

Resolution

**International Conference
“Securing a Frontline State:
Alternative Views on Peace and Conflict in Pakistan”
8th-9th December 2011, Islamabad**

We, the participants of the conference, noted that

- a) the ongoing conflicts in large parts of the country such as FATA and Balochistan and other parts of the country pose a serious threat to Pakistan as a whole. The underlying factors which have led to the current religious militancy remain largely unaddressed;
- b) the prevalent crisis of human security is the direct outcome of the over emphasis on conventional notions of security, an over-centralized state structures where the balance of civil-military relations is still heavily tilted in favour of the armed forces. The predominance of the Pakistani military in foreign and security policy has proven highly problematic and entailed extremely debilitating consequences;
- c) the failure to address pressing human security issues (education, health, food, shelter, unemployment) has exacerbated the security situation in the conventional sense. The inability and incompetence of a mighty bureaucracy is also a major factor in poor governance and lack of development;
- d) the current security discourse in Pakistan is marked by an adversarial relationship with India, an increasingly difficult partnership with the US and an ambivalent policy on Afghanistan;
- e) a nuclear South Asia remains a grave global concern because a nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan could potentially wipe out large parts of both countries and make them uninhabitable for human beings. The presence of nuclear weapons therefore demands that both countries stop the nuclear arms race and work out Confidence Building Measures which would exclude the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons in case of any conflict;
- f) as a result of the global climate change, deforestation and other human interventions, large parts of the country have become prone to natural disasters as witnessed during the massive floods of 2010 and 2011. Many parts of the

country are already food insecure and water-deficient. Pakistan is among those countries which will be most affected by these long-term changes. Women at large continue to be among the worst affected by conflict and disaster, and remain the most vulnerable segment of the society;

- g) inadequate education opportunities, coupled with tiered education system in the country continues not only to be a source of poverty and low-productivity. the energy crisis in Pakistan has become a huge burden for the vast majority of Pakistanis and heavily taxing the local economy.

We, the participants of the conference, therefore, agree that

- i. Pakistan's multiple socio-economic and security crises - factors that fuel uncertainty and instability as well as undermine economic progress - demand a comprehensive analysis of security environment. The international community needs to analyze and understand Pakistan's security environment more broadly than traditional civil-military relations and needs further to look at internal reasons of the crisis;
- ii. while external factors do impact the internal security situation, the primary onus lies on Pakistan's ruling elite - both military and civilian - to address fundamentals of good governance, accountability and transparency;
- iii. unless security and well-being of over 180 million Pakistanis are placed at the centre of policy planning, the state of Pakistan will continue reeling under political and economic crisis;
- iv. the international community must also pay a dispassionate attention to the context of Pakistan's current crisis that has evolved over three decades and is the direct consequence of the US-led western Jihad, facilitated by Pakistan's military ruler General Ziaul Haq, against the former Soviet Union;
- v. the sovereignty of Pakistan as well as that of its neighbouring states need to be respected by all nations. Regional, multi-lateral security mechanisms need to be developed in order to improve cooperation in counter-terrorism, narcotics, and neutralise all those non-state actors that try to use the territory of a particular country to plan and execute terrorist activities against another country;
- vi. conclusive legal action needs to be taken against all armed and unarmed groups who are the source of this radicalization and responsible for preaching hatred and intolerance. Likewise they also undermine the authority of the state and thus are a direct threat to democracy in Pakistan;
- vii. radicalisation of thought cannot be corrected through constitutional means alone. Urgent constitutional and administrative corrective measures are therefore required to control the radicalisation of thought. Formal registration of all types of education and compliance with consensus curricula must be made compulsory;

- viii. **Pakistan must seek solutions to a galloping population already burdened with an enormous youth bulge;**
- ix. **Pakistan must reform and mainstream standardized school syllabus to eliminate contents that give birth to, and promote a jihadi obscurantist mindset, hate speech, and intolerance;**
- x. **Pakistan must work for grassroots political-social-economic empowerment, devolution in its true sense to improve service delivery, reduce poverty and address unemployment, disguised unemployment that also sits at the heart of underdevelopment;**
- xi. **Pakistan must urgently prioritize education and invest more and more resources in primary education. In order to diffuse and neutralize these threats, it is necessary to address the root-causes of these threats and address people's grievances;**
- xii. **a new legitimacy based on principles of inclusion and dynamic federalism i.e. representation through elections to the national and provincial parliaments, transparency, human rights as enshrined in the constitution should be built in order to constitutionally integrate the FATA into the mainstream;**
- xiii. **since climate change knows no borders, cooperation with neighbouring countries in order to find solutions to this common challenge is necessary;**
- xiv. **women issues must become part of the mainstream discourse as an essential element of policy planning to ensure equal political rights and their participation in national development. The perspective of women (gender mainstreaming) must become an essential part of all policy-planning;**
- xv. **Democratic consolidation requires an urgent realignment of civil-military relationship and a more comprehensive security strategy to ensure civilian supremacy and effective crisis management;**
- xvi. **since the state of Pakistan manifestly lacks the capacity and resources required to carry out the tasks expected from it, there is an urgent need to develop mutually complimentary initiatives by the state and civil society organizations;**
- xvii. **while welcoming Pakistan's decision to accord the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India, the participants urge the government of Pakistan to open and facilitate all trade passing through Pakistan. Free trade can serve as a catalyst for economic progress and peace in the region.**