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SARDAR AYAZ SADIQ

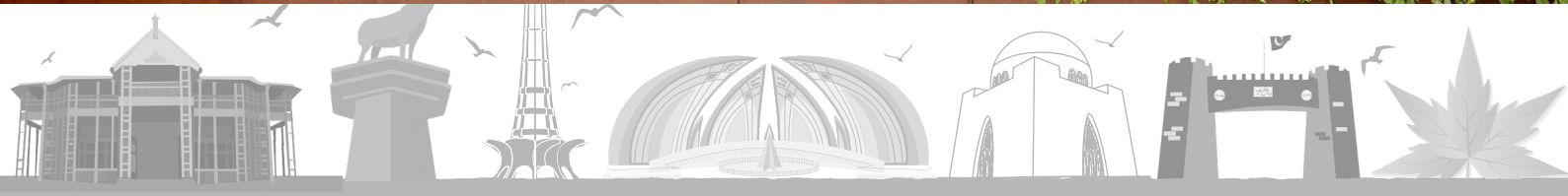
HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

NA Speaker in his presidential address highlighted the importance of dialogue to achieve national consensus on key issues faced by legislatures. He also noted that events like the Speakers' Conference offer an opportunity to foster political camaraderie for the collective resolution of constitutional and procedural matters.

The Honourable Speaker is a firm believer in bridging the gap between the public and the parliament. He highlighted various initiatives taken by the National Assembly of Pakistan under his leadership. From inviting young students to witness the proceedings of the National Assembly sessions to regular Youth Internship Program that allows schools, colleges and university students, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds to gain insight into the working of the Parliament.

In order to address procedural issues in the functioning of legislatures and to enhance oversight and accountability, the Speaker stressed on the establishment of an Association of Whips as well as Public Accounts Committee. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, while praising the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), stressed the importance of expanding its mandate. He also highlighted the need for an establishment of Secretary Generals and Secretary's Association and development of joint courses to promote inter-provincial harmony. Establishment of a Monitoring and Implementation Committee was also proposed to oversee the execution of the decisions made during the Speakers' Conferences in future. In conclusion, NA Speaker reiterated the importance of reducing political bitterness and called for greater collaboration, as unity is essential for the country's progress and salvation.

“
Tolerating
and
Respecting
each other
NA Speaker ”





Hon. Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri

Recognized the importance of this year's Speakers' Conference theme in upholding cherished democratic practices. Emphasized the need for a modern, inclusive parliament and innovation in legislative processes. Highlighted the importance of ensuring that the concerns of every Pakistani are voiced and heard in the Parliament. Advocated for an increased women representation in decision making.

Chaudhry Latif Akbar

Hon. Speaker, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly

Called for a thorough deliberation on key issues faced by legislatures and the development of practical solutions. Suggested that the next Speaker's Conference to be held in Muzaffarabad, emphasizing the need to support the right to self-determination of the people of the Indian-occupied Kashmir. Highlighted the ongoing threats due to the unresolved Kashmir issue, stressing the importance of finding a peaceful solution for lasting stability in the region.



Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Khan Achakzai

Hon. Speaker, Balochistan Assembly

Urged to raise the issue of Indian Occupied Kashmir on all forums and called for using this esteemed conference to deliberate on the country's most pressing challenges. Praised the Speaker of the National Assembly for hosting the conference and emphasized that through mutual cooperation and dialogue, legislative bodies can resolve all issues.



Mr. Nazir Ahmad

Hon. Speaker, Gilgit Baltistan Assembly

The 18th Speakers' Conference will restore trust among all the federating units in Pakistan. Forums like this offer an opportunity to be heard and collaborate on resolving institutional and procedural issues to strengthen Parliamentary democracy. Urged all speakers to adhere to democratic practices in their proceedings. Appreciated the role of the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) and advocated for broadening the sphere of its services to the Gilgit Baltistan Assembly.



Mr. Babar Saleem Swati

Hon. Speaker, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly

Appreciated the role of the Speaker National Assembly in upholding democratic traditions of fostering mutual consensus among national legislatures. Urged a shift from mere dialogue to concrete action in addressing key issues, stressing the importance of clear and decisive steps to avoid ambiguity and ensure effective implementation of policies and reforms.



Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan

Hon. Speaker, Punjab Assembly

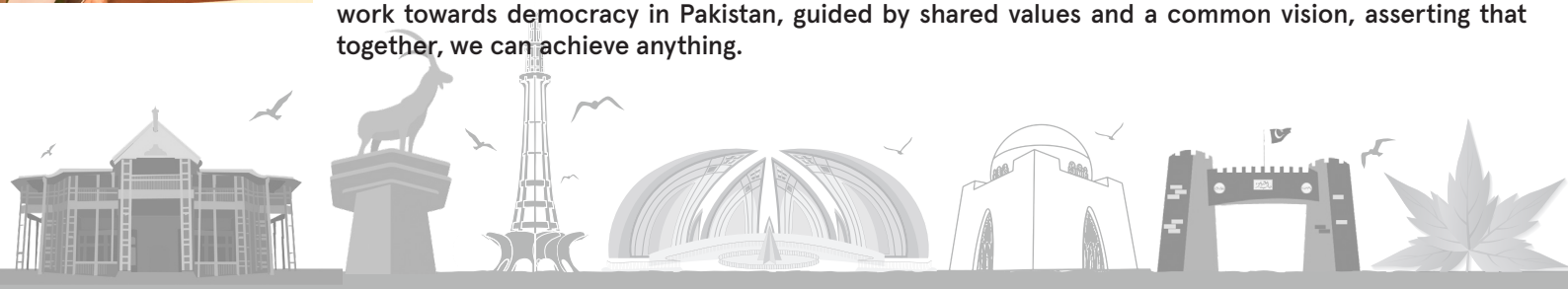
To fully realize the benefits of the 18th Constitutional Amendment, the federal and provincial governments should develop further strategies to ensure provincial autonomy and work towards the greater public good. Proposed making this Conference a permanent feature by incorporating it into the rules of procedure of all legislatures. Emphasized the importance of advancing towards democratization and urged not to resist the process of democracy.



Syed Awais Qadir Shah

Hon. Speaker, Sindh Assembly

Highlighted the significance of Speaker's Conference in strengthening parliamentary democracies and fostering collaboration between provinces. Emphasized the need to empower youth parliamentarians by equipping them with knowledge and skills, addressing the challenges posed by disinformation that have misled the youth of Pakistan. Highlighted the limited opportunities for youth, contributing to brain drain and stressed the urgent need for a stronger climate change action. Urged collective action to work towards democracy in Pakistan, guided by shared values and a common vision, asserting that together, we can achieve anything.



Session 1: Constitutional Issues Involving Legislatures

Review of the Implementation of the 18th Constitutional Amendment: NA Speaker directed forming an inter-provincial committee comprising of Speakers, Law Ministers, and Standing Committee Chairpersons to review proposals clause by clause. PIPS was tasked to prepare a concept note and a comparative analysis of constitutional issues within 15 days. PIPS shall also be liaising with stakeholders.

Environmental Protection (Article 9A) and Sustainable Development: Speaker NA directed forming interprovincial committees comprising of relevant ministers to address issues of climate challenges, polio eradication and terrorism. He directed all Parliamentary Forums to lead discussions on these matters and present a consolidated report within three months.

Resolving Legislative Ambiguity in Article 116: The Law Minister presented his legal remarks that such a bill is deemed accepted if no action by Governor. It was suggested that rules be amended to address transmission delays and ensure clarity.

Supremacy of the Parliament: Proposals included forming accountability committees for executive heads of ministries and empowering standing committees for effective oversight in legislatures.

Review/ Omission of Redundant Constitutional Articles: PIPS was tasked with preparing a detailed report on redundant articles.

Revisiting Oath of Minority Legislators: The proposal was unanimously agreed upon.

Enhancing Mechanisms for Provincial Assembly Resolutions: The proposal called for establishing mechanisms to ensure government response to resolutions passed by legislatures.



Session-II: Institutional Reforms & Revisiting Practice & Procedure

Key decisions: -

1. Sharing of Debates: exchange of debates between legislatures to share best practices.
2. Strengthening the Office of Whip: Institutionalize the office of the Whip by incorporating it into the Rules and Procedures of respective legislatures, with provisions to adopt or modify, based on their needs.
3. Pakistan Association of Public Accounts Committee (PAPAC): Recommend revisiting the PAC rules, with a proposal to insert the establishment of PAPAC. Recommended to hold a meeting within six months to adopt these rules and institutional framework. After the establishment of the PAPAC, amendments to the Constitution be made after consensus.
4. Transparency through Live Streaming: Amend rules to bridge the gap between the parliament and the masses by live-streaming sessions on the official websites of respective Assemblies.
5. Virtual Sessions during pandemics: Propose amendments to allow for virtual sessions, especially during emergencies like pandemics. This proposal, based on international best practices shared by PIPS, will be presented at the next Secretaries' and Speakers' Conference.
6. Institutionalizing Parliamentary Forums: Establish forums and build linkages among legislatures to share best practices. Establish a Directorate for developing frameworks and issuance of yearly report.
7. Creation of Secretaries' Association: Adoption of the creation of an Association for Secretary Generals and Secretaries.
8. Follow-up Committee: Adoption of a Committee to ensure the implementation of Speakers' Conference decisions.
9. Annual Speakers' Conference: Agreement to hold the Speakers' Conference annually.



Picture Gallery

