

"Parliamentary Diplomacy as a Tool of Strengthening Democratic Institutions"

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

HSF is also working with the National Assembly of Pakistan on strengthening legislation and technical support. The National Assembly is the lower legislative house and consists of a total of 342 members serving five-year terms of which 272 are directly elected and 70 reserved seats for women and religious minorities. Moreover, HSF Pakistan has been a close partner of Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate of Pakistan. The proceedings of the Committee have created awareness among the public-at-large and have added to their interest in matters of national and international importance. HSF also supports Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination which is responsible for the coordination between the federal and the provincial governments. It aids both the provincial and the federal entities in providing uniformity of approach in the formulation of policies that concern both.

HSF with its implementing partner the National Dialogue Forum (NDF) in line with the partnership agreement with the National Assembly supports:

1. Strengthening of the constitutional structures in Pakistan
 - The competencies of the staff of the Senate and the National Assembly in the field of legislation have been strengthened.
 - The democratic skills of young politicians are strengthened.
2. Strengthening of the dialogue between multipliers from South Asia and Germany / Europe
 - The dialogue between political multipliers from South Asia and Germany / Europe is strengthened.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

In line with the above stated areas of collaboration HSF and NDF propose a capacity building initiative with the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF). As we are waiting for the activation of the forum due to internal elections, we have jointly decided to work with young parliamentarians who are present in the National Assembly.

Under the overall theme "Parliamentary Diplomacy as a tool of Strengthening Democratic Institutions", important current topics such as the following are proposed to be thoroughly discussed and interacted upon. These include;

- Legislative capacity building (aligning existing legislative practices with international best practices) and democratic skills of law makers
- Energy crisis and parliamentary cooperation on climate change and adaptation in wake of the recent flood situation in Pakistan
- Dialogue between Pakistan and Germany / Europe, especially on trade & the Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP) Plus status
- Common challenges and opportunities faced by young parliamentarians in South Asia and Europe

The National Assembly will be supporting the activity in shortlisting at most 10 young parliamentarians to take part in a half-day activity which will be held at a Committee room at the National Assembly.

NDF will be inviting key experts to deliver the capacity building sessions for the activity. After the successful completion of this initiative, HSF plans to arrange a delegation visit of young parliamentarians to Germany to strengthen linkages between Pakistani and German legislators in the first quarter of 2023. This delegation visit will be built upon the results and key takeaways from the NDF training.

**PROGRAM AGENDA
DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLES
ON**

"Parliamentary Diplomacy as a Tool of Strengthening Democratic Institutions "

Date: Wednesday, 23rd November 2022

Time: 10:00 AM – 03:00 PM

Venue: Committee Room No. 5, National Assembly of Pakistan

Guests and Speakers arrival	09:30AM – 10:00AM
Recitation from Holy Quran	10:00AM – 10:05 AM
Opening remarks by NDF Representative	10:05AM – 10:15AM
Opening remarks by HSF Representative	10:15AM – 10:25 AM
Introductions by participants	10:25AM – 10:30AM
First Session: Legislative capacity building (aligning existing legislative practices with international best practices) and democratic skills of law makers	10:30AM – 11:30PM
Facilitator: Mr. Zafarullah Khan (1 presentation followed by an open discussion)	
Second Session: Parliamentary cooperation on climate change and adaptation in wake of the recent flood situation in Pakistan	11:30AM - 12:30
Facilitator: Ms. Sara Hayat (1 presentation followed by an open discussion)	
Working Lunch	12:30PM - 1:00PM
Third Session: Social media misinformation and fake news (& its management)	1:00PM - 1:30PM
Facilitator: Mr. Asad Baig (1 presentation followed by an open discussion)	
Fourth Session: Common challenges and opportunities faced by young parliamentarians in South Asia and Europe	1:30PM - 2:15PM
Facilitator: Mr. Zafarullah Khan (1 presentation followed by an open discussion)	
Closing Session	2:45PM - 3:00PM