in South Waziristan in complete harmony.

The valiant armed forces of Pakistan stand by people of Pakistan in every hour of trial and tribulation. The way our soldiers rescued those trapped in the flood-waters last year at the risk of their own lives deserves our national appreciation.

My dear countrymen,

Terrorism and unprecedented floods caused a severe damage to our economy. We have had to incur a staggering loss of 65 billion US dollars as a result of incidents of terrorism. We inherited the energy crisis. No plan of adding even a single megawatt of power to the national grid was in place in the dictatorial regime in the past, which led to the worst energy crisis. We are trying our best to resolve this issue on urgent basis. People would soon see that they would get rid of the unscheduled load-shedding. Work continues on Munda and Bhasha dams. The decision to provide necessary funds has been taken for the Thar Coal Project.

Despite unfavourable conditions, 3000 megawatt of power has been added to the national grid during last three years. A committee headed by the federal minister for finance has been constituted which would suggest ways and means on emergent basis to overcome energy crisis. We are trying to formulate a strategy along with provinces in order to reduce dearness and hike. A subsidy of Rs. 2 billion has been provided at utility stores in the holy month of Ramadan so that people may have necessities of life on reduced prices. Financial assistance is being provided to 6 million families through Benazir Income Support Programme. The workers are being made shareholders through Benazir Stock Option Scheme. Internship program has been initiated for the jobless youth.

A raise of 15% to 20% has been given to the pensioners.

Substantial raise has been given in the salaries of the government employees, armed forces and the judiciary.

Contract employees have been regularized.

The employees who were sacked in 1997 have been reinstated.

In order to improve the economy of the country, we had to take some difficult decisions on suggestions of economic experts. These decisions produced good results and people appreciated our decisions.

The flow of remittances from the Pakistani expatriate community is very encouraging. They are our precious asset. Our foreign reserves have reached \$ 18 billion, which is all-time high in the history.

Allah Almighty be thanked that parliament is about to complete four years. The political leadership is agreed to the fact that we will surely succeed in solidifying democracy and it is in democracy that solution of our problems lies.

The role of religious scholars and Mashaikh has always been important in the mental and intellectual training of our society. Their teachings are beacon of light for us. I will soon hold a meeting with the religious scholars and Mashaikh and seek guidance from them. This is the country of all of us and we all have to think and act to make it better than before. We do not need to see what our country gave us rather what we gave to the country.

My countrymen,

The government is pursuing the foreign policy based on respect, understanding and peaceful coexistence. We want to promote our relations with the world on the basis of equality and mutual well being.

Our historic relations with China are of huge importance and our friendship with China is an important pillar of our foreign policy. "Pakistan-China friendship is higher than Himalaya and deeper than oceans in real terms."

Our relationship of brotherhood with brotherly country, Saudi Arabia, will always stay intact. In my recent visit to the Kingdom, Saudi King Abdullah said that the relation between our two peoples is much more than that of friends and brothers. We are developing brotherly ties with all Islamic countries. The government and the people of Turkey have deep respect for people of Pakistan, which they have demonstrated many a time.

We have historic and geographical bonds with Iran. The implementation on gas pipeline project with Iran would start soon. The restoration of peace in Afghanistan is our desire. We want to see Afghanistan as prosperous, sovereign and independent country.

India is our important neighbour. We want that both countries should find a negotiated resolution of their pending issues so that the peoples of both countries could get rid of poverty, ignorance, and backwardness.

The relations with the United States are extremely important in Pakistan's foreign policy. We are always ready to extend our cooperation to the friends but are not ready to accept anyone's supremacy. The friendly relations with the UK and all countries of the European Union are being further promoted and efforts are afoot to have access to the American and the European markets. We have achieved noticeable success in this regard.

No one can deny the fact that Kashmir is a jugular vein of Pakistan. The international community has accepted the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. We would continue to provide political, diplomatic and moral support to our Kashmiri brothers.

Pakistan's foreign relations are instrumental in national integrity and honour. We respect the integrity and sovereignty of other countries and expect that they also respect Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We want to remind the world that we are a peace-loving nation. Allegations of extremism and terrorism against us are ill-founded, because we are ourselves victim to these scourges.

Karachi, which is the country's financial hub and lifeline, has been a target of terrorists for some time. The national political leadership is making strenuous efforts for the solution of this problem. We are taking all stakeholders on board and I am sure with collective wisdom, we would be able to find a permanent solution to this problem. A parliamentary committee is being established in this regard. The Speaker of the National Assembly would soon declare it so that it could do fact-finding in Karachi.

The democratic government launched Aagaz-e-Haqooq Balochistan Initiative to remove the sense of deprivation among the people in Balochistan. This initiative is under implementation at various phases. Relaxation in age and requisite qualification is being given to the youth of Balochistan to provide them jobs. The Munda border has been opened to facilitate transportation. All such political workers have been released who were not required under any other charge.

Manifest changes have been made in constitutional, political, administrative and economic matters in the light of 39 recommendations of Balochistan package. The progress on these steps is quite encouraging. The gas pipeline project with Iran would have positive impact on the economy of the province as well as on well being of the Baloch people.

We are in contact with all leaders of Balochistan. It is both our desire and effort that we formulate a consensus strategy in consultation with these leaders. I am ready to go to all Baloch leaders because we want to include them in the mainstream. A meeting of the federal cabinet was held in Quetta a few days ago. I have instructed that one minister must visit Balochistan every week.

My dear countrymen,

Independence of media is part of our manifesto because we believe media and democracy are integral to each other. We want that our electronic and print media should work in a free environment. Our government is a media-friendly government. I have recently announced Rs. 200 million for the Endowment Fund for the welfare of journalists throughout the country. We are of the view that constructive criticism by media plays important role in making the government improve its performance. Our government is busy in strengthening the state institutions. Individuals come and go but institutions stay. It is important that every institution should operate within its ambit defined by the Constitution. We believe in supremacy of parliament and independence of judiciary. We have our full belief in division of constitutional powers of democratic institutions because: Democracy without rule of law degenerates into a mob rule. Our government respects the decisions of judiciary and would continue to do so in future too.

I have launched an initiative "Prime Minister's in Dialogue with the Nation." We received many workable suggestions from intellectuals, experts, educationists and people belonging to various walks of life, which will be implemented. Our government wants to promote literature, poetry, painting, and music. Federal Government's Artist Fund has been established with Rs. 200 million. I have instructed the cabinet division to give representation to writers and artists in a committee to be constituted in this regard.

Dialogue with the nation is a matter of importance for me. Four sittings have taken place in this regard. In these meetings, I spent most of my time listening to the views of participants. Some decisions were made afterwards, which I present here: ú The proposal to establish first National Book Museum in Islamabad is under consideration. ú The countries where posts of cultural attaches are laying vacant, cultural attaches will soon be appointed there. ú Writers, artists and poets will be part of delegation during my foreign visits abroad. ú Directions have been issued to establish film studio and film laboratory on fast-track basis in Islamabad. Directions have also been given to establish a cinema house in Islamabad.

Although the ministries of sports and culture have been devolved to the provinces, these departments would not be ignored at the federal level. Pakistani sportsmen have worked wonders in the past. Pakistani women are also achieving successes. We have to do a lot for the encouragement of these sportsmen and sportswomen. The conduct of sports festival at federal and provincial levels will be a good development.

My dialogue also continues with lawyers in addition to intellectuals and writers. The suggestions gleaned from various sessions of dialogue with different strata of nation and decisions so taken will surely be implemented. The dialogue would continue.

I have a belief that positive trend in our thought and attitude will result in our collective betterment.

I will surely like to remind that guarantee of peace, prosperity, tolerance and brotherhood lies in democracy.

I want to end with the verse of eminent poet Ahmad Nadeem Qasimi:

“Zinda hi Pakistan tou hum sub Zinda hain

Jab tuk suraj rukhshinda, taray taabinda hain.” ■

*Associated Press of Pakistan (PID), August 14, 2011,
http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en_/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=148317&Itemid=38*

DOCUMENT 6

SPEECH OF FOREIGN MINISTER NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Madam Secretary of State,
 Foreign Minister Davutoglu,
 Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we join here today for launching of Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF), ten years after the 9/11 atrocities, we are reminded of the memory of those who lost their lives on that fateful day as well as all those who have been victims of terrorism around the globe during all these years.

The launching of GCTF is an appropriate occasion to reaffirm our commitment to uphold the noble ideals of tolerance, humanity, brotherhood, and harmony among all religions, faiths and cultures.

It is also a moment to reflect where do we stand in the struggle against terrorism ten years down the line? Pakistan alone has suffered casualties of 35,000 men, women, and children including 5000 personnel of security forces. Our economic losses exceed \$ 68 billion. If we include causalities and economic losses suffered by other nations, it would be mind boggling.

The success of our 3Ds (dialogue, development, deterrence) counter-terrorism strategy during law enforcement operation in Swat clearly indicates that political ownership and national consensus are critical in defeating extremism and terrorists. We believe that recognition of Pakistan's sacrifices and understanding of inherent complexities of the challenge would be helpful in pursuing our shared objectives.

As the documentary, screened at this meeting, on the victims and survivors of terrorism highlighted, there is a need to evolve a counter-narrative which is simple, direct, and effective to mobilize public support against the misguided agenda being propagated by the extremists and terrorists.

At the national level, we are enlisting the support of religious scholars, political activists, media, civil society and youth groups to raise awareness about destructive and nefarious agenda of terrorists. I would like to mention here that two recent feature films "Khuda kay Liya" and "Bol" – produced in Pakistan have effectively communicated this message to all segments of society, not only in Pakistan but also in other countries including UK and India.

As a country that has been most seriously affected by terrorism, we reaffirm our national resolve to strengthen international cooperation for the elimination of terrorism. We indeed remain determined to pursue terrorists to the very end.

We welcome the launching of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum. We are confident that this new forum would further augment the international community's efforts against extremism and terrorism. We also welcome the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in the United Arab Emirates.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that our counter terrorism efforts would be more effective if we follow a multi-pronged approach that ensures respect for human rights and rule of law in bringing terrorists to justice. I assure you full cooperation of Pakistan with all the partners in making the GCTF a true success.

I thank you. ■

*Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>*

DOCUMENT 7

FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY, NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Distinguished Chair, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by associating ourselves with the statement made by Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. The NAM statement reflects the collective resolve of its 120 members in evolving a cooperative, inclusive and balanced framework for nuclear safety and nuclear security.

3. We also join other delegations in commending the Secretary General for his initiative to convene this timely and important High Level Meeting. We look forward to a constructive exchange of views on policy, implementation and international cooperation aspects of nuclear safety and nuclear security.

Distinguished Chair,

4. Prior to the Fukushima accident in March, nuclear energy was widely seen and accepted as a viable, safe and sustainable alternative to the dwindling reserves of fossil fuels. Nuclear power also represented an effective tool to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change. The events at Fukushima nuclear plants however brought into focus justifiable public anxiety over nuclear safety measures and standards.

5. Such concerns are neither unjustified nor unprecedented. The Three Mile Island incident and the Chernobyl disaster had raised similar fears. Just as the international community responded to the challenges of nuclear safety then, we are confident that it can do again, individually and collectively. The convening of this High Level Meeting is a manifestation of the international community's determination to promote nuclear energy in a safe and responsible manner.

Distinguished Chair,

6. We compliment the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in taking the lead to convene a Ministerial Conference earlier this year to commence the process of learning lessons from the Fukushima accident.

7. The Action Plan prepared by the IAEA and its Member States provides an important foundation to strengthen the nuclear safety framework worldwide. We call upon the High Level Meeting to reaffirm its support for the leadership role of the IAEA in the lesson learning process and enabling its Member States to implement them nationally.

8. In evolving a strengthened nuclear safety regime, it would be essential to take into account the differentiated nature of countries' needs and circumstances. The course correction proposals and modalities should be based on technical and objective assessments. Effective implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety would inter alia depend in large measure on the degree of international assistance and cooperation to the developing countries. We fully endorse the NAM views on this vital aspect.

9. On our part, we have already begun a comprehensive safety review of the existing power plants in areas such as site studies, safety systems, emergency power systems, off-site emergency preparedness etc. Such safety appraisal will also be applicable to our future nuclear power plants. We shall examine the outcome of this review and bring about necessary modifications, as necessary.

Distinguished Chair,

10. Revival of economy and socio-economic development of our people is the foremost priority of the Government of Pakistan. Safe and sustainable nuclear energy is essential to advance our development agenda.

11. At present, the share of nuclear power in Pakistan's electricity mix is rather modest. We wish to enhance the current level of 750 MWe nuclear power generation capacity to 8800 MWe by the year 2030. This is a challenging task but an equally important developmental imperative which we are determined to pursue.

12. Early this year, the unanimous approval by the IAEA Board of C-3 and C-4 Safeguards Agreement reflected international recognition of Pakistan's expertise in the safe and secure operation of nuclear power plants. The conclusion of this Safeguards Agreement relating to the two power plants with 340 MWe each power generation capacity is an important milestone towards our energy security strategy.

13. Pakistan has more than three decades of experience in safe reactor operations. We also have a professional corps of experts as well as technical and engineering infrastructure to provide technical support to our power plants. We are ready to assist interested states in the experience and expertise that we have gained in the area of nuclear safety under the IAEA auspices.

Distinguished Chair,

14. Nuclear Security has emerged as an important theme and area requiring adequate attention and response. Pakistan shares the concerns that non-state actors or terrorists may acquire and potentially use nuclear materials and cause serious economic, political and psychological consequences.

15. We have demonstrated through our political commitment and actions the importance that we attach to nuclear security. We have engaged constructively inter alia with the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) and the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) processes.

16. While we support international focus and efforts to advance the objectives of nuclear security, we share the IAEA view that "responsibility for nuclear security rests entirely with each State."

17. At the international level, the IAEA has the leading and central role in evolving guidelines, recommendations, codes, and guidance documents in the area of nuclear security. Given its mandate, technical competence and wide membership, IAEA is the unique platform for its Member States to consider proposals for reviewing and strengthening the international framework on nuclear security.

Distinguished Chair,

18. In recent years, a number of initiatives and activities have sprung up globally to promote the nuclear security agenda, often with overlapping work. We fully share the IAEA concerns over the continuing duplication of nuclear security related activities. We wish to reaffirm that the IAEA has the unique role, authority, competency and legitimacy to lead and coordinate policy, operational activities and assistance provision in the field of nuclear security.

19. Similarly, it would be counterproductive, both financially and politically, to duplicate nuclear security related activities, particularly in the design and development of parallel guidelines, recommendations, standards and guidance documents in various areas related to nuclear security.

20. Given the distinct nature, character and implementation structures of the IAEA for nuclear safety and nuclear security, we would advise against pursuit of a single series of “standards” in the areas of nuclear safety and security. These two areas have divergent philosophies, causes, legal instruments and operational requirements, although the two may share a degree of common risks.

Distinguished Chair,

21. Pakistan has taken several legislative, organizational and administrative steps to augment the safety and security of our nuclear installations, facilities, materials and the regulatory framework.

22. Our Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA) has completed ten years of its professional work as an effective overseer. The Authority has augmented its regulatory infrastructure and expanded the scope of its regulatory processes. It has also achieved important milestones i.e. from regulatory oversight of nuclear materials and equipment to management of radioactive sources. In doing so, the PNRA has followed international standards and practices.

23. The professional approach with which the Authority has executed the Nuclear Security Action Plan (NSAP) in Pakistan has won it wide appreciation among its global peers. The PNRA is now implementing the second phase of the NSAP, in collaboration with the IAEA. In addition, we have participated for several years now in the IAEA’s Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB).

24. In terms of emergency preparedness and response, we have built national capacities as a party to the Convention on Nuclear Safety as well as the Conventions on Notification of Nuclear Accident and on Assistance. We look forward to working with the IAEA and Member States to take forward the recommendations of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety including further enhancing of national capacities, expertise and hosting of workshops and seminars in Pakistan.

25. We have established an effective nuclear security training, response and education infrastructure in Pakistan. We are prepared to share these national capabilities at the regional level and assist other interested states in collaboration with the IAEA.

Distinguished Chair,

26. I wish to take this opportunity to say a few words on the evolving international framework within the broader context of the debate on peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

27. The global non-proliferation architecture has witnessed major transformations in recent years. We have seen trends and policies that have dealt major blows to the non-proliferation regime. Policies and practices, based on commercial and political considerations, have eroded the sanctity of long-standing norms and legal instruments that underpin the non-proliferation regime.

28. Pakistan believes in an equitable, non-discriminatory and criteria-based approach to advance the universally shared goals of non-proliferation and promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We also hope that considerations of nuclear safety and nuclear security would facilitate, not hinder, the pursuit of peaceful uses of nuclear energy for advancing the development agenda and offsetting environmental degradation.

Thank you.■

*Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>*

DOCUMENT 8

FOREIGN MINISTER ON "PROMOTING DIALOGUE, UNDERSTANDING, AND COUNTERING THE APPEAL OF TERRORISM" IN THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Madam Chairperson,

The Secretary General's initiative to hold this symposium on international counter-terrorism is praiseworthy. Like other distinguished speakers, I would like to focus on 'promoting dialogue, understanding and countering the appeal of terrorism'.

Madam Chairperson,

It is indeed a paradox that in today's world greater connectivity and inter-dependence is accompanied by prejudices and divisions among and within societies. In our global age, social networks can lead to both convergence and divergence among societies and cultures.

Pakistan does not endorse facile and self serving hypotheses of conflict among cultures and civilizations. We believe that dialogue, constructive engagement and proactive reach-out is anti-dote to all such negative generalizations. While responses to conflicting political interests are often cast in cultural or religious terms, it is only an expedient disguise for those pursuing narrow political objectives by violent means. The need to promote dialogue, cooperation, and understanding among cultures is, therefore, a contemporary imperative. We must empower the economically marginalized parts of societies and pursue dialogue to counter the appeal of extremism to them.

The root causes of extremism like poverty, unemployment, and long unresolved disputes need to be addressed to make dialogue a lasting success. Bringing the disenchanted into the political mainstream can be very useful. It is necessary to eschew policies that alienate people and make them vulnerable to extremism. Dialogue, understanding and empathy rather than oppression should be instruments of choice.

Madam Chairperson,

Pakistan's experience of successfully countering the appeal of terrorism in the Swat valley is instructive. Initially, our initiative of dialogue with terrorists was criticized in the media. We engaged in dialogue with extremists and exposed their intransigence which reduced their support in the society. We provided alternatives to violent methods of resolving problems. It was through political engagement and our offer of solution to political problems that we proved the unreasonableness of terrorists. Terrorists violated the agreements with the Government which reduced their credibility. When the moral bankruptcy of terrorists was comprehensively proved time and again, it built the social support against terrorists and ensured success of our operation against them.

Moreover, the fixation on narrow approaches to fight terrorism, either through operational measures alone or solely through legal mechanisms is not helpful. The causes of terrorism are multiple and need a comprehensive response from the international community. Piecemeal responses will neither address historical injustices nor will resolve festering disputes. The response of the international community has to be long-term and multi-pronged involving dialogue among civilizations, economic development, cultural harmony, dispute resolution, and political settlements.

We must do everything possible to offer potential supporters of terrorists hope in the political processes. Democratization and a sense of ownership of political system can help neutralize the violent narrative of terrorists by offering non-violent means for settling differences and disputes. Political upheavals sweeping through various parts of the world today, which are homegrown, have limited the ability of terrorists to reach out to target populations.

Madam Chair,

A key question is why promotion of dialogue and understanding, as a part of counter-terrorism strategy, is not being pursued with the vigour it deserves in spite of so much emphasis on it in UN documents. While terrorism has to be fought with unyielding resolve, it is important to avoid moral absolutism. We need to make extraordinary efforts to create a space for promotion of dialogue and understanding.

We need to challenge the assumptions of those who flourish on misunderstanding and knowledge deficit. We must be guided by our common humanity and our common and universal values. The way forward is to foster mutual understanding, dialogue, and enlightenment as well as concentrate on countering the appeal of terrorism by the development of human resources, poverty alleviation, education, dispute resolution, and social justice.

Thank you. ■

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, September 19, 2011,
<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/mfa/pages/article.aspx?id=928&type=3>

DOCUMENT 9**FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING
(ACM) OF THE OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS,
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 23, 2011**

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellencies and distinguished colleagues,
Assalamualaikum,

We thank you for convening the Annual Coordination Meeting. Let me reiterate our confidence in the leadership of Kazakhstan in guiding the work of our Organization. I assure you full support and cooperation of my delegation in facilitating your work.

I would also like to thank the OIC Secretary-General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, for his commendable work in raising the profile of the organization globally.

Mr. Chairman,

The Muslim World is currently passing through a moment of unprecedented political awakening and reckoning. One can discern signs of new Islamic renaissance in the 21st Century. We are confident that our brothers and sisters in the concerned countries would make the right choices to serve their best national interest.

Pakistan's relations with the Muslim countries are rooted in strong religious, cultural and historical affinities. We will continue to extend our support to our brothers and sisters in realizing their national aspirations.

Mr. Chairman,

We are meeting here at a time when the Palestinian aspirations for a national homeland appear to be entering a decisive phase. Pakistan believes that a just and peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue is an indispensable imperative in the interest of peace in the broader Middle Eastern region. The prolongation of prevailing stalemate is no more sustainable. Pakistan has steadfastly supported Palestinian people's legitimate quest for the realization of their right to self-determination. At this critical juncture, we stand with our Palestinian brethren for their legitimate demand for an independent State with al Quds al Sharif as its capital, and its recognition by the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Together with Palestine, Jammu & Kashmir remains the oldest unresolved dispute on the UN agenda. Kashmiri people have been struggling for their right to self-determination for more than six decades. Self-determination is a basic human right which cannot be applied selectively.

The prospect of a lasting peace in South Asia is directly linked with a just and durable solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Pakistan has repeatedly underlined this fundamental reality in our engagement with India. Pakistan also supports associating the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people with the Pakistan-India dialogue process to find a durable solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan greatly appreciates OIC's support for the Kashmir cause. We were happy to receive Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ambassador Abdullah Abdurahman Alim in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir in May this year. We hope he will be able to visit IOK to assess the human rights situation in the Occupied State.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir are grateful to the OIC for its consistent support for their just struggle for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, and for the promotion and protection of their human rights. The Kashmiri people are hopeful that the OIC will raise its voice in support of the Kashmiri people's demand for an international investigation into the unmarked mass graves discovered in the Indian-Occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan is deeply concerned over continued strife and instability in Afghanistan. Our vision of regional peace, stability and prosperity cannot be realized without peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Pakistan, therefore, is closely working with the Afghan Government and the international community for early return of peace and stability in the war torn country. We fully support President Karzai's initiative for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process. Pakistan also supports OIC's engagement with the reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

We are deeply saddened over the assassination of former President Prof. Burhan-Uddin Rabbani in a terrorist attack in Kabul on 20 September. We strongly condemn this dastardly act and convey our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to his family and the people of Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism has emerged as the most serious challenge of our times. Pakistan has suffered enormously, both in human and material terms, from terrorism. More than 35,000 Pakistani men, women and children including 5,000 personnel of security forces have lost their lives over the past 10 years. Our economic losses exceed US\$ 68 billion.

Notwithstanding the huge losses, we remain un-wavered in our resolve to eliminate terrorism from our country and beyond. We are determined to pursue terrorists to the very end.

Mr. Chairman,

It is extremely unfortunate that more often than not Islam and Muslims are linked with terrorism. Islam is a religion of peace and preaches brotherhood, understanding

and forgiveness. We, therefore, strongly reject the canard of “Islamic terrorism”. The recent incident in Norway is a clear manifestation that terrorists have no religion, no nationality and no values. They are blood thirsty criminals and should be treated as such universally.

Another issue of deep concern pertains to increasing incidents of Islamophobia and negative stereotyping of Islam, its scriptures and holy personalities. In certain countries, anti-Islam and anti-Muslim rhetoric has become a favorite pastime to expand electoral gains. These hate mongers must not be allowed to pursue their evil agenda under the garb of freedom of expression.

We greatly appreciate the positive initiative by the OIC to craft and present the consensus resolution on “Combating intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief” in the Human Rights Council in Geneva. We hope this initiative could be replicated in New York during the 66th Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN as the only universally representative organization is an embodiment of our common aspirations for peace, economic development and human rights.

Accordingly, we all need to invest more to adapt, equip, reform and strengthen the UN to enable it to fulfill our dreams and aspirations.

There is also a need for comprehensive reform of the Security Council to make it more democratic, effective, transparent and accountable. As the second largest inter-governmental organization, the OIC must play a pro-active role in the reform process and seek adequate representation in the reformed Security Council as laid down in numerous OIC resolutions.

Mr. Chairman,

The Muslim Ummah has been endowed with enormous human and natural resources. However, we have been unable to leverage these strengths for the well-being and development of our people due to deficiencies in human resource development and science & technology.

In order to excel in the knowledge based economies of the 21st Century, the OIC member states must join hands to build synergies and to channelize this in-built strength for the progress and prosperity of our peoples. Pakistan would be happy to play its role in this joint endeavour.

May Allah Almighty bless us with success.

I thank you. ■

*Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan, September 24, 2011,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>*

DOCUMENT 10**FOREIGN MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON BEHALF OF PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 66TH SESSION OF UNGA**

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bismillah hirrahman irrahim. I begin in the name of God, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

I am honoured to be here today, and to represent the brave and resilient people of Pakistan before you. As you may know, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed YusufRaza Gilani was due to visit New York and address this august house. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister could not come, owing to the humanitarian disaster caused by the floods in Pakistan. Once again I feel privileged to be able to deliver the remarks of the Prime Minister to the General Assembly.

I bring to you Mr President and all the nations of the world assembled here, salaam, peace, and the greetings and good wishes of the people of Pakistan.

We are delighted Mr President, to be able to address the General Assembly under your leadership. This is an important session of the General Assembly, the State of Qatar is a truly deserving and able country for this occasion. The Pakistani people have intimate brotherly relations with your great country, and I speak for my people in welcoming your presidential term. Your election to this high office is as much a tribute to your outstanding qualities as it is to the high esteem that your country is held in the comity of nations.

Why are we here, Mr. President? Other than the allure of New York City, why have we converged at the UN General Assembly?

Pakistan is here because it believes in multilateralism. Each September we return to this great city, and this grand stage so that we can restate and reaffirm the principles and values of multilateralism. It is and has been one of the abiding central tenets of our foreign policy. We are committed to the very idea of the United Nations.

To us, this idea is simple. We can do more together than we can apart. We can solve complex problems by consensus rather than by unilateralism. Multilateral cooperation can help us deal with the spectrum of global challenges, old and new, in our interdependent world. As we grow more and more dependent on each other, the space for unilateralism and uni-dimensional answers to the most difficult questions shrinks. Those who are skeptical of the future of multilateralism are living in the past. The future, our collective global future, Insha Allah, is bright. It is the United Nations and multilateralism that will safeguard this future.

Mr President,

Pakistan believes in the promise of the United Nations -- a world free from the scourge of war; a world governed by rules and norms of civility, of decency, of good will; creating a better future for the peoples of the world; inter-state conduct premised on the respect for the immutable principles of the United Nations. We must ensure that our United Nations is the best representation of the aspirations of our peoples.

Mr President, we must do better. There is far too much distance between these aspirations, and the sometimes dark realities of our times. We are constantly struggling with difficult choices and cycles: expediency versus values, interests versus ideals, there is conflict, discord and death. Natural and man-made calamities spread fear and destitution among millions, and often exacerbate and expose already unacceptable levels of poverty and deprivation. We face these challenges in every country. We cannot afford to face them alone. The importance of togetherness and of our faith and collective commitment to the ideals, principles and values of the United Nations cannot be overstated.

Togetherness, or multilateralism of course, does not mean uniformity or conformity. It does not mean falling in line. Instead, it means harmony, tolerance, respect for diversity and a pragmatic cognitive realization that no one system, no single prescription, no one raah, or path works for all. Each society, every culture offers a raah, a path for the march of mankind. Preconceived assumptions about the superiority of one way or the other must not be allowed to contaminate the spirit of the UN.

Pakistan's oldest spiritual traditions and most beloved poets and peers have taught us there can be no progress where the mind is divorced from the heart. Faith in the United Nations is a manifestation of the best rational traditions, and the most cherished traditions of idealism and believing in something. We believe in the UN system. The spirit of the United Nations must permeate all our endeavours. The peoples of the world await the advent of the true age of the United Nations. We must reassert our promise to deliver it.

Mr President,

I would like to compliment our Secretary General Mr Ban Ki Moon, for his tireless efforts in bringing to bear the vast reservoir of good will, compassion and common humanity of member states in successfully addressing a wide array of challenges.

On behalf of the people of Pakistan, I wish to convey our grateful thanks to the Secretary General and the international community for their support and solidarity expressed so generously in the wake of devastating floods last year.

This year again, heavy monsoon rains has caused widespread flooding. Millions have been affected. Human and economic losses as well as the pressing requirements of relief and rehabilitation obliged us to seek international assistance. We again thank you for your support and solidarity.

The Pakistani people continue to consistently demonstrate their immense reservoir of courage, forbearance and generosity. Insha Allah, we shall overcome this misfortune through the same fortitude and resilience that our people have been blessed with.

Mr President,

At this session of the General Assembly, Pakistan is seeking election to a seat on the Security Council. In soliciting your support, I wish to assure you that we would discharge our responsibilities with utmost dedication to the high ideals and principles of the United Nations.

Pakistan attaches the highest importance to promoting the goals of peace, security and stability in the world. In our own region we have relentlessly endeavoured towards creating an environment of shared prosperity and peace.

A democratic, progressive and prosperous Pakistan embedded in a stable, secure and prosperous region guides the framework of our foreign policy and could yield enormous benefits to not only the peoples of our region but of the world.

We have reached out to our immediate neighbours with a sincere desire to join hands in bringing about durable peace and development, by a win-win approach. Situated as we are on the cross roads of central, south and west Asia, we realize the enormous opportunities that ensue from pursuing with diligence the vision of common development and cooperation.

I am happy to note that both Pakistan and India are now engaged in a substantive dialogue process. A dialogue process that we in Pakistan hope will be uninterrupted and uninterruptable. We certainly intend to make this engagement fruitful and premise it on the promise of a mutually rewarding enterprise that would enable us to optimally avail the complementarities that exist.

We look forward to resolving all outstanding issues including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, which is among the oldest on the agenda of the United Nations and the subject of several Security Council resolutions. A peaceful resolution that accords fully with the aspirations of the Kashmiri's, is a sine qua non for durable stability. As is the need for safeguarding of their fundamental human rights.

The reality of a nuclearised South Asia, imposes on both Pakistan and India, the onerous responsibility to work together for creating mutual confidence, avoiding an arms race, and enhancing strategic stability. We look forward to moving in this direction in the dialogue process.

Pakistan is also firmly committed to promoting stability and peace in Afghanistan. We respect and support the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan under the leadership of President Karzai for reconciliation and peace.

We strongly condemn the recent terror attacks in Kabul in which many precious lives were lost. We also express our sympathy with our brothers and sisters and the leadership of Afghanistan on the tragic assassination of Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, former President and Chairman of the Afghan High Peace Council. Such cowardly attacks will never succeed in deterring our proud Afghan brothers and sisters from realizing the noble goal of reconciliation and peace.

Pakistan fully supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive process of reconciliation and peace in Afghanistan. We want to see Afghanistan as a united, independent and sovereign state. We urge all concerned to join the reconciliation process. We also call for a de-escalation and cessation of violence.

The road ahead for peace in Afghanistan and our region as a whole is full of challenges. The complexity of the situation and the ground dynamics need to be analyzed objectively and carefully. Clarity and strategic coherence, especially among

Afghanistan, United States and Pakistan is of utmost importance. It is for this reason that we attach importance to the work of the Trilateral Core Group. We also attach considerable importance to the Afghanistan- Pakistan Joint Commission for Peace and Reconciliation.

It is only by charting a clear roadmap that we would be able to bring about necessary operational policy coordination to achieve shared goals and objectives. Given the volatility of the situation, it is perhaps understandable that there is a high level of anxiety and emotions. But we must not lose sight of the goals. We must work closely and as responsible partners together in a cooperative manner and not rush to judgments or question each other's intentions. A cooperative endeavour, in full solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, is the only sure way of ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

Pakistan is willing to do its best with the international partners and, most notably, the governments of Afghanistan and the United States, to acquit itself of this high responsibility, at this defining moment in one of the most important struggles of our times.

Mr President,

Pakistan has always upheld the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to an independent homeland with al Quds al Sharif as its capital. I would like to reaffirm our principled position. President Mahmoud Abbas made an historic and memorable case for his people. We stand by him and the Palestinian people. We stand by our brothers and sisters. And we agree: This really is not, sustainable, anymore. We support the quest of the State of Palestine for membership in the United Nations.

In North Africa and the Middle East, we have witnessed important developments. Pakistan believes that the aspirations of the people must be accommodated peacefully, without external interference and in a manner consistent with the principle of sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states.

Mr. President,

Very few countries have been ravaged by the monster of terrorism as brutally as Pakistan has. We are keenly aware about the threat terrorism poses to Pakistan, to Pakistan neighbours, or to the rest of the world. 30,000 innocent Pakistanis have been killed-men, women and children.

The ever valiant Pakistani armed forces have defended Pakistan, and the rest of the world at the highest cost. Our troops have laid down 6,532 *Shuhada*, or martyrs. 19,190 of our strongest, bravest and most honor-worthy boys have suffered injuries. And it does not stop there. We have seen 3,629 of our police and paramilitary personnel embrace *Shahadat*, or martyrdom. 10,720 of these men and women of the police and paramilitary services have been injured, since 2002. The grieving mothers, daughters, sisters and wives of these brave men and women are a constant reminder of our need to be vigilant and to fight the menace of terrorism. Pakistan's most popular leader, Shaheed Mohatarma Benazir Bhutto, was assassinated in 2007. Numerous politicians have lost sons and brothers and fathers at the hands of terrorists. Our streets are filled with armed police posts. We cannot enter our parks, or shopping

centers, or churches or mosques without being searched and frisked. Terrorists have attacked our military installations, attacked the gravesites of our spiritual elders, attacked our minorities and attacked the very idea of Pakistan. If I began recounting Pakistan's sacrifices and Pakistan's suffering, I would keep you here till next September. We do not take terrorism lightly. We cannot. We have suffered far too much.

Our nation is united in its determination to eliminate the spectre of terrorism from our soil, from our region and the world. It is important to enhance international cooperation to totally obliterate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Our resolve is inspired by Allama Mohammed Iqbal, the legendary poet-philosopher to whom Pakistan owes a debt of gratitude. Iqbal said:

Shaheen kabhi parwaz say thak kar nahi girta,
Purdam hai agar tuu tau nahi khatra-e-uftaad...
(The eagle does not fall from its soaring height
If you have the will there is nothing to fear from adversity)

Pakistan has the will. We do not fear adversity. It is Pakistan's firm determination not to allow any space on its territory for militants and terrorists. At the regional plane, we must all pledge that our respective territories will not be allowed to be used against others by terrorists.

The issue of organizing, financing, arming, supporting and abetting terrorist violence needs to be addressed seriously and effectively.

Notable success against al Qaeda and its affiliates has been registered in recent years. It is well known that following the Tora Bora bombing and consequent dispersal of Al Qaida, it was Pakistan's intelligence and security agencies that interdicted a large number of Al Qaida operatives. Very recently, Yousuf Al Mauritani, the Chief Operative of al Qaeda was arrested in a joint ISI and CIA operation.

We must demonstrate complete unity in ranks, avoid any recrimination, build greater trust and more importantly bring about the requisite operational coordination in combating this menace. Otherwise, only the terrorists will gain.

Eliminating terrorism is in our national interest. We believe that our success is critical to regional and global peace and security.

Despite our limited capacity and other constraints, we have done all we can for the sake of realizing the vision of a bright future for our people and the peoples of Afghanistan and of the region. We have actively advocated and worked for closer regional economic integration. We believe that without prioritizing development and creating win-win scenarios in terms of mutually beneficial joint ventures in connectivity, infrastructure, energy and trade, we cannot succeed in changing the picture. We need to give hope and provide a silver lining to those who have not seen peace for three generations, and have only taken mercenarism and guns as a means of livelihood.

Pakistan's commitment to eliminating terror and militancy is irrevocable. We believe that this warrants a comprehensive approach not only to deal with violence but also its root causes. This requires enhancing international cooperation in multiple domains.

Pakistan has reached out to all countries of the world to establish mechanisms and arrangements ranging from intelligence cooperation; mutual assistance in legal and criminal matters; as well as joint operations, where required.

We believe that this is a global issue and needs to be addressed effectively.

Mr President,

Pakistan supports initiatives to strengthen the United Nations. However it is important not to start anything that proves divisive or has the potential to unravel the essential pillars of the UN.

The process of Security Council reforms must be worked in a manner that will reinforce the confidence of the peoples of the world in this body and enhance its credibility and effectiveness.

The reforms must enjoy full consensus of the international community and accord with the fundamental principle of sovereign equality. I remain committed to the vision of Pakistan's martyred leader, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, who reminded us time and again that selective morality by definition is immoral, and that fundamental human values alone must guide our actions.

Pakistan attaches high importance to UN Peacekeeping functions and is a major troop contributor to the UN Peacekeeping. Pakistan has consistently been among the top UN peacekeeping contributors for many years. We have over 10,000 troops in the UN Blue Helmets.

We also attach importance to the United Nations work in the field of disarmament and non proliferation. Our collective endeavours in these fields could best be effective if we could enhance security, for all, and pursue approaches that are not selective or discriminatory. Normative work must be premised on principles.

Mr President,

We applaud the work of the United Nations in multiple domains. The specialized organizations, bodies and institutions are veritable examples of accomplishing shared goals and broadening vistas of cooperation.

Pakistan played a leadership role in conceiving and piloting the UN's Delivering as One agenda. This is a potentially vital informant to global development, and to the aid effectiveness. Despite the Paris Declaration and its reaffirmation at Accra, we have a long way to go. The One UN pilot exercise in Pakistan has struggled to achieve the lofty goals it set for itself, but we continue to invest hope in its eventual success.

Of course, the most important kind of harmonization is the one that takes place between people, between hearts and minds, between people. We place immense importance on our ability to promote harmony and tolerance among and between societies, cultures, faiths and nations. We know the price to be paid when these values are breached, having lost the Governor of our most populous province, Salmaan Taseer, and our valiant minister for minority affairs, Shahbaz Bhatti to acts of violence perpetrated by extremists. For us, the process of harmony and tolerance begins at home, we take it very seriously. We are committed and our resolve is strong.

At the international level, we are confident that UN provides the best global forum that is fully equipped to enhance understanding and good will between all members of the international community.

Respect for beliefs, cultures and traditions are the hallmark of civilized conduct. We are particularly concerned over campaigns that tend to stigmatise Islam and Muslims. Islam is a religion of peace. It is important that the international community celebrate our common humanity and unity in diversity.

Mr President,

The systemic fault lines in the global economic landscape have surfaced lately and remain a source of immense concern. The debt and financial crises adds another worrying dimension to the existing disparity between developed and developing countries and the need to promote holistic development and economic growth. This requires re-visiting the fundamentals and readiness to equitably address the underlying issues.

Mr President,

As a democratic country, committed firmly to the ideals, values, and principles of the United Nations, Pakistan will continue to do its best for the cause of global peace and prosperity. Under the leadership of President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, the Pakistani nation is moving ahead confident of itself and its enormous capabilities. As a vibrant democracy, we are in the process of accomplishing a historic societal transformation. The challenges our people have dealt with empower and embolden us. We will remain unflinchingly democratic. We will defeat those that seek to terrorize us. We will empower women. We will protect the weak and the vulnerable in our midst, especially minorities. We will stand up for the weak and vulnerable abroad. We will support the human rights of Kashmiris. We will speak in support of the Palestinians. We will educate our children. We will protect our children. We will face any and all challenges with determination and faith. Most of all, we will be a peaceful and prosperous society. There will be challenges, but insha Allah, we will overcome them.

We don't anticipate doing any of these things alone. With our neighbours and our friends, we will do all this in the spirit of togetherness. We will forge ahead despite the darkness of our times in the spirit that helped build this great institution. That spirit, a spirit that speaks to the very heart of Pakistani identity, is the spirit of the UN. Let us join hands and marching forward! For the good of the peoples of our countries and for the good of the world.

I will conclude my statement with the words of Pakistan's founding father Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah which is the quintessential expression of Pakistan's foreign policy. Mr. Jinnah in a radio broadcast in February 1948 stated and I quote

"Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive designs against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. Pakistan will never be found lacking in

extending its material and [moral] support to the oppressed and suppressed peoples of the world, and in upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter."

(End of Quote)

I thank you. ■

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, September 28, 2011,
<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/mfa/pages/article.aspx?id=941&type=3>*

DOCUMENT 11

TEXT OF THE APC RESOLUTION

Following is the full text of the APC resolution:

1. On the invitation of Prime Minister Syed Yusaf Raza Gilani, the leaders of Pakistan's political parties met in Islamabad on September 29, 2011 to consider issues relating to national security
2. The conference was briefed by Foreign Minister Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar and Director General ISI, Lt. Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha on the security environment of the country and the regional situation.
3. After in-depth deliberations, leaders of all political parties unanimously resolved, as follows.
 - i. As a peace-loving country, Pakistan desires to establish and maintain friendly and cordial relations with all countries of the world on the basis of sovereign equality, mutual interest and respect.
 - ii. All Parties Conference recognized that there has to be a new direction and policy with a focus on peace and reconciliation. "Give peace a chance" must be the guiding central principle henceforth.
 - iii. Pakistan must initiate dialogue with a view to negotiating peace with our own people in the tribal areas and a proper mechanism for this be put in place.
 - iv. We need to further enhance our brotherly bilateral relations with Afghanistan at three levels on priority basis: government to government, institution to institution and people to people.
 - v. The APC recognized the sacrifices of the people and the Security Forces of Pakistan, especially the people of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and tribal areas. The international community needs to recognize these tremendous sacrifices as well as the colossal magnitude of destruction in Pakistan.
 - vi. Pakistan can enhance its self-reliance comprehensively. Trade, not aid, should clearly be the way forward. We should also focus on internal economic and tax reforms as well as resource mobilization and the curbing of corruption.
 - vii. Defence of Pakistan's sovereignty and its territorial integrity is a sacred duty which shall never be compromised.
 - viii. National interests are supreme and shall guide Pakistan's policy and response to all challenges at all times.

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- ix. Pakistan shall continue to endeavor to promote stability and peace at the regional and global planes, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.
 - x. All earlier unanimous resolutions of the Parliament, the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on National Security must be implemented.
 - xi. APC rejected the recent assertions and baseless allegations made against Pakistan. Such assertions are without substance and derogatory to a partnership approach.
 - xii. The Pakistani nation affirms its full solidarity and support for the armed forces of Pakistan in defeating any threat to national security.
 - xiii. A Parliamentary Committee be formed to oversee the implementation of earlier resolutions as well as this Resolution and progress on the same be made public on monthly basis. ■

Express Tribune, September 30, 2011,
<http://tribune.com.pk/story/263586/apc-concludes-marathon-session-with-join-resolution-full-text/>

DOCUMENT 12

PRIME MINISTER SYED YOUSUF RAZA GILANI AT THE SCO SUMMIT, SAINT PETERSBURG, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

Your Excellency Prime Minister Putin,
 Heads of Government of SCO Member States and Observers Delegations,
 Secretary General SCO,
 Distinguished delegates,
 Excellencies,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank Prime Minister Putin and the Government of the Russian Federation, for the warm and cordial hospitality extended to us. Also, for making excellent arrangements for holding this important Conference.

We are, indeed, delighted to be in this beautiful and historical city of Saint Petersburg – a city that has come to symbolize the genius of the Russian people in art, culture, architecture, industry, science and epitomizes the resilience and courage of the Russian people.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan attaches importance to the SCO. We believe that this Organization has the capacity and resolve to overcome the most pressing challenges of our times. It also has enormous potential to promote regional economic cooperation in a holistic manner.

We applaud the considerable accomplishments of the SCO in every domain.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism, extremism, drugs and syndicate crime, are confronting our societies, states and the region. Pervasive global economic and financial crisis, unemployment and socio-economic stress add to make the picture bleak.

Not just our destiny, but that of our coming generations is predicated on how effectively we will be able to counter these threats and overcome these problems.

These challenges may be daunting but are certainly not insurmountable. It is by developing a cohesive response based on clarity and firm conviction that we can together not only overcome them but open new horizons for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The major issues of our times and of our region are security and development. In Afghanistan, these issues have come to tear apart its polity, destroy its economy and fragment its society. This has also impacted on the region. The challenges of reconciliation, reconstruction and revival of Afghan polity need to be addressed objectively. We welcome SCO's role and efforts in this regard.

Pakistan is sanguine that given the courage and resilience of the Afghan people, renewed commitment and support of the international community and by taking all Afghans on board, regardless of ideological, ethnic or political preferences, the problems in Afghanistan can be solved.

Political realism and clarity would also demand that Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity is respected by all. Pakistan, on its part, would continue to contribute to the stability of Afghanistan and support its government and people in their endeavours for reconciliation and reconstruction.

Mr. Chairman,

In the given situation, when the global economic crisis, in one way or the other, has come to afflict each of us, SCO's sponsored intra and inter-regional cooperation in economic and trade fields and building of energy and road links in the wider SCO region have acquired critical importance. Also, I may add that infrastructure projects for building roads, railway communication links and power links to the region cannot be kept on hold any longer. Progress on these projects has to now move from drawing boards to the field. Towards this end, Pakistan suggests as follows:

- Arranging finance and initiation of work on electricity transmission lines; Taking concrete measures to start TAPI and IPI projects; and thanks Mr. Prime Minister for providing \$0.5 billion for CASA1000.
- Beginning of a process for, a preferential and if possible a free trade zone in the SCO region;
- Cooperation in the financial and banking sectors;
- Relaxation of visa regimes for diplomats, officials and businessmen.

Mr. Chairman,

By bringing greater political will and taking concrete steps, I am confident we will be able to realize fully the vision of SCO.

Finally, I wish to reiterate Pakistan's desire for full membership of the SCO. I would also like to express our gratitude to all members for their support to our request.

I wish this Conference great success.

Thank you. ■

*Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan, November 7, 2011,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>*

DOCUMENT 13

PRIME MINISTER SYED YOUSUF RAZA GILANI AT THE SEVENTEENTH SAARC SUMMIT MALDIVES, NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Your Excellency,

President Mohamed Nasheed, Chairperson SAARC

Your Excellencies the Heads of State and Government of SAARC Member States and Observer Delegations

Distinguished Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalam-o-Alaikum,

It is a matter of immense pleasure to be among my eminent colleagues from South Asia at this important Summit of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

I wish to convey our admiration for the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Maldives for this Summit.

Also, our thanks and gratitude to the Government and people of Maldives for their warm and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival in this picturesque atoll.

I wish to congratulate Maldives for adding a historic uniqueness to the gathering by making it a first ever SAARC Summit in the southern hemisphere.

I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the office of the Chairperson of SAARC. We are confident that under your dynamic stewardship, SAARC will move rapidly towards realization of its cherished goals. To this end, Excellency, please rest assured of Pakistan's full support and cooperation.

May I also take this opportunity to acknowledge Prime Minister of Bhutan, His Excellency Mr. Jigme Yoser Thinley's outstanding leadership of the SAARC process since last Summit held in Thimphu in 2010.

I also wish to thank the Secretary General, Her Excellency Fathimath Dhiyana Saeed and her team for their unremitting efforts to promote the SAARC Agenda.

From the people of Pakistan, I carry for the peoples of the SAARC region warm greeting and sentiments of goodwill and friendship.

Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen Pakistan attaches high importance to SAARC. Our Association has come to epitomize the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of our region for peace, progress and prosperity.

South Asia has the potential to become an important engine for global economic growth. It has all the necessary ingredients in terms of human and natural resources to work the economic miracle of this century. Time has come for SAARC to lead the way in a historic transformation of our region utilizing its vast capabilities and build on the sure foundations of great civilizational heritage of the peoples of this region.

The theme, “Building Bridges” reflects our common desire for promoting mutual understanding and reaching out to each other to create win-win scenarios. It also resonates with SAARC’s avowed goal to enhance “Intra-regional connectivity” by 2020.

The cultural affinity among our peoples is a huge asset. Shared geography and history has culminated in a unique synthesis of culture and traditions. In many ways South Asia is unique. We must place our people at the center of the SAARC processes. We must enable SAARC to capture the imagination of our peoples and contribute to creating strong mutually beneficial bonds. This alone will assure a glorious future of peace and prosperity.

Building Bridges is an apt theme to set the future trajectory of SAARC. An important aspect of this is the promotion of the spirit of harmony and peace.

SAARC can contribute immensely towards building a trust surplus among member states. Interfaith and inter-cultural harmony must find special emphasis in SAARC’s programmes. An interactive process in this domain will contribute to reveal the beauty and strength of a true South Asian identity.

We should build on our inherent strengths and effectively address common issues such as socio-economic disparities, poverty alleviation, food security, energy security, women empowerment, health and education. This requires close coordination at national and regional planes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to note that today’s South Asia has undergone a democratic transformation. All South Asian states are vibrant democracies. Pakistan completed its democratic transformation and is now well on its way to realizing democracy’s dividends by pursuing development at the grass roots level.

We must strengthen regional cooperation through sharing of experiences, best practices and establishing institutional linkages.

Economic development and democratic governance are closely linked.

The Social Charter is another significant achievement of SAARC. The Charter sets targets for eradication of poverty, population stabilization and human resource development.

The overarching goal of SAARC is to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia and improve their quality of life. The Government of Pakistan has prioritized poverty reduction and has taken major initiatives including “Social Safety nets”.

Pakistan’s Benazir Income Support Programme which aims at not only poverty alleviation but also women empowerment has earned international recognition. We would be happy to share our experiences with SAARC.

In pursuing the SAARC socio-economic agenda, we must give special attention to rural development, expansion of agricultural resource base, development of action plans to combat communicable diseases, promotion of greater collaboration in the health sector, elimination of illiteracy, scientific and technological capacity-building and further development of information and communication technologies.

The establishment of SAARC Development Fund is a welcome achievement. This Fund must be enabled to lead a region-wide developmental effort. Closer cooperation in the area of finance and banking is also essential.

I suggest that SAARC consider establishment of a SAARC Science Foundation and SAARC Nanotechnology Forum. We should also reinforce the regional Biotechnology forum.

Excellencies,

The economic development of South Asia is closely linked to the availability of energy at affordable price. With abundant alternate energy resources available region wide, we need to collectively focus on harnessing indigenous energy production potential such as solar, wind, bio and hydel. We should also consider arrangements for trans-regional oil and gas pipelines.

I am happy to note that the concept of SAARC Energy Ring is under active consideration. The way forward would be to consider Regional Framework arrangements on Energy Cooperation.

Excellencies,

Climate change is another common challenge confronting the SAARC region. Having suffered from unprecedented floods in past two summers, Pakistan fully understands the urgent and compelling need for concerted and focused attention on this issue by SAARC member states. “Green South Asia” would be a befitting theme for SAARC to pursue.

Our region is water stressed. It is important to develop region wide approach on water issues, including on glacier melting, watershed management and pollution on an urgent basis.

Excellencies,

Terrorism, in all its form and manifestation, presents an enormous challenge to our region and the world. Pakistan supports efforts under SAARC at enhancing cooperation to eliminate this menace.

Excellencies,

The rich civilizational and cultural heritage of the peoples of South Asia has a lot to offer to the world. We believe that SAARC could play an important role in cataloguing and projecting our region's excellence in arts, crafts and traditions. A pragmatic aspect of this effort should lead to developing a holistic approach on promoting tourism in the region.

We welcome the interest of extra-regional states and organizations in SAARC. We should give consideration to establishing a dialogue partnership with those interested in an interactive partnership.

Excellencies,

The gap between the promise of SAARC and reality of its accomplishments needs to be bridged. We should build on convergences, minimize divergences and most of all seek to augment complementarities for the greater good of the peoples of this region.

I wish this Conference every success.

I thank you. ■

*Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan, November 10, 2011,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>*

DOCUMENT 14

PRIME MINISTER AT THE ENVOYS CONFERENCE DECEMBER 13, 2011

Honourable Foreign Minister,
Senator Mian Raza Rabbani,
Chairman, National Security Committee of the Parliament
Ambassadors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like, first of all, to express my appreciation to the Foreign Minister for this timely and important initiative to convene the Envoys Conference.

I would also like to commend the Foreign Office for its continued efforts in ensuring that our diplomacy has the resilience and efficacy to overcome all challenges posed by a complex global and regional environment.

I have every confidence in the ability and professional expertise of our Ambassadors and diplomats to safeguard Pakistan's interests in the international arena. More than ever before, their skills are warranted in navigating through troubled times.

I wish to assure you that you have the full support of the Government and the people of Pakistan in your endeavours to uphold national dignity and honour and in promoting Pakistan's national interests.

Pakistan's foreign policy is based on immutable principles. The Charter of the United Nations, norms of inter-state conduct and international law provide the framework for our endeavours to ensure peace and security – both in our own region and the world.

It has been our consistent effort to reach out to our immediate and far neighbours and, in fact, all members of the international community to develop the best of relations. Sovereign equality, mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation have been the hallmarks of this approach.

We believe that stability and peace at home and in our region is critical for enabling our people to realize their aspirations for progress and socio and economic development. With this in view, we have taken several initiatives.

Pakistan has always lived by the high principles of civility and humanity. Our hosting of millions of Afghan refugees for over three decades and our enormous sacrifices in the war against terror amply illustrate our commitment to the noble values that are intrinsic to our belief and national ethos.

National unity is our strength. The Parliament represents the will of our people. It is also the custodian of Pakistan's supreme interests.

We have made unremitting efforts to forge national consensus on all matters of importance to Pakistan. No policy can succeed if it does not have the support of the people. The strength of our democracy is reflected in the processes of the Parliament and its Committees.

It has also been my Government's endeavour to enable all State Institutions to fulfill their responsibilities in their respective domains and to provide requisite inputs in policy formulation to the Government.

There is no doubt that our region is passing through a difficult phase. The satisfactory resolution of the issues relating to Afghanistan poses daunting challenges not only to the region but to the international community as a whole.

At this particular point in time, it is imperative that all efforts should be directed to promoting durable stability and peace in Afghanistan. All principal stakeholders must be on the same page. We have continued to seek clarity and advocated the need for coherence, coordination and cooperation.

However, I must say that the aerial attacks on our Army border posts on 26 November 2011 constituted a huge set-back to the prospects of much-needed cooperation between all important stakeholders.

Our cooperation with US/NATO/ISAF was based on respect for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Under no circumstances, could we accept flagrant transgression of our territorial frontiers. This remains our base line and there can be no compromise on sovereignty, dignity and national honour.

We expect the US/NATO/ISAF inquiry that is being undertaken to come out clearly with the facts and provide answers to the disturbing questions that our own investigations have raised.

Given the seriousness of the issue, the Government has already taken several important decisions. The NATO/ISAF logistic supply lines have been closed. Shamsi Airbase has been vacated. Pakistan did not participate in the Bonn Conference. A broad-ranging review of our cooperation with US/NATO/ISAF was ordered.

The National Security Committee of the Parliament has been mandated to undertake a detailed study of the 26/11 attacks and to make recommendations on the terms of our cooperation with US/NATO/ISAF. These will be considered by the Joint Sitting of the Parliament.

We have been compelled to take these steps to safeguard Pakistan's interests. As a responsible state, Pakistan will do whatever we can for stability and peace of our region. But we will never allow anyone to undermine our legitimate interests.

I am certain that the review and assessment undertaken by this Conference as well as your recommendations would be extremely helpful in determining the future course of action.

I assure you that your conclusions and recommendations will receive close attention of the Government.

I wish to once again thank the Foreign Minister for holding the Envoys Conference at short notice and all participants for their valuable contribution. ■

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, December 13, 2011,
http://www.mofa.gov.pk/mfa/pages/article.aspx?id=1027&type=3*

DOCUMENT 15

PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES CONCLUDING SESSION OF ENVOYS CONFERENCE, ISLAMABAD

Addressing the concluding session of the two-day Envoys Conference today, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani stressed that Pakistan's foreign policy was based on immutable principles. The Charter of the United Nations, norms of inter-state conduct and international law provided the framework for Pakistan's endeavours to ensure peace and security— both in its own region and the world.

2. The Prime Minister said that Pakistan's cooperation with US/NATO/ISAF was based on respect of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. "Under no circumstances, Pakistan could accept flagrant transgression of our territorial frontlines. This remains the base line and there can be no compromise on our sovereignty, dignity and national honour."

3. The Prime Minister commended the Foreign Office for its continued efforts in ensuring that Pakistan's diplomacy had the resilience and efficacy to overcome all challenges posed by a complex global and regional environment.

4. Earlier, Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar welcomed the Prime Minister and apprised him of the deliberations at the conference on (i) evaluation of the regional situation and implications for Pakistan; (ii) identification of core foreign policy objectives; and (iii) review of the terms of cooperation between Pakistan and US/NATO/ISAF.

5. Ms. Sherry Rehman, Ambassador nominated to the United States, presented the recommendations made by the Envoys Conference to the Prime Minister. She said that, as directed by the Prime Minister, the Envoys of Pakistan from select capitals evaluated important aspects of Pakistan's foreign policy. They were also guided by the resolutions adopted by Parliament (22 October 2008 and 14 May 2011*) which reflected the aspirations of the people of Pakistan. The Envoys discussed a wide range of Pakistan's relationships with key countries, as well as international organizations and assessed the overall regional situation.

* See Document No. 9, *IPRI Journal* vol. XI, no. 2 (Summer 2011): 161-62.

6. The Envoys Conference reaffirmed that Pakistan's external relations continued to be based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in accordance with international law as enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

7. Yesterday, the plenary session of the Envoys Conference was chaired by Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar. In her opening remarks, the Foreign Minister emphasized that Pakistan's foreign policy was to realize the Quaid-e-Azam's vision of "peace within and peace without". She underlined that Pakistan's national interests would continue to govern its relations with other countries. The plenary session was also addressed by the Finance Minister, Chairman Chief Joint Staff Committee and Director General ISI.■

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad, December 13, 2011,
<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/mfa/pages/article.aspx?id=1026&type=1>*

DOCUMENT 16

SYEDA FIZA BATTOOL GILANI, GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, AT NATIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP ON "GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT – POST DEVOLUTION" DECEMBER 14, 2011

BismillahRehmanirRahim,
 Mrs. Anis Haroon, Chairperson, National Commission on Status of Women,
 Senator Raza Rabbani,
 Mrs. Alice Shackleford
 Mrs. Simi Kamal, Chief of Party, GEP,
 UN Women,
 Civil Society Representatives,
 Ladies and Gentlemen!

Assalam-o-Alaikum,
 It is a matter of pleasure for me to address this distinguished audience today at the National Consultation Workshop on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment-Post Devolution. Today I have the honour to speak to you at a time when Senate of Pakistan passed "Prevention of anti-Women Practices Bill 2008" two days ago. The passage of this Bill has made such evil customs as Vanni, Swara, marriage with the Holy Quran, acid throwing on women, their deprivation of share in inheritance as punishable offence. Likewise, Senate has also passed another Bill aimed at giving free medial assistance to the women prisoners. Coming on the heels of the passage of "Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act 2010", these enactments would go a long way in elevating the status and prestige of women in the society. These legislative measures prove that only democracy can secure the rights of women and give them their due rights. Democracy means empowerment. It means restoration and protection of the rights of all segments of society including women and minorities. The deletion of Concurrent List from the Constitution and the consequent transfer of administrative, political, economic powers to the federating

units, courtesy the 18th Constitutional Amendment, represent a great leap forward. The devolution of power from the federal government to the provinces has opened up new vistas of opportunities as the provincial governments have been empowered to ensure delivery of services at the grass-roots level. It is in this context that the issues of gender equality and women empowerment need to be revisited, given the formulation of new political, economic and legal frameworks post-devolution. I regard the arrangement of this National Consultation Workshop on Gender, Equality as of fundamental importance in our efforts for women empowerment across the country. On this occasion, I would like to congratulate the organizers for this excellent Workshop which has brought together women rights activists, representatives from the NGOs and public policy makers under single platform.

The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees equal rights for all. Despite clear constitutional stipulations regarding gender equality and women empowerment, situation of women in Pakistan is a matter of concern. It is heartening that the concrete steps are being taken to address the inequalities and their lack of access to basic services such as education and health. In both rural and urban areas and across the provinces, lack of equal opportunities for women has been identified as one of the core issues in the development process.

The number of women living below the poverty line is higher than men and regrettably it continues to rise. The recent floods and natural calamities have shown that the majority of those affected are women and children. Our efforts at mainstreaming the role of women in the national decision-making processes cannot succeed unless we figure out women-specific policies and focus our attention on developing their capacities to fight off challenges posed to their empowerment.

Doing so is of utmost importance and is in line with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Here I would like to quote from Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah; "I have always maintained that no nation can ever be worthy of its existence that cannot take its women along with the men. No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men. There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a great competition and rivalry between the two. There is a third power stronger than both, that of the women." The PPP government's agenda on women encompasses a comprehensive approach towards empowerment of women. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's contributions for women empowerment form a glorious chapter in the history of emancipation of the Pakistani women. It was during her stint in office that pro-women initiatives such as establishment of First Women Bank, women police stations and lady health workers were taken to bring about qualitative change in the lives of women. The Social Action Programmes were also launched during her tenure with a view to reducing gender disparities and improving women's access to social services. Pakistan also acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on February 29, 1996. I am reminded of a comment of the Shaheed leader. She once said and I quote:

"May be it's stereotypical, but I think that women leaders are more nurturing and sensitive to the social needs of society. Invariably, women's rights lead to further modernization of society as educational, housing and health needs are finally met."

Carrying forward the vision and legacy of Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto, the present democratic Government has taken a number of pro-women initiatives aimed at empowerment of women. I will just give you a brief idea here.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, who regards women as his constituency, declared December 22 as the National Women Day to acknowledge their role and achievements in different walks of life.

Likewise, the dream of women empowerment cannot be fulfilled without economic empowerment. Benazir Income Support Programme, which is the world-acclaimed largest social safety net under the present democratic dispensation, does not only enable the women to fight off poverty through cash grants but also imparts technical training to them. Its other initiatives such as interest-free loans and health insurance schemes are also geared towards empowering women economically. BISP also played a key role and helped millions of women trapped in the worst floods last year. The present government has established the office of Women Ombudsperson to address the complaints of the women on fast Track basis.

The government is also ensuring that the 10% women job quota is implemented in letter and spirit aimed at encouraging them to join the public sector and play their role in the national development. Women are serving at key positions in Pakistan. Speaker of the National Assembly and Pakistan's Foreign Minister are both women.

The government also appointed nine women academicians to head the Universities and degree awarding institutions. Besides this, women officers have been inducted in the armed forces of Pakistan such as Navy and Air Force.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan announced the Fatima Jinnah Awards which are conferred annually on the outstanding women who bring laurel to their country.

The Government of Pakistan has encouraged ministries to embark upon the cause of economic uplift of women. Aik Hunar Aik Nagar, One Village One Product Initiative reaches out to women at the grass roots level to develop their skills and connect them with markets. Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority facilitates business women in making their business plans and has also established women Incubation Centre.

Rural support Programme is helping out females in remote areas to have a sustainable livelihood. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan encourages female entrepreneurs to explore international markets and provide them subsidized opportunities to participate in various international exhibitions.

I have requested TDAP to integrate all these activities by providing a common facility for skill development, product adaptation, marketing and sales of various government initiatives already operating on ground. This facilitation will open up new horizons hitherto unexplored.

The National Commission on the status of Women (NCSW) has critical role to play in this regard. Similarly the role of Ministry of Human Rights in order to ensure that Pakistan effectively fulfills its International obligations made under CEDAW and similar human rights commitments has to be strengthened. Women can not be expected to struggle alone against the forces of discrimination and exploitation and we have to work together. I also take this opportunity to convey the appreciation of the Prime Minister to our international partners and the Civil Society Organizations who are working for the promotion of gender agenda in Pakistan.

In the post devolution scenario agenda setting and prioritization as well as policy-making is within the ambit of the provincial governments. I am very pleased to be here to listen to the plans of the provinces and regions and see how we can better support the provincial implementation and enhance the mechanisms at provincial level such as the Women Development departments and Directorates.

I thank you all!
Pakistan Paindabad!■

Press Information Department (PID), Government of Pakistan, December 14, 2011,
<http://www.pid.gov.pk/recentlink.htm>

DOCUMENT 17

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT TO THE PARLIAMENT REGARDING NOVEMBER 26, 2011 NATO ATTACKS

Honourable Speaker,
Members of this August House,

I wish to take the Parliament into confidence on the government's position concerning the 26 November NATO attacks on Pakistan Army border posts in the Mohmand Agency.

Let me begin by saying that the sole guarantor of the supreme national interest of the state of Pakistan, are the people of our great country.

In every sense, the will of the people, as expressed by the Parliament, constitutes the only authentic policy prescription for safeguarding and promoting Pakistan's national interests.

The situation arising from the 26 November attacks has direct implications for Pakistan's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity and, therefore, requires careful consideration by the Parliament.

Let me now briefly recount the salient developments:

As you know, in the early hours of 26 November – in fact just past the midnight – two Pakistan Army posts in Mohmand Agency were subjected to air attacks by the US/NATO/ISAF. These positions were well inside Pakistani territory.

Hostile actions against these border posts continued for over an hour. The coordinates of these border posts were known to US/NATO/ISAF.

I decided to immediately call an emergency meeting of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet the same evening. I also directed the Foreign Ministry to lodge strong protests with the United States, NATO Headquarters at Brussels and with the Afghan government.

The Government of Pakistan strongly condemned these attacks, which were violative of the principles of the UN Charter and international law. We also conveyed to the United States and NATO that these attacks were totally unacceptable and constituted a flagrant breach of Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Defence Committee of the Cabinet, which met at the Prime Minister's House in the evening of 26 November strongly condemned the attacks.

The DCC reiterated the resolve of the Pakistani people and Armed Forces to safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity at all costs.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Joint Session of the Parliament of 14 May 2011, the DCC decided to close, with immediate effect, the NATO/ISAF logistics supply lines.

The DCC also decided to ask the United States to vacate the Shamsi Airbase within fifteen days. The base has since been vacated.

The DCC decided that the Government will revisit and undertake a complete review of all programmes, activities and cooperative arrangements with the United States/NATO/ISAF, including diplomatic, political, military and intelligence.

The DCC also decided that the Parliament shall be taken into confidence on the whole range of measures regarding matters relating to Pakistan's future cooperation with the United States/NATO/ISAF.

The Federal Cabinet, at its meeting on 29 November, also condemned the NATO/ISAF attacks and termed them as an assault on the sovereignty of Pakistan. The Cabinet unanimously endorsed the statement and the decisions of the DCC emergency meeting.

The Cabinet called upon the international community to take due cognizance of such attacks, which constitute a violation of the UN Charter principles, international law and could have serious repercussions for regional peace and that all sides exercise utmost restraint.

The Cabinet decided that Pakistan should not participate in the Bonn Conference due to the prevailing circumstances.

It was also decided to request the National Security Committee of the Parliament to deliberate on the issue and submit its recommendations for consideration by the joint sitting of the Parliament.

The National Security Committee of the Parliament is already seized of this issue and will formulate appropriate recommendations. I have ensured that the Committee has full cooperation and support of all branches of the government.

I participated in the meeting of the National Security Committee of the Parliament on the subject held on 02 December 2011 and briefed the Committee. The Committee was also given a briefing on the incident by the GHQ. The Parliamentary Committee endorsed the decision not to participate in the Bonn Conference. We accordingly stayed away.

An Envoys Conference was convened in Islamabad to evaluate the regional security situation; examine policy options; and, in particular, to make recommendations on redefining the terms of cooperation and engagement with the United States, NATO/ISAF.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference have been submitted to the Government and also shared with the National Security Committee of the Parliament.

Let me emphatically state that there can be:

- No compromise on Pakistan's sovereignty.
- No compromise on Pakistan's legitimate interests.

- Pakistan's territorial frontiers will be defended at all costs.

I would also like to reiterate that Pakistan, as a peace-loving country, remains committed to promoting stability and peace in our region, in particular Afghanistan.

As a country that has suffered from terrorism, elimination of terrorism and militancy remains a high priority for the people and Government of Pakistan.

We had, in all earnestness, extended a hand of friendship to the people and government of Afghanistan. As immediate neighbours and sincere well-wishers of the people of Afghanistan, we remain committed to promote the best of relations in all spheres.

In the past, we had extended every cooperation to members of the international community in the counter-terrorism domain. However, the terms of our cooperation have certain well-defined redlines. These include the following:

- Sovereign equality and mutual respect.
- No unilateral actions inside Pakistan or against Pakistan.
- No transgression of our territorial frontiers.

As a responsible state, Pakistan will continue to uphold and promote the cause of regional peace and stability. However, in doing so we shall ensure that our legitimate interests are not only recognized but fully accommodated. This fundamental point of principle needs to be understood by our international partners.

It is a matter of immense satisfaction that the entire nation is united at all levels to uphold Pakistan's national dignity and honour and to safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

We now await recommendations from the Parliamentary Committee on National Security. Future course of action will be decided by the Parliament.
Thank you.■

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, December 15, 2011,
<http://www.mofa.gov.pk/mfa/pages/article.aspx?id=1030&type=3>