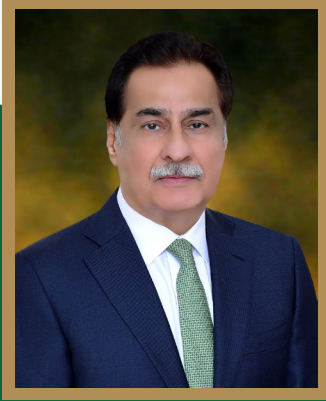




SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE 18TH SPEAKERS' CONFERENCE 2024

11 Dec, 2024, Islamabad

WELCOME MESSAGE



It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the Conference of Secretaries of the Legislatures, a key preparatory step for the 18th Speakers' Conference. This Conference plays a vital role in shaping the future of our parliamentary practices and enhancing collaboration among the various legislative bodies of Pakistan.

The realization of an effective parliament depends on the development of a unified strategy and consensus. The 18th Speakers' Conference, which is being held after a decade, will provide a historic opportunity for legislators from all Provincial and Legislative Assemblies to come together, address critical issues and chart a collective course for the future.

In light of the 18th Amendment, strengthening cooperation between Federal and Provincial governments is imperative. The challenges need to be addressed with a focus on bridging gaps and improving relationships across legislatures. To that end, I propose regular meetings between the Speakers and Secretaries, facilitating the exchange of best practices and fostering a unified approach to governance.

I eagerly anticipate the innovative strategies and key initiatives that will arise from this gathering.

SARDAR AYAZ SADIQ
Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan



It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you all at the Conference of Secretaries of the Legislatures being held as a precursor to the 18th Speakers' Conference of Pakistan. This Conference stands as an important and time-honored tradition within our parliamentary framework, providing a forum for thoughtful deliberation, collaboration and the exchange of knowledge that contributes directly to the smooth functioning of our legislative institutions.

This gathering is a critical step in the preparation of the 18th Speakers' Conference, which will take place from December 18th to 20th, 2024 in Islamabad. As Secretaries, our role is indispensable in ensuring that the legislative process remains transparent, efficient and responsive to the needs of our people. The thoughtful discussions that took place during these proceedings will shape the agenda for the 18th Speakers' Conference.

I sincerely hope that you enjoy your stay in Islamabad, the heart of Pakistan and find this experience both productive and valuable.

I look forward to our fruitful discussions and a successful outcome from this Conference.

TAHIR HUSSAIN
Secretary General, National Assembly of Pakistan



HISTORY OF HOUSES

Article 50 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides for the Majlis-e- Shoora (Parliament) of Pakistan consisting of the President, two Houses to be known respectively as the Senate and the National Assembly of Pakistan.

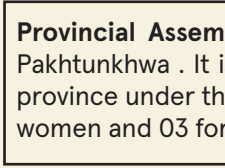


Senate of Pakistan is the permanent House of the Federation. The Senate of Pakistan gives equal representation to all the federating units in order to promote national cohesion and harmony. According to the Constitution, the Senate consists of ninety six (96) members.

National Assembly of Pakistan works alongside the Senate to enact laws, approve budget, debate on national and international issues and hold the executive accountable. The House consists of 336 seats for members in the National Assembly, including 60 seats reserved for women and 10 for non-Muslims.



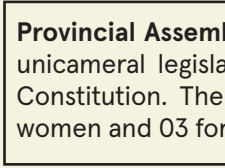
Provincial Assembly of the Punjab is the legislative body of the province of Punjab. It is a unicameral legislature responsible for making laws on matters assigned to the province under the Constitution. The Assembly consists of 371 seats including 66 seats reserved for women and 08 for non-Muslims.



Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the legislative body of the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa . It is a unicameral legislature responsible for making laws on matters assigned to the province under the Constitution. The Assembly consists of 145 seats including 22 seats reserved for women and 03 for non-Muslims.



Provincial Assembly of Sindh is the legislative body for the province of Sindh in Pakistan. It is a unicameral legislature responsible for making laws on matters assigned to the province under the Constitution. The Assembly is composed of 168 seats including 29 seats reserved for women and 09 for non-Muslims.



Provincial Assembly of Balochistan is the legislature of the province of Balochistan in Pakistan. It is a unicameral legislature responsible for making laws on matters assigned to the province under the Constitution. The Assembly of Balochistan is composed of 65 seats including 11 seats reserved for women and 03 for non-Muslims.



Gilgit Baltistan Assembly is a unicameral legislative body that was formed through the Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self-Governance Order, 2009. The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly is composed of 33 seats including 6 seats reserved for women and 3 seats reserved for Technocrats and Professionals.



The Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir: Azad Jammu and Kashmir has a Parliamentary Democratic System under which the Prime Minister of AJ&K is the Executive Head and the President is the Constitutional head of the state. This Assembly comprises of 53 members including 05 reserved seats for women.



SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE

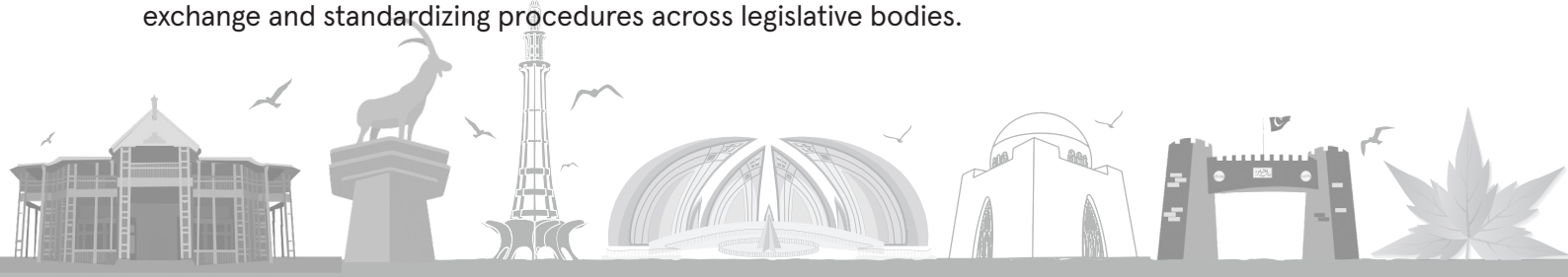
18TH SPEAKERS' CONFERENCE 2024

The Conference of Secretaries held on 11th December 2024 marked an important preparatory step for the 18th Speakers' Conference. The Secretaries and key officials representing all federal, provincial and legislative Assemblies across Pakistan attended the meeting. It provided a platform to deliberate on the agenda items and review the implementation status of decisions taken during the 17th Speakers' Conference. Honourable Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan graced the event with his presence. In his welcome remarks, he emphasized that realising a dream of an effective parliament hinges on developing a unified strategy and consensus for proactive parliamentary function.



After deliberation, the Secretaries Conference recommended the following key initiatives. These initiatives reflect a strategic effort to modernize parliamentary operations for improving the functioning of legislative bodies.

1. **Strengthening the institution of Whips** to ensure a structured management of parliamentary business, including the order of speeches and the overall parliamentary discipline.
2. **Establishment of a Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Association.** To further streamline the working of PACs for strengthen accountability.
3. **Establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Channel:**
The creation of a joint parliamentary channel will focus on broadcasting live sessions and providing expert analysis on legislative matters. This initiative aims to increase public engagement, enhance transparency, and offer the public direct access to parliamentary proceedings, ensuring a more informed citizenry.
4. **Legal Frameworks for Holding Virtual Sessions:**
In response to emergencies and pandemics, this initiative aims to create legal frameworks that allow for virtual parliamentary sessions. This will reduce costs, enhance efficiency, and ensure that legislative business can continue smoothly during times when physical sessions may not be feasible.
5. **Joint Compilation of Rulings by Speakers and Presiding Officers:**
The proposal to compile the rulings of Speakers and Presiding Officers of all legislatures aims to create a unified reference guide, ensuring consistency in legislative decisions. This compilation, prepared by the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), will help avoid contradictory rulings in the future and provide a clearer understanding of parliamentary procedures.
6. **Establishment of the Pakistan National Group of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (PNGCPA):**
Establishment of the Pakistan National Group of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (PNGCPA) with a permanent Secretariat in the National Assembly was proposed to enhance coordination and global engagement.
7. **Establishment of an Association of Secretaries of Legislatures:**
This association will focus on improving coordination among legislative secretaries, facilitating knowledge exchange and standardizing procedures across legislative bodies.





Mr. Tahir Hussain
Secretary General
National Assembly of Pakistan

With over 35 years of dedicated public service, Mr. Tahir Hussain has held pivotal roles at the district, provincial and federal levels across Balochistan, Punjab, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. His career includes positions such as Federal Secretary, Chief Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Commissioner to name a few. He joined the National Assembly in December 2017 and currently serves as the Secretary General of the National Assembly of Pakistan.



Syed Hasnain Haider
Secretary
Senate of Pakistan

Syed Hasnain Haider began his career in 1992 by joining the Military service of Pakistan, later inducted as a civil servant into the Parliamentary Services of Pakistan in 2007. During his service in the Senate, he has held positions of Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary, Secretary Standing Committees and Special Secretary. His career includes serving as Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to the President, the Prime Minister and the Chairman Senate of Pakistan.



Ch. Basharat Hussain
Secretary
Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) Assembly

Ch. Basharat Hussain is an accomplished civil servant. Known for his commitment to governance and public service. Mr. Hussain has played a pivotal role in the administration and legislative functions of the region, contributing significantly to the development and strengthening of AJ&K's governance structures. He currently serves as the Secretary of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) Assembly.



Tahir Shah Kakar
Secretary
Provincial Assembly of Balochistan

Mr. Tahir Shah Kakar has held a tremendous experience in the development sector. Dedicated to continuous learning, Mr. Kakar remains committed to staying updated on advancements in political and legislative affairs. At present, he is serving as the Secretary of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan.



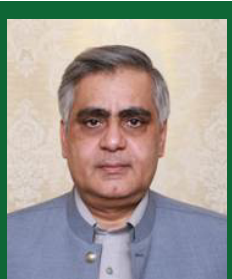
Abdul Razzaq
Secretary
Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly

Mr. Abdul Razzaq began his career in 1996 with the Gilgit-Baltistan government and has held several significant positions in the government administration. His contributions have been integral to effective governance and administration of the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly. He currently serves as the Secretary of the Gilgit Baltistan Assembly.



Kifayat Ullah Khan Afridi
Secretary
Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

With over 32 years of public service, his career began in November 1992 as an Assistant Secretary. He has held key positions, including Deputy Secretary for Legislation and Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Additional Secretary, Senior Additional Secretary and Acting Secretary. He is currently serving as the Secretary of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Ch. Amer Habib
Secretary General
Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

Ch. Amer Habib joined the Provincial Assembly of Punjab in 1998 as an Editor. Over his 26-year career, he significantly contributed to the Assembly's administrative and legislative functions. At present, he serves as the Secretary General of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab.



G.M. Umar Farooq
Secretary
Provincial Assembly of Sindh

Mr. G.M. Umar Farooq began his career as an Assistant Secretary in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh. His tenure has been marked by a commitment to enhancing the legislative processes within the Provincial Assembly of Sindh. He assumed the position of Secretary of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh on 8th December 2015.

