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Panel Discussion

National Action Plan (NAP): Imperatives and Impediments



L-R: Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, Lieutenant General (R) Khalid Rabbani, Ms Aasiya Riaz, and Mr Tasneem Noorani

The Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) organized a panel discussion on “National Action Plan (NAP): Imperatives and Impediments” on 8 May 2018. The purpose of the discussion was to review the progress on the implementation of 20 points of NAP and suggest solutions to overcome the impediments in its implementation. The panelists included Ms Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director, Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT); Lieutenant General (R) Khalid Rabbani, former General Officer Commanding XI Corps; and Mr Tasneem Noorani, former Secretary Interior and Commerce, Government of Pakistan (GoP).

Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit, President IPRI said that during the past three years, Pakistan has achieved tremendous success against terrorism. However, extremism and intolerance cannot be dealt with through kinetic measures. As provided for in the NAP, it was necessary to focus on well-calibrated, soft, non-kinetic approaches aimed at changing hearts and minds.

The 20-point NAP must be implemented in its entirety with all the stakeholders working in harmony as per their respective mandates. Ambassador Basit underlined that Pakistan was at a critical juncture, and the key is to consolidate the gains made during the last three years and build on them by implementing NAP.

National Action Plan (NAP): Rationale and Status

Ms Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director, PILDAT, discussed NAP’s rationale and implementation status of its 20 points. Although NAP is a landmark framework for countering extremism and terrorism in the country, a lot needs to be done for effective implementation. She identified two main reasons: lack of consensus on differentiating between terrorist groups; and lack of a holistic policy on counterterrorism and national security. Also, opaqueness about who is chiefly responsible for implementation and oversight-NACTA or Prime Minister’s Office-is also a major problem. Ms Riaz said that the Apex committees for coordination at federal and provincial levels

remain ineffective in sharing implementation status. She stressed that of all the 20 points, revamping of the criminal justice system has been the biggest failure. She emphasized that institutional and policy reforms need more commitment by the leadership.

NAP: Interplay of Internal and External Dimensions

Shedding light on the interplay of internal and external dimensions impacting NAP, Lt. Gen (R) Khalid Rabbani HI (M), former General Officer Commanding, XI Corps said that lack of good governance in tribal areas has created a vacuum which is being filled by anti-nationalistic rhetoric.

According to him, people of these areas are being led astray by false information given by external actors at the very grassroots level. He urged that a whole-of-nation approach is needed to root out terrorism and negative, anti-nationalist elements. “Only good governance, especially judicial reforms, will change things in Pakistan,” he concluded.

NAP: Lessons Learned and Way Forward

Discussing the way forward for NAP, Mr

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US-China Relations and South Asia



Ms Maryam Nazir, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI delivered a presentation on “US-China Relations and South Asia (SA)” on 28 May 2018. The salient points are given below.

The bilateral relations between the United States (US) and China can be best described by three Cs i.e. Cooperation, Competition and Confrontation. Today, under the leadership of President Xi Jinping and President Donald Trump, visions of the ‘Chinese Dream’ and ‘America First’ have been put forward, respectively. The leadership of both countries is focused on economic development, political stability and strengthening of security in their respective regions.

However, the major issues of confrontation between the two countries include likelihood of US-China trade wars and investment issues, reaffirmation of US’ (economic and security) commitments to allies and friends in the Asia-Pacific region, North Korea’s nuclear and missile program and settlement of Asia-Pacific maritime disputes and others such as global governance, cyber espionage, human rights and civil society policies, global climate change, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Considering the level of complexity in the bilateral relations, several scenarios regarding the evolution of the US-China relationship and its implications for world order can be identified.

One of them is of (inevitable) **conflict**. The realist version presents this vis-à-vis Balance-of-Power. The US views the rise of China as a global power a threat to its already established order and hegemony. In lieu of this, previous US administrations had already laid out containment strategies which might lead to a new Cold War or even open military conflict.

Another possible scenario is of **coexistence** where China and the US would maintain their own distinct political and economic systems, both systems being – in different ways – part of and compatible with a capitalist and

globally interlinked world economy.

In the context of South Asia, as the world shifts from unipolarity to bi- or multipolarity, the region is witnessing reshuffling of economic and security alignments, and an increased focus of foreign powers on expanding their influence. The US, a strategic ally of Pakistan in its war against terrorism, has now initiated its long designed and executed strategic partnership with India. Meanwhile, China has extended cooperation towards Pakistan through geoeconomic initiatives such as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The former, adopting an inclusive approach (and unlike the US), has also welcomed other South Asian countries for the establishment of infrastructure and economic ventures under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to create a diplomatic clout and economic stakes in the region.

To conclude, increased economic interdependence between the US and China can be helpful in resolving security concerns and smaller conflicts, providing necessary security assurances to all major and minor stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific.

For regional states, the takeaway is to secure their national interests by not allying with the global powers for achieving short-term ambitions which deter regional integrity and stability.

External Engagements

President IPRI, Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit’s various external engagements during the month of May included:

- Speech at the International Conference on “Pathways to Peace” organized by the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Islamabad from 6-7 May 2018.
- Speech at the 23rd Senior Management Course (SMC) on “Pak-India Relations on National Environment: Internal and External Dynamics” organized by the National Institute of Management (NIM), Peshawar on 9 May 2018.
- Speech at the Roundtable on “Dynamics of India-Pakistan Bilateral Relations: Modi Regime” organized by the Department of Peace & Conflict Studies, National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad on 10 May 2018.
- Speech at the National Conference on “Human Rights Violations in



Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit delivering Speech at KIIR Conference



Ambassador (R) Abdul Basit with the panelists at the PMDF South Asia Media Conference

- Indian Held Kashmir: A Challenge to World Conscience” organized by the International Forum for Justice and Human Rights Jammu and Kashmir (IFJHRJK) on 11 May 2018.
- Speech at the three-day “South Asia Media Conference” organized by the Pakistan Media Development Foundation from 11-13 May 2018.
- Speech at the Conference on “China-Afghanistan-Pakistan: Constructive Engagement for Sustainable Growth” organized by the Regional Peace Institute (RPI), Islamabad on 15 May 2018.

Delegation from NUST Visits IPRI

A delegation of MS students from the Centre for International Peace and Stability (CIPS), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad visited IPRI on 14 May 2018 led by Dr Imadad Ullah, Assistant Professor, CIPS, NUST. Mr Sajjad Haider, Assistant Research Officer, IPRI gave a presentation on “Pakistan-European Union (EU) Relations”.

Mr Haider said that Pakistan and the EU share strong economic and political ties enhanced under the EU-Pakistan 5 Year Engagement Plan (2012) aimed at “build(ing) a strategic relationship by forging a partnership for peace and development rooted in shared values, principles and commitments.” By granting GSP plus status to Pakistan (2014) and extending it further (2018), EU supports the country’s integration into the world

economy as “more than 78% of Pakistan’s exports enter the EU at preferential rates.” Besides trade relations, both sides are cooperating on strategic issues of mutual concern such as illegal migration, counter terrorism and good governance.

The presentation was followed by an interactive discussion between the NUST students and IPRI scholars.

Some of the salient points of the discussion are as follows:

- The EU is an important bloc for economic integration and one of the largest export destinations for Pakistan. Moreover, Europe hosts a considerable number of Pakistan’s diaspora.
- Pakistan has not fully utilized the potential of GSP plus. Poor governance, terrorism and the general climate of



political instability, discourage European investors from investing in Pakistan. The latter needs to diversify its exports and maintain high quality standards.

- The exit of UK from the EU has raised apprehensions within policy corridors regarding its impact on Pakistan and its economy as in Europe, the largest Pakistani diaspora of 1.7 million lives in UK. They send US\$ 2.7 billion remittances annually, boosting Pakistan’s economy.
- Therefore, Pakistan needs to devise a robust plan to protect its economic and political interests after Brexit. UK is Pakistan’s largest export market in the EU, and Pakistan should lobby to ensure that UK maintains the trade concessions to Pakistan even after its exit from the EU.



National Action Plan (NAP): Imperatives and Impediments

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Tasneem Noorani, former Secretary Interior and Commerce, GoP, shared that although NAP was put together hastily, it was formulated by practitioners with experience, and is an important security document. However, a critical impediment to its implementation is the lack of dedicated funds. He also pointed out that sub-committees formed for evaluating and implementing each NAP point are chaired by busy dignitaries who are unable to give enough quality time. Mr Noorani recommended that National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) should report directly to the Prime Minister, with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) as the coordinator. He also recommended that the MoI should be more empowered, e.g. by making it the HR Division of the police service. The provincial

Counterterrorism Departments should have a more professional cadre with easy mobility from one province to the other. Restoration of Executive Magistracy should be expedited in order to strengthen the District Administration for more effective pre-emptive measures, and the concerns about tribal areas’ administration and Afghan refugees need attention on a fast track.

Recommendations

- NAP is an important security document, and significant efforts have been made under it. However, for effective implementation and monitoring, the Prime Minister of Pakistan should directly lead NACTA.
- NACTA being the primary institution overseeing NAP needs to improve its coordination with the different intelligence and security departments at federal and provincial levels. It should have a presence in

the provincial capitals or establish monitoring and coordination units within the provincial departments.

- Delays in the judicial system reforms are endemic. The most glaring causes include outdated court procedures and inefficient case management techniques. The Criminal Justice System needs serious attention and reforms.
- There are areas such as social mobilization, regrouping of terror outfits under new names and terror financing, which remain key challenges, and can be sorted out by making Anti-Money Laundering and Terror Financing laws of Pakistan more stringent.

Asghar Ali Shad
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(Urdu Articles)

"National Action Plan: Waqt ki Ahem Zaroorat"
Daily Pakistan
"BharatChoti Zehniat ka Bara Mulik"
Nawa-i-Waqt
"Horse Trading...Karnatak Tak"
Nawa-i-Waqt
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Khalid Hussain Chandio
Research Fellow

"Engagement to Estrangement"
Regional Rapport

Sajid Aziz
Consultant

"The Politics of Chemical Weapons"
Daily Times

Amna Ejaz Rafi
Assistant Research Officer

"Peace in the Korean Peninsula"
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Khurram Abbas
Assistant Research Officer

"Character Assassination"
Daily Times
"Identity: A Factor in Making and Breaking of Terrorist Organizations"
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Adeel Mukhtar
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"Call for Environmental Action"
Pakistan Observer

Iqra Mobeen Akram
Assistant Research Officer

"Making Federalism Strong in Pakistan"
Daily Times
"Yemen: A Forgotten Crisis"
Regional Rapport

Sajjad Haider
Assistant Research Officer

"India's Hybrid Warfare: Pakistan's Response"
The Nation
"The Continuous Indian Threat"
The Nation



Regional Dynamics and Strategic Concerns in South Asia

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1. Assessment of Socio-Political Trends in South Asia

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2. Pakistan and India's SCO Membership: Potential Hurdles and Need for Political Wisdom

Dr Boris Volkhonsky, Russia

3. Climate Change and its Threats to the Sovereignty of South Asian States

Biswas Baral, Nepal

4. The Rise of China and Shift from Geostrategy to Geoeconomics: Impact on South Asia

Didier Chaudet, France

5. China Dream vs. America First: Is the Thucydides Trap Unavoidable?

Dr Wei Zongyou, China

6. Accelerating Competition: The Risk of Regional Blocs in South Asia

Andrew Small, USA

7. Strategic Stability Challenges in South Asia

Professor Dr Syed Rifaat Hussain, Pakistan

8. Russia's Changing Policy towards South Asia: Options for Pakistan

Dr Shabir Ahmed Khan, Pakistan

9. Navigating Troubled Pathways: India's Role in Afghanistan and Pakistan's Apprehensions

Ambassador (R) Rustam Shah Mohmand, Pakistan

10. Reconciliation Process in Afghanistan: Role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

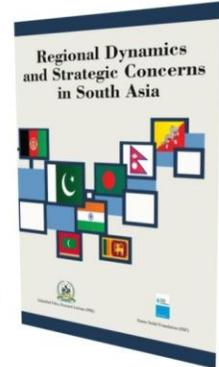
Vladimir Potapenko, China

11. Resolving the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute: An Imperative for Regional Peace

Professor Dr Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, Pakistan

12. The Role of Global Powers in Building a Cooperative Security Order in South Asia

Dr Christian Wagner, Germany



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