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Advisory Board, Pakistan House



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Introduction

On 19th of April 2019, **Pakistan House** organized a Round-Table Conference in Islamabad on " Strategic Environment: Role of Leadership (2050)".

This event witnessed the participation of ambassadors, policy makers, and other dignitaries.

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi, Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS); Ambassador Salman Bashir (Retd), Former Foreign Secretary; Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd), Former DG Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, Strategic Planning Division; and Dr. Maria Sultan; Director General, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute University (SASSI) were the distinguished speakers on the occasion.

The esteemed speakers, and other dignitaries, praised the event for providing eminent speakers with a platform to deliver an invaluable analysis on role of leadership in 2050.

This report presents a summary of statements of the speakers and provides a comprehensive summary of key remarks delivered by the participants during the conference. It also presents an analysis and policy recommendations for the state institutions.

Programme Layout

Welcome Remarks by Mr. Muhammad Athar Javed Director General, Pakistan House
Speaker 1: Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi (Retd) Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS)
Speaker 2: Ambassador Salman Bashir (Retd) Former Foreign Secretary
Speaker 3: Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd) Former DG Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, Strategic Planning Division
Speaker 4: Dr. Maria Sultan Director General, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute University (SASSI)

Speaker Profiles

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi (Retd), Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS)

In a long diplomatic career of thirty-six years, from 1970 to 2006, which culminated in senior Ambassadorial positions, served at the United Nations, both in New York and Vienna, and in Washington D.C, London, Paris and Brussels. In the course of professional work, he delivered lectures and speeches on various current affairs issues in many institutions. He has also participated in discussions on various national and international issues and questions on TV and electronic media, both in Pakistan and abroad. After serving as Pakistan's Ambassador to Austria and the IAEA, was appointed Member (Chairman's Advisory Council) in the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and functioned as Adviser to the Chairman PAEC on International Affairs, with particular focus on IAEA matters. Presently, he is serving as the founding Executive Director of the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS).



Ambassador Salman Bashir (Retd), Former Foreign Secretary



Ambassador Salman Bashir (Retd) is a Pakistani diplomat who served as the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and as the High Commissioner of Pakistan to India. Mr Bashir has served as the Ambassador to Denmark, Lithuania, China and Mongolia. He also did a stint at Pakistan's Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

He served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Section Officer (1976–1980), Director (1985–1987), Director General (1995–1999), Additional Foreign Secretary (2003–2005) and the Foreign Secretary

(2008-2012). Whereas, his foreign diplomatic assignments included: Pakistan Mission to the United Nations Office at Geneva (1980-1984), OIC Secretariat Jeddah (1988-1995), Ambassador of Pakistan to Denmark and Lithuania (July 1999 to February 2003), Ambassador of Pakistan to China and Mongolia (2005-2008), and High Commissioner of Pakistan to India (2012-2014).

Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd), Former DG Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, Strategic Planning Division

Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd) is the Former Director General, Arms Control & Disarmament Affairs (ACDA) at the Strategic Plans Division (SPD). Presently, he teaches at Quaid-i-Azam University as Visiting Faculty.



Dr. Maria Sultan, Director General, South Asian Strategic Stability Institute University (SASSI)



Dr. Maria Sultan is the Chairperson and President of the South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) University. She is an advisor to the Ministry of Defence on Strategic and Military affairs. She is also the founding Vice Chancellor for Muslim Youth University and established programs in Electrical Engineering, Computer Sciences, Management Sciences, Social Sciences including International Relations and Peace & Conflict Studies. She was the founding co-director of the South Asian Strategic Stability Unit at the Bradford Disarmament Research Centre (BDRC), University of Bradford. She also served as Deputy Director South Asian Strategic Stability Unit at (BDRC). DR Sultan is a specialist in South Asian nuclear arms control and disarmament issues, weapon systems development and strategic stability. She is an author of books titled 'Afghanistan 2014 - The Decision Point' and "Emerging Nuclear Postures and Implications for Strategic Stability". She has published widely in academic journals, news and books.

Welcome Remarks

Mr. Muhammad Athar Javed Director General, Pakistan House



I welcome all our distinguished speakers and participants to today's Round-table conference on Strategic Environment: Role of Leadership (2050). Today, our purpose is to assess the role of future leadership, the challenges and opportunities it is going to face, and look into the mistakes of the past, and set policy goals for future.

I hope that with the valuable insights by our distinguished speakers, and participants, we would be in a better position to understand the role of leadership in the present environment. Moreover, I hope these valuable insights will help our policy institutes in training our future leadership.

Speeches

Speaker 1:

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi (Retd) Executive Director, Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS)



Presently, there is no zero-sum game in our region, but there are alliances and cross alliances. Internationally, many changes are also taking places, for example the protests in France. So, questions about leadership are being raised, not only regionally, but globally. In the past, leadership created systems and institutions such as Mr. Jamal Abdul Nasir in Egypt, Mr. Nehru in India, Mr Sukarno in Indonesia, Mr. Nelson Mandela in South Africa, and Mr. Mao Zedong in China, but, currently, we have leaders such as Mr. Donald Trump, and Mr. Narendra Modi, who are distorting national and international institutions.

In this broader picture, leadership in the future will have to face challenges that are totally unprecedented. It is also important to mention that there is a misconception that leadership is only political, it's not true, there is a need of leadership in every field, natural sciences, social sciences, and education, so our policy makers must consider all aspects of leadership for a better leadership in 2050.



Speaker 2:

Ambassador Salman Bashir (Retd) Former Foreign Secretary



Recently, World Bank published a report, “Pakistan@100: Shaping the Future”, in which it recommended policy measures to adopt until 2047. One can have different opinions regarding that report, but it surely can be said that this is an age of transition, and, certainly, this is a point of history where the characteristics of the last century will change.

There will be many changes such as problems in demographics, as an India where there are social and populations problems. Whereas, in some countries in the West, white supremacists are on rise. Secondly, there is a generational shift. The young population are digitally shaping the present world. Thirdly, there are fast paced developments in technology.

Then there are two emerging trends in contemporary world: first is asymmetry which means that weak forces are challenging powerful states, secondly.

Presently, Pakistan's geo-strategic environment will be affected by major power competition, which, essentially, means US-China rivalry. On western border, the future of Afghanistan is certain, any solution based on power-sharing will take the country towards civil war again, as history of Afghanistan suggests. Indian election results will also shape the future of the region. Moreover, the turbulence in Middle-East will also continue, and US will continue to target China and Iran in the region.

The developing countries will continue to have problems within democracy. I am not demeaning democracy but suggesting that only Western prescriptions cannot solve the problems of developing world.

Globalization, for example, was made a virtue by the West, but now West is criticizing it. US administration now knows, that its power is in decline, and protectionism is an effort to save itself from decline.

In conclusion, I would like to recommend to our national government, that its focus should be on building institutions, and unless civil service reforms are carried out, we will continue to face problems.



Speaker 3:

Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd) Former DG Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs, Strategic Planning Division



It is a repetitive statement that international relations are based on self-interest. We must know that while analyzing the relations between our neighbours. Although, India is not interested in joining CPEC, but China and India have a bilateral trade of 84 billion dollars.

I am of an opinion that six factors will be shaping global issues:

- 1) Demography
- 2) Geography
- 3) Resources
- 4) Climate Change
- 5) Technology
- 6) Globalization

Whereas, regionally, there will be a challenge to choose between fundamentalism, regional integration, and hyper-nationalism. And at national level, the strategic environment will affect several aspects of political stability and economic security, conventional capability, strategic deterrence, especially in view of the emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and advent of lethal autonomous weapons.

So, these factors must be in consideration of policy makers, when they set policy goals. Policy makers also must be clear on the opportunities and challenges of future, how to deal with global wave of hyper nationalism? And how to absorb technology and effectively use it for building future both in government sector, and private sector?

Speaker 4:

Dr. Maria Sultan

**Director General, South Asian Strategic Stability
Institute University (SASSI)**



In the contemporary world, we are witnessing a tectonic shift, which is not based only on hyper-nationalism, but new economic alliances. This will result in more connectivity. In future, the world will depend upon who controls means of communication, oceans, space, and cyber space.

The leadership of tomorrow will be, “faceless”, which means that networks will be more important not individuals. It will change the concept of governance, and nature of the work. How can we deal with this period of chaos? It’s simple, those nations who understand the new dynamics of leadership, and education will rule.

The most important factor, in this regard, will be demographics, and the era of big states will be replaced. The only question that remains unanswered is that what will happen to the civil-military imbalance?



Noteworthy Snippets



"It is also important to mention that there is a misconception that leadership is only political, it's not true, there is a need of leadership in every field, natural sciences, social sciences, and education, so our policy makers must consider all aspects of leadership for a better leadership in 2050."

Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi (Retd)



"The developing countries will continue to have problems within democracy. I am not demeaning democracy but suggesting that only Western prescriptions cannot solve the problems of developing world."

Ambassador Salman Bashir (Retd)



"Regionally, there will be a challenge to choose between fundamentalism, regional integration, and hyper-nationalism."

Air Commodore Khalid Banuri (Retd)



"The leadership of tomorrow will be, "faceless", which means that networks will be more important not individuals."

Dr. Maria Sultan

Remarks by Participants

Brigadier Said Nazir (Retd) Defence Analyst



The leadership in future will be void of values, and technology will be their main weapon. The international regimes will become redundant, and there will be a battle ground between social sciences and physical sciences in which the physical sciences will win thus negatively effecting human values. India will try to devour its neighbours, and its minorities and in this process will disintegrate.

Air Vice Marshal Faaiz Amir, HI (M) (Retd) Vice Chancellor, Air University, Islamabad

In 2050, the most important challenge will be on how to handle technology. India, China, and US economies will dominate. The concept of sovereignty will be questioned as multinationals will have enormous powers. It is also predicted that the hegemony of dollar would be replaced by bitcoin, and the nature of jobs will also be changed considering the advancements in the field of Artificial Intelligence. These advancements will also result in a great social revolution, for example, China's use of Artificial Intelligence for generating social ratings of its citizens in some cities.



Mr. Arsallah Khan Hoti
Member, Privatisation Commission
Government of Pakistan



In my opinion, thinking short-term is the main crisis of today. The power crisis, the water crisis are examples of this short-term approach. Historians say that if you want to plan the next twenty-five years, you must study the past hundred years. Presently, we have no department or institution that has established mechanisms for long-term planning. In terms of economy, we should learn from the Chinese model. Moreover, we have to build a strong national identity to shape our future.

Ambassador Asif Durrani (Retd)
Former Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran, and UAE

We are far behind in the field of Artificial Intelligence; this gap must be resolved. Economically, we must increase our exports to reduce our trade deficit. I must say that our state has failed in educating its citizens. It is surprising that in the new private housing societies, no government schools are being built. It is quite pessimistic that after seventy years of our independence, we still are confused on which system to follow. Our leadership must make a consistent decision in this regard.



Dr. Zafar Ali
Director General, Strategic Export Control Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Although, technology will play an important role in future, but the role of an individual will not fade, therefore, the youth must be groomed and trained through institutions, so that they can effectively lead in future.

Mr. Muhammad Athar Javed
Director General, Pakistan House

The purpose of arranging today's round-table is served. We need to be optimistic in our analysis, and assessment of the role of future leadership is of highly importance. Our geo-strategic location suggests that we will continue to face short-term problems, but we must also focus on long-term strategy, and for that purpose we must focus on our youth.



Analysis & Recommendations

Analysis:

Recommendations:

Photo Gallery





