

First Speakers' Conference
Islamabad Declaration
Partnership for Peace, Development and Connectivity
December 24, 2017

1. We, the Speakers and the Heads of Delegation of the National Parliaments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Peoples' Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Russian Federation and Republic of Turkey, held the **1st Speakers Conference** in Islamabad, Pakistan on **24th December 2017**. The meeting was convened on the initiative of the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.
2. We discussed the significance of peace, development and connectivity for our states, societies and people. We held in-depth and useful discussions to explore ways of forging a partnership in these mutually reinforcing areas among our countries.
3. We recognized that peace was a prerequisite for achieving development and promoting connectivity between our countries and respective regions. In this regard we agreed on the need for more engagement and dialogue between our Parliaments, Governments and the people.
4. We also deliberated on the diversity and interconnectedness of challenges and opportunities at the regional and global levels.
5. We also discussed the transformation of the world into a pluralistic multi-polar world where Asia is leading the march towards globalization through inclusive cooperation with the rejection of hegemonic approach or use of force, promoting equality of opportunities for all nations and peoples.
6. **WE** exchanged views on the entire spectrum of bilateral, regional and international issues in a warm, cordial and friendly manner.
7. **WE:**
 - I. Acknowledged the shared bonds of history, culture and values between the peoples of our countries;

- II. Reiterated our common resolve to comprehensively upgrade relations across all areas of mutual interest, especially in the fields of security, economy and trade;
 - III. Noted with concern the increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism;
 - IV. Expressed desire to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges and consultations, providing impetus for deepening of ties between the countries;
 - V. Stressed that cooperation between us contributes to the strengthening of peace, prosperity and stability for our peoples and the region;
 - VI. Expressed satisfaction on our cordial and close cooperation at regional and multilateral fora;
 - VII. Agreed to further strengthen collaboration within the framework of the UN, the SCO, and other regional and international organizations;
 - VIII. Reaffirmed the sovereignty territorial integrity, political independence and unity of our states;
8. **We endorse** that connectivity is a key priority area of cooperation, together with the other agreed priority areas.
9. **We recognize** that enhancing intra-regional connectivity would benefit all participating countries through enhanced trade, investment, infrastructure, tourism, people-to-people linkages and cultural exchanges.
10. **We reaffirm** support for the effective and timely implementation of all the regional connectivity initiatives including infrastructure development, institutional linkages and people-to-people connectivity.
11. **We will ensure** support and facilitation to further relevant cooperation between the participant countries in mobilizing resources and expertise, information sharing, and identifying specific cooperation projects for improving connectivity.
12. **We will promote** greater awareness within the public and private sectors on the benefits of connectivity, including its potential economic opportunities, through the conduct of outreach and advocacy activities such as symposiums, workshops, seminars, business missions, and courses.

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13. **We will encourage** greater engagement and cooperation in people-to-people connectivity initiatives, including those relating to education, human resource development, innovation and entrepreneurship, cultural exchanges, and tourism.
14. **We welcome** and support the Belt and Road Initiative, highly commend the success of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in May, 2017 by China. We are committed to strengthening dialogue and consultation in order to build synergies in development strategies and deepening practical cooperation in various areas.
15. **Recognizing** that terrorism is a common threat to the entire world, including our countries, we condemn this phenomenon in all its forms and manifestations. We recommend that our governments shall take further strong measures and practical steps through devising joint concrete and comprehensive strategies to combat terrorism.
16. **We reaffirm** that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, culture or ethnic group. We underscored the central role of the United Nations in the field of counter terrorism and in this regard called for full and effective implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
17. **We also underline** the primary responsibility of states in Combating terrorism at both national and international levels. We spoke in favor of effective cooperation in preventing and countering the spread of terrorist ideology and propaganda, including incitement and glorification of terrorism.
18. **We strongly** condemn acts of terrorism, targeted towards the parliaments and expressed our solidarity with the victims as well as the governments and people of the countries attacked. We express our resolve to stand by the *Republic of Turkey in bringing to justice the perpetrators of July 15 terrorist coup attempt and other crimes.*
19. **We agreed** that for ensuring global and regional peace and stability, the issue of Jammu & Kashmir needs peaceful resolution by Pakistan and India in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions.

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20. **We condemn** any decisions and actions, which purported to have altered, the character, the status or demographic composition of the holy city of Al-Quds have no legal effect, are null and void and must be rescinded in compliance with the relevant UN resolutions. We reaffirmed our commitment to the Middle East settlement based on international law.

21. **We welcome** the recent significant achievements in defeating DAESH in Iraq and Syria. We recognized that DAESH continues to pose a serious threat to the security and stability of countries of the Region and urged for concerted joint efforts to counter this threat.

22. **We welcome** the valuable achievement in the framework of Astana Process to reduce violence, facilitate humanitarian delivery and provide conditions to find a political solution for Syrian crisis through an inclusive, free, fair and transparent Syrian-led and Syrian-owned process as envisaged by the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2254 (2015), which preserves political unity and territorial integrity of this country.

23. **We reject** all unilateral and extra-territorial laws and judicial verdicts by any country against other states, which are in contradiction to international law, United Nations Charter and violate sovereignty and independence of states;

24. **We express** our willingness to help promote dialogue, trust and confidence with a view to addressing the common challenge of terrorism in a unified, coordinated and comprehensive manner.

25. **We reiterate** our commitment to open, inclusive and transparent international security architecture, based on the principles of international law, indivisibility of security, peaceful settlements of disputes, non-use of force or threat of force, for the benefit of strengthening peace, stability and sustainable development in Asia and beyond.

26. **We encourage** further development of multilateral diplomacy including parliamentary diplomacy and supported efforts aimed at establishing mutually beneficial and mutually enhancing relations between parliamentary organizations and fora in Asia and beyond.

27. **Noting** the economic complementarities between our countries and respective regions, we agree to support efforts aimed at enhancing connectivity to foster economic growth and bring our countries, societies and people closer together.

28. **The Speakers** and Heads of Delegations of the National Parliaments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Peoples' Republic of China, Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation and Republic of Turkey thank the host Speaker of Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the warm and generous hospitality extended to them and their delegations during their visit.

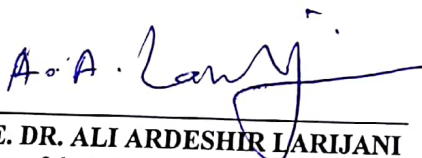
29. **The Speakers** and Head of Delegations agree to hold the next meeting In Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran in 2018.



H.E. MR. ABDUL RAOUF IBRAHIMI
President of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



H.E. MR. ZHANG PING
Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee
of the National People's Congress
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H.E. DR. ALI ARDESHIR LARIJANI
Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly
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H.E. SARDAR AYAZ SADIQ
Speaker of the National Assembly
Islamic Republic of Pakistan



H.E. MR. VYACHESLAV V. VOLODIN
Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly
Russian Federation



H. E. MR. İSMAİL KAHRAMAN
Speaker of the Grand National Assembly
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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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