

# ISLAMABAD SECURITY DIALOGUE 2023

## EVENT REPORT



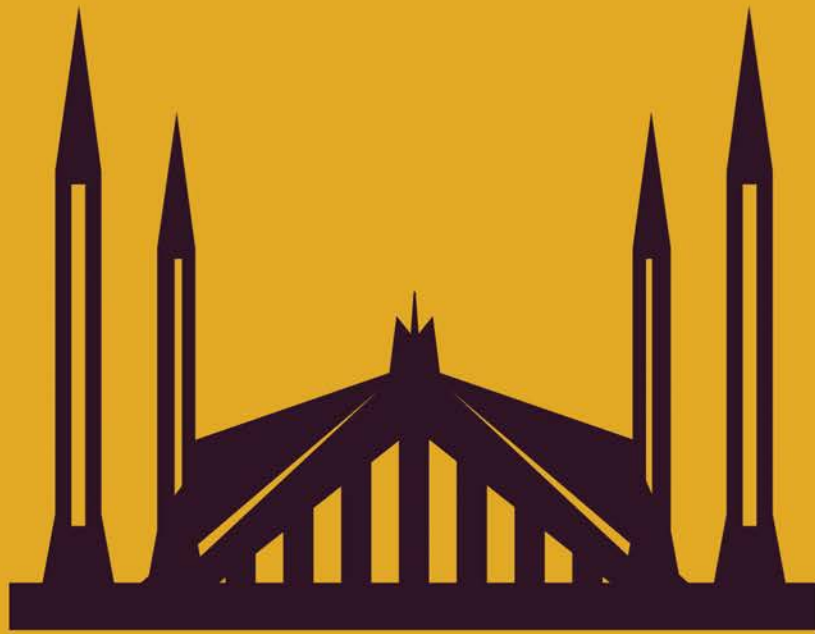
10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023  
PAK-CHINA FRIENDSHIP CENTER ISLAMABAD

#ISD2023  
#IsbDialogue

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 islamabadsecuritydialogue.com

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**ISLAMABAD**  
**SECURITY**  
**DIALOGUE**

“Beyond Conflict? Resetting the Global Agenda in a Divided World”



# ISLAMABAD SECURITY DIALOGUE

The Islamabad Security Dialogue (ISD) is Pakistan's annual flagship security forum that seeks to position Pakistan as a leading voice in international security through dialogue on shared global and regional security issues.

The dialogue provides a platform for critical thinking and robust intellectual discourse on some of the most important and pressing challenges and opportunities facing Pakistan and the wider region.

The third iteration of the two day hybrid event took place in Islamabad on the 10th and 11th of May 2023 at the Pakistan–China Friendship Centre.

The event was attended by international thinkers and scholars, military commanders and National Security Advisers of Asian countries, practitioners of international law, members of the federal cabinet, diplomatic corps, former government officials, academia, think tanks, and civil society members.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, the Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives on behalf of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The theme of the third edition of the ISD was “Beyond Conflict? Resetting the Global Agenda in a Divided World”

## KEY THEMES

- Changing Nature of War
- Economic Statecraft: Cooperation in an Era of Uncertainty
- Climate: An Existential Threat
- Reimagining Security Cooperation in Asia
- International Law Landscape in an Era of Great Power Competition
- A Transitioning Global Order: From Competition to Conflict?
- Challenges to Economic Security of Pakistan

NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

# ISLAMABAD SECURITY DIALOGUE

Pak-China Friendship Center, Islamabad



NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

# ISLAMABAD SECURITY DIALOGUE



**Day 1**

# Inaugural Address

Welcome Address

**Engr. Aamir Hasan**

Secretary, National Security Division



Inaugural Address

**Ahsan Iqbal**

Minister for Planning, Development  
and Special Initiatives



## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- In the face of increasing geopolitical rivalry and the ascent of bloc politics, international institutions have lost their influence and are struggling to forge consensus on shared global challenges, disproportionately impacting developing countries.
- The world should prepare to face far more intense challenges than existing ones, ranging from disease epidemics to climate change, augmented with disruption from new technologies and impending financial crisis, further deepening inequality amongst states.
- Capital-intensive drivers of change like nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing are bound to repeatedly test the resilience of the global economic system, further aggravating contestation.
- Pakistan continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the global order and contributing to consensus-building on key international issues like counter-terrorism, climate change, infrastructure development, and international peace and stability.
- Pakistan does not believe in becoming part of camp politics and instead wants to maintain cordial and positive relations with all major powers while working towards its own development and economic growth. It hopes continue uninterrupted trade with all major partners, including the US, EU, China, and the GCC.
- Pakistan is keen to expand its relations with the West and hopes that international financial institutions will be more forthcoming in assisting with debt management.
- The implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a testament to the brotherly cooperation between the two countries and Pakistan wishes to expand it to crucial areas of its economy.
- Pakistan appreciates China's role in mediating peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This development signifies the importance of dialogue and diplomacy towards ensuring lasting peace and stability.
- Pakistan supports all efforts to ensure a peaceful settlement of Russia-Ukraine War and calls for a return to the negotiating table.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- Recognizing the significance of non-traditional security threats, Pakistan has made economic stability the focal point of its policy. The immediate focus of the government is to address the twin challenges of current account deficit and rising inflation, and put Pakistan back on the trajectory of economic growth that it was on in 2018.
- Pakistan remains one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of global climate change despite making a negligible contribution to global carbon emissions. The international community must step up its efforts in coming to the aid of developing countries which have incurred tremendous losses in the face of extreme climate events.
- Floods of biblical proportions in Pakistan have displaced 33 million people and cost the country more than \$30 billion in economic losses. In order to secure assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation, Pakistan took the initiative to reach out to the international community.
- Pakistan remains committed to eradicating terrorism in the country. The government has renewed targeted operations against terrorists. We are also aware of the role of external actors in supporting terrorist organizations and have shared evidence in this regard at all relevant international forums.
- Pakistan remains committed to defending its territorial integrity and will continue to ensure a robust conventional and strategic deterrence without initiating an arms race.
- Pakistan is willing to engage in diplomacy and dialogue to maintain South Asia's peace and stability. It remains dedicated to working with all countries to strengthen trade and connectivity throughout the region in order to maximize the potential of the region.
- While Pakistan is open to dialogue, India's unilateral actions and continued human rights violations in IIOJK continue to impact bilateral relations and stability in the region. The onus is on India to create a conducive environment for discussions by reversing its unilateral actions of 5th of August 2019 and giving rights to the Kashmiri people. Pakistan remains committed to seeking a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute and will continue to stand with the Kashmiris till they achieve their right to self-determination according to relevant UNSC resolutions.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- Existing water-sharing mechanisms should be respected and any form of unilateral approach to addressing perceived disagreements should be discouraged.
- In spite of its desire for a connected and prosperous region, Pakistan rejects the self-imposed hegemony of any one state and will resist such ambitions in the Indian Ocean because a military buildup will disturb the already fragile security environment.
- Pakistan remains committed to ensuring a stable and sovereign Afghanistan. It is aware of the deteriorating humanitarian conditions exacerbated by sanctions and urges the international community and its neighbors to engage with the Taliban government. It also calls on the Taliban government to address the concerns of the international community.

# DAY 1 SESSION I

## Commanders' Forum

### THEMES OF THE SESSION

- The changing nature of war amidst great power competition.
- Emerging technologies.
- Military diplomacy and its role in lowering tensions.
- Impact of disruptive technologies on military doctrines.

**Major General Nie Song Lai**  
Academy of Military Sciences  
China



**Admiral Yudo Margono**  
Commander of the National Armed Forces  
Indonesia



**Moderator**  
**Syed Hassan Akbar**  
Senior Policy Specialist,  
SPPC, National Security Division



## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- The international strategic landscape is going through profound changes yet peace development and win-win cooperation remain the common pursuit of most countries.
- The changing nature of war is manifested in the following aspects:
  - › Warfare taking on new forms as a result of technological advances such as big data, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence.
  - › War has become a hybrid action that takes place in political, economic, diplomatic, military, and cognitive domains.
  - › Spillover of local wars may have global repercussions due to increased interconnectedness.
- Global strategic stability should be maintained at all costs by opposing arms race.
- Strategic communication should be enhanced between states through mutual trust, cooperation, dispute resolution and consultations to address global security challenges.
- Hegemonic blocs and zero-sum game which reflect the Cold War mentality should be discouraged as they push the world into further divides.
- All states must strengthen their kinetic and non-kinetic forces to increase military preparedness while dealing with the evolving nature of warfare.
- Three things must be prioritized in order to improve kinetic strength:
  - › Combat readiness: the military should be prepared at all times to face an enemy attack.
  - › Technologically advanced military arsenal: The kinetic weapons system needs to incorporate new technologies, such as artificial intelligence.
  - › Knowledge: In the development of the armed forces, knowledge and the welfare of soldiers should take precedence.
- Three aspects must be prioritized in order to develop non-kinetic strength.
  - › Adaptation: Through independent research and procurement, the military must keep up with technological and scientific advancements to build an advanced military arsenal.
  - › Collaboration: Non-kinetic threats endanger all aspects of state life, including political, economic, health, social, and cultural aspects. The armed forces must be able to collaborate with stakeholders to mitigate emerging threats ranging from cybersecurity threats to disease epidemics.
  - › Education: A well-educated citizenry can play a critical role in maintaining and safeguarding their state's national security interest.

# DAY 1

## SESSION II

### Economic Statecraft: Cooperation in an Era of Uncertainty

#### THEMES OF THE SESSION

- Impact of development partnerships to overcome some of the economic challenges.
- Role multilateral institutions.
- Global trade infrastructure at the crossroads.

#### Ishrat Hussain

Former Governor of the State Bank & Former Adviser to the Prime Minister on Institutional Reforms and Austerity



#### Aisha Ghaus Pasha

Minister of State for Finance and Revenue



#### Xu Mingqi

Vice Chairman of Shanghai Center of International Economic Exchange & Director of European Studies Center at Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences



#### Najy Benhassine

Country Director World Bank



#### Moderator

#### Mosharraf Zaidi

Founding partner Tabadlab



## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- The current international order is the most fragmented in the recent past. The current challenges confronting the global community, such as great power competition, the emergence of new economic systems, conflict resulting in supply chain disruption, and hyperinflation, have exacerbated fault lines.
- In these times, hopes for cooperation remain limited because states must deal with the ramifications of global inequalities and increased polarization.
- Pakistan should gain internal strength by putting its domestic affairs in order, and then try to benefit from all global markets rather than picking one side.
- In order to attract investments, increase trade, and technological transfers, Pakistan must undergo extensive structural reforms to gain the trust of the international community.
- Lack of investment in the human capital of Pakistan is a silent crisis that is capping its growth potential. The alarming number of children with stunted growth and those who are out of school pose a serious threat to its human capital development.
- Pakistan's deteriorating fiscal reserves require the undivided attention of its decision-makers, as it is a critical prerequisite for economic growth that can also ultimately improve human development.
- The decline in Pakistan's economic performance was caused by a lack of continuity, consistency, and predictability in its policies.
- The decline in Pakistan's economic performance was caused by a lack of continuity, consistency, and predictability in its policies. To ensure economic progress, it must work on the 5 I's :
  - > Institutions
  - > Innovation
  - > Investment
  - > Infrastructure
  - > Incentives
- Pakistan must create a conducive environment for women to participate in the labor force, which can play a key role in its economic development.
- The degree of cooperation a state enjoys with others is determined by political stability and consensus amongst stakeholders rather than the form of government.

# DAY 1

## SESSION III

### Climate: An Existential Threat

#### THEMES OF THE SESSION

- Climate adaptation measures.
- Implementation of the global agenda on climate.
- Impact on climate due to inter-state conflict.

**Sherry Rehman**  
Minister for Climate Change  
and Environmental  
Coordination



**Daniel F. Runde**  
Senior Fellow, CSIS



**Peter Frankopan**  
Professor, Oxford University



**Adil Najam**  
Dean Emeritus & Professor,  
Pardee School, Boston University  
& President-Elect WWF



**Christina Voigt**  
Chair, IUCN's WCEL



**Ian Fry**  
UN Special Rapporteur on  
the Promotion of HRs in  
the Context of Climate Change



**Ahmad Rafay Alam**  
Environmental Lawyer



**Moderator**  
**Salman Zaidi**  
Director Jinnah Institute



## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- Climate change is a complex global issue that intersects with justice, equity, fairness, politics, economics, and law. It endangers human welfare and natural capital such as glaciers, forests, and ocean systems.
- While it is regarded as a non-traditional threat, the exogenous shocks to an economy caused by a single large climate event, such as the 2022 floods, which resulted in 30-billion-dollar infrastructure losses, can be so severe in terms of GDP losses that it ranks as a national and international security threat.
- The concept of 'common but differentiated responsibility' meant that climate change is a common problem that affects the whole planet but in different ways, and every state has different responsibilities and rights. However, today's international climate system is based on the basic principle of diplomacy, which works for the lowest common denominator rather than the greater common good.
- The four drivers of the climate crisis are capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy, and consumerism. Which must be dismantled and replaced, otherwise they will have far-reaching consequences affecting global peace and security.
- The effects of climate change are fueling global instability, with 13 of the 20 countries most affected by climate change also experiencing armed conflict. These consequences are frequently borne by countries that contribute the least to global emissions. Furthermore, it disproportionately affects the poor and vulnerable communities, who are compelled to live in areas prone to extreme weather events. In 2021 alone, 22.3 million people were displaced globally and 22 million people were at the risk of starvation due prolonged drought.
- The world today has the highest carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere and the planet is the warmest it has been for the last 125,000 years.
- Temperatures in Pakistan's south have reached 53 degrees Celsius, making agriculture, manufacturing, and any other human activity impossible. To combat these changes, Pakistan should strengthen resilience, increase emergency training and response, and ensure effective data tracking.
- Pakistan can also benefit from regional best practices, such as Bangladesh's community-based disaster preparedness strategies. It should enact de-carbonization policies and cultivate resilient lifestyles that avoid overheating in the winter and overcooling in the summer. It can transition to green energy by leveraging its mining, solar, wind, and geothermal potential.



NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

**ISLAMABAD SECURITY DIALOGUE**



# Day 2

# DAY 2 SESSION IV

## National Security Advisers Forum

### THEMES OF THE SESSION

- Vision for security cooperation.
- Pathways of cooperation among regional countries.
- Traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

**Nasser Khan Janjua**  
Former National Security Adviser  
Pakistan



**Note of Thanks**  
**Aamir Hasan**  
Secretary, National Security Division



**Wang Xiaohong**  
Minister for Public Security  
China



**Gizat Nurdauletov**  
Aide to the President-Secretary  
of the Security Council  
Kazakhstan



**Marat Imankulov**  
Secretary of the Security Council  
Kyrgyzstan



**Victor Makhmudov**  
Secretary of the Security Council  
Uzbekistan



**Moderator**  
**Majid Mehmood**  
Policy Expert  
SPPC, National Security Division



**Translator**  
**Muhammad Abbas Hassan**  
Research Specialist  
SPPC, National Security Division



## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- The international community is confronted with a myriad of traditional and non-traditional security challenges.
- The international security order remains unstable due to escalating confrontation between great powers, the return of the Cold War mentality, the breakdown of economic and logistical ties, increasing trade barriers, and eroding trust between countries.
- China is willing to cooperate with states to advance its Global Security Initiative in Asia, and proposed a four-point agenda;
  - › Mutual respect: All are equal and seeking superiority over others causes instability.
  - › Fairness and justice: The security of one country should not come at the expense of the other.
  - › Win-win cooperation: Rejecting unilateralism in favour of cooperation on shared challenges.
  - › Holistic security: Fundamental and durable ways to achieve sustainable security.
- Kyrgyzstan recommended strengthening collaboration within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and other regional entities to combat emerging threats such as terrorism, extremism, separatism, food and water scarcity, and natural disaster.
- Increased engagement is the only way to reintegrate Afghanistan into the region. Tightening sanctions will only lead to further radicalization of the masses. Leading to the rise of terrorists and extremist organizations.
- Kazakhstan has been engaging with Afghanistan through humanitarian aid diplomacy and its trade representative office in Herat.
- President of Uzbekistan has proposed the formation of a high-level international negotiation group under the auspices of the United Nations which can negotiate with the Taliban government on behalf of the international community.
- To fully utilize the region's enormous agricultural potential, Asian nations must cooperate. Starting point for this can be Kazakhstan's initiative to create a "green corridor" for essential agricultural products.
- The Uzbek government plans to hold the first Samarkand International Forum dedicated to global climate challenges to deepen cooperation in the field of ecology.

# DAY 2 SESSION V

## International Law Landscape in an Era of Great Power Competition

### THEMES OF THE SESSION

- Rule-based order.
- Compliance with international law.
- Barriers to addressing global challenges.
- Peacekeeping operations
- Unilateral sanctions and coercive measures

#### Opening Keynote

**Bruno Simma**

Former Judge of the  
International Court of  
Justice



**Antonios Tzanakopoulos**

Professor, Oxford University



**Feisal H. Naqvi**

Senior Partner, Bhandari Naqvi Riaz



**Alena Douhan**

UN Special Rapporteur on the  
negative impact of unilateral  
coercive measures on the  
enjoyment of Human rights



**Karin Landgren**

Executive Director,  
Security Council Reports



**Zhang Naigen**

Professor, Fudon University



#### Moderator

**Oves Anwar**

Director, Research,  
Society of Law



## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- International law always had to function, and has functioned, in the realities of great power competition. A multipolar world is more strongly in need of public international law than a uni-polar, or bi-polar world.
- Great power competition, in the middle to long run, will strengthen, not weaken, international law as a whole. Indeed, it was in the presence of a multipolar world order and changes therein, that public international law made the biggest progress, e.g., the Peace of Westphalia, the Congress of Vienna, the League of Nations, etc.
- There are a number of threats to international peace and security that the UNSC does not discuss, including cyber security, climate, pandemics and inequality.
- The UNSC had avoided full-on discussion of cyber because its members not only disagree on whether the UNSC should take up cyber but also over the applicability of international law in cyberspace.
- In the past decade, the UN peace operations, which have uniformed military personnel, have dwindled down to 12 as a whole cluster of operations closed in West Africa, Sierra Leone, Liberia, etc., and no new peacekeeping operation has been established.
- The UN peacekeeping by its nature is not set up to face emerging threats, e.g. terrorism, cyber threats, bioweapons, AI or disinformation. The UN can't protect civilians against those threats and UN peacekeepers are supposed to be fighting forces.
- There's a real disconnect between what some governments are seeking and what UN peacekeeping offers, for example, states increasingly demand from governments for robust offensive operations with a counter terrorism element by UN peacekeepers. Also, there is a sense that peacekeeping as traditionally conceived may no longer be perceived as a critical policy tool for the UN and for the UNSC in particular.
- Collective measures not involving the use of armed force under article 41 of the UN Charter requires a UNSC decision under Chapter VII. So, unilateral measures that do not involve the use of armed force are of different types;
  - > Unfriendly but lawful coercive measures e.g. 'measures of retortion', withdrawal of voluntary aid or withdrawal of diplomatic staff.
  - > Unfriendly measures that are inherently unlawful in response to an internationally wrongful act, e.g. freezing of sovereign assets because it violates the principle of overeign immunity.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- There is rise in unilateral coercive measures, where states try to emulate the UN's sanctions by imposing secondary sanctions but unlike UN measures, which are binding on everyone, unilateral secondary sanctions are not binding on the international community as a whole. In UN sanctions, there is a multilateral process for imposing sanctions on individuals or companies. This is not the case in unilateral sanctions.
- Unilateral sanctions are neither targeted nor smart, and countries are non-transparent about the list of sanctioned companies and individuals and types of sanctions imposed, and the decision making process is fast, which creates even more uncertainty.
- Unilateral sanctions are often imposed on companies or individuals which are important for the economy as a whole, and as a result, the country loses nearly all the international revenue it used to use for the development of the domestic economy and that's why in such case the whole country is affected by "targeted" and "smart" sanctions.
- Human rights are affected by the unilateral sanctions, the primary impact comes to the economic social rights, labor rights, cultural rights, right to health, and right to life. All countries have reported that due to the shrinking space to get the revenues they have to stop all developmental projects and as a result like to pay right to favorable environment.
- In Pakistan, there has been a lot of skepticism about the effectiveness of the investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms.
- The international system is structurally biased against developing countries like Pakistan, as large investors have resources to hire best lawyers, and government lawyers by comparison are overwhelmed and underpaid and lack actual experience and knowledge to fight at the international level.
- Pakistan should get out of its bilateral investment treaties as quickly as possible, and where termination is not possible, should renegotiate. The new treaties should have a compulsory exhaustion of local remedies clause, as precondition to invoke the jurisdiction of international tribunal.
- Indus Water Treaty, between India and Pakistan, can be revoked or superseded only if both sides agree and therefore India's notice is contradictory to the text of the treaty itself.
- India is planning an entire sequence of cascade of projects on the on the rivers in IIOJ&K, which leads to an existential security concern for Pakistan.



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# DAY 2 SESSION VI

## A Transitioning Global Order; From Competition to Conflict?

### THEMES OF THE SESSION

- Nature and pace of transition in the existing global order.
- World order in transition amidst great powers rivalry.
- The role and choices of middle powers and their impact in shaping the outcome of great power competition.

**Keynote**

**Hina Rabbani Khar**  
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs



**Maleeha Lodhi**  
Former Ambassador



**Adil Najam**  
Dean Emeritus & professor, Pardee School, Boston University & President-Elect WWF



**Benedikt Franke**  
CEO, Munich Security Conference



**Paolo Cotta**  
Chair, Pugwash Conferences



**Andrew Small**  
Fellow, German Marshall Fund



**Rong Ying**  
Vice President, China Institute for International Studies



**Andy Tsang Wai-hung**  
Chair, Lianyungang Conference



**Moderator**

**Syed Hassan Akbar**  
Senior Policy Specialist  
SPPC, National Security Division



## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- The global world order is being steered by tectonic shifts towards competition, confrontation, and then conflict.
- Every state pursues a foreign policy to serve its citizens' interests. Pakistan also wishes to pursue a foreign policy that emphasizes cooperation because it has no interest in supporting bloc politics, confrontation, or unhealthy competition with other countries.
- Today's global order is shaped by a triangular interplay between the global west, the global east, and the global south, and middle powers have potential to play a significant part in this if their domestic order is stable.
- The multipolar and hyper-connected world order is presenting the middle powers with both pressure and opportunities; if they can leverage them to their advantage, they can help shape the world order.
- The west is geographically diversifying its manufacturing facilities and supply chains in order to protect its economy from the impact of traditional and non-traditional security threats such as the COVID - 19 pandemic and the Russia - Ukraine war. While some of this is motivated by politics, the majority of the change is being driven by western firms that are not comfortable setting up their sources of income in one region.
- Similarly, China is also driving this change as it transitions from being a recipient of global investment to establishing its own production facilities and supply chains in other regions. This diversification represents a tremendous opportunity for the middle powers to enter a new phase of globalization that is not limited to China or East Asia.
- Competition between China and other powers is opening up opportunities for the middle powers. China used the gap in infrastructure finance to embolden its Belt and Road Initiative, as a result, its competitors also stepped up to provide alternatives therefore, diversifying investment options for the middle powers.
- The disentanglement taking place between China and the US in the semiconductor, quantum, and artificial intelligence industries has no effect on large-scale commercial relations and remains limited to tech sectors to curb Chinese military modernization. This development is also creating space for states in the advanced technology sector.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- There is nothing wrong with states choosing not to participate in bloc politics; the world has seen this before during the non-alignment movement. The problem arises when states ignore the international rule-based order in their pursuit of it. That is where the war in Ukraine comes in; whatever the causes of the conflict, Russia's violation of the rule-based international order should not be justified.
- The European Union recognizes that its long-standing relationship with the United States cannot be taken for granted, but it must reduce its reliance on it, in order to achieve self-sufficiency in the domain of security and development.
- International disputes and tensions must be addressed in a manner that lead to resolution instead of more competition. Therefore, it is critical that an agreement is reached to reduce the risk of nuclear conflict, to keep the international security framework stable.
- The common goal of all countries should be the preservation of international peace and stability through the promotion of development. In order to achieve these goals, the principles of the UN Charter must remain the most relevant.



NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION

# ISLAMABAD SECURITY DIALOGUE



# DAY 2

## SESSION VII

### Challenges to Economic Security of Pakistan

Keynote Address

**Ishaq Dar**

Minister for Finance



Note of Thanks

**Engr. Aamir Hasan**

Secretary, National Security Division



Session Introduction

**Faheem Sardar**

Senior Policy Specialist  
SPPC, National Security Division

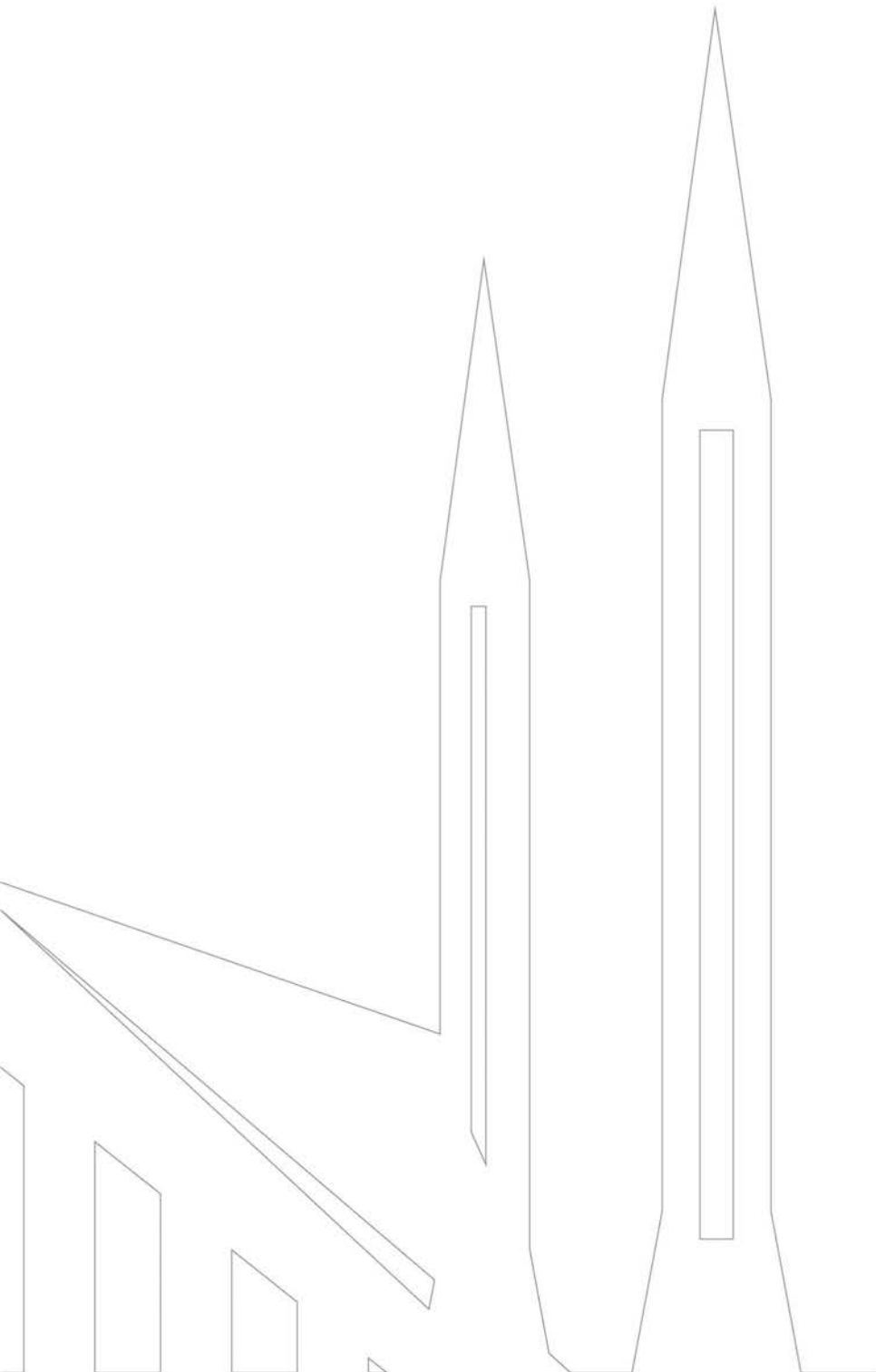


## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- Economic security is crucial for Pakistan's national security and protection against internal and external disruptions.
- Pakistan aims to shift its focus from geopolitics to geo-economics to fully leverage its strategic location and business potential.
- Geopolitical tensions, food insecurity, and increasing debt are some of the major factors affecting global economic activity.
- Conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war have disrupted the global supply chains and economy.
- The US-China trade disruptions have harmed the global economy but also created opportunities for few nations.
- Pakistan's economy faces severe challenges, including macroeconomic imbalances, twin deficits, and declining foreign direct investment.
- Pakistan is vulnerable to climate change/floods, which has significant economic costs.
- Economic diplomacy, bilateral and multilateral partnerships are key priorities for Pakistan.
- Regional connectivity and cooperation are important to tackle human security challenges.
- In order to create a more inclusive and equitable society, the government is supporting social safety net programs through cash transfer and subsidies for the health and education sectors. These targeted assistance will extend support to the most vulnerable segments of the society.
- Measures have been taken to rationalize government spending and broaden the tax base to improve revenue mobilization.
- Efforts are being made to reduce the fiscal deficit, manage debt sustainability, and create fiscal space for critical investments in infrastructure, human capital, and social protection.
- Tightening of monetary policy and fiscal consolidation has helped stabilize the economy and curtail inflation

## KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION

- Pakistan remains committed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), critical for achieving peace, prosperity, and environmental sustainability.
- The government took difficult decisions to fulfill commitments and stabilize the economy, despite political costs.





#ISD2023

## SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

Ahsan Iqbal, *Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives*  
Aamir Hasan, *Secretary, National Security Division*  
Nie Song Lai, *Academy of Military Sciences China*  
Yugo Margono, *Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces*  
Syed Hassan Akbar, *Senior Policy Specialist, NSD*  
Ayesha Ghaus Pasha, *Minister of State for Finance and Revenue,*  
Najy Benhassine, *Country Director World Bank*  
Ishrat Hussain, *Former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan*  
Xu Mingqi, *Vice Chairman of Shanghai Center of International Economic Exchange*  
Mosharruf Zaidi, *Founding Member Tabadlab*  
Sherry Rehman, *Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination*  
Daniel F. Runde, *Senior Fellow, CSIS*  
Peter Frankopan, *Professor, Oxford University*  
Adil Najam, *Dean Pardee School, Boston University & President-Elect WWF*  
Rafay Alam, *Environmental Lawyer*  
Christina Voigt, *Chair, IUCN's WCEL*  
Ian Fry, *UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of HRs in the Context of Climate Change*  
Salman Zaidi, *Director Jinnah Institute,*  
Nasser Khan Janjua, *Former National Security Advisor*  
Viktor Vladimirovich Makhmudov, *Secretary of the National Security Council under the President of Uzbekistan*  
Gizat Nurdauletov, *Aide to the President-Secretary of the Security Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan*  
Marat Imankulov, *Secretary of the Security Council of the Kyrgyz Republic*  
Majid Mehmood, *Policy Expert, SPPC, NSD*  
Bruno Simma, *Former Judge of the International Court of Justice*  
Antonios Tzanakopoulos, *Professor, University of Oxford*  
Feisal H. Naqvi, *Senior Partner, Bhandari Naqvi Riaz*  
Alena Douhan, *UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights*  
Karin Landgren, *Executive Director, Security Council Reports*  
Zhang Naigen, *Professor, Fudan University*  
Oves Anwar, *Director of Research Society International Law*  
Hina Rabbani Khar, *Minister of State for Foreign Affairs*  
Maleeha Lodhi, *Former Ambassador*  
Mushahid Hussain Sayed, *Chair, Senate Defense Committee*  
Benedikt Franke, *CEO, Munich Security Forum*  
Paolo Cotta, *Chair, Pugwash Conferences*  
Andrew Small, *German Marshall Fund*  
Rong Ying, *Vice President, China Institute for International Studies*  
Ishaq Dar, *Minister for Finance*

## MASTERS OF CEREMONY

Syed Hassan Akbar, *SPPC, NSD*

Qurat-ul-Ain, *Institute of Strategic Studies, Research and Analysis*

Aarish Ullah Khan, *Institute of Regional Studies*

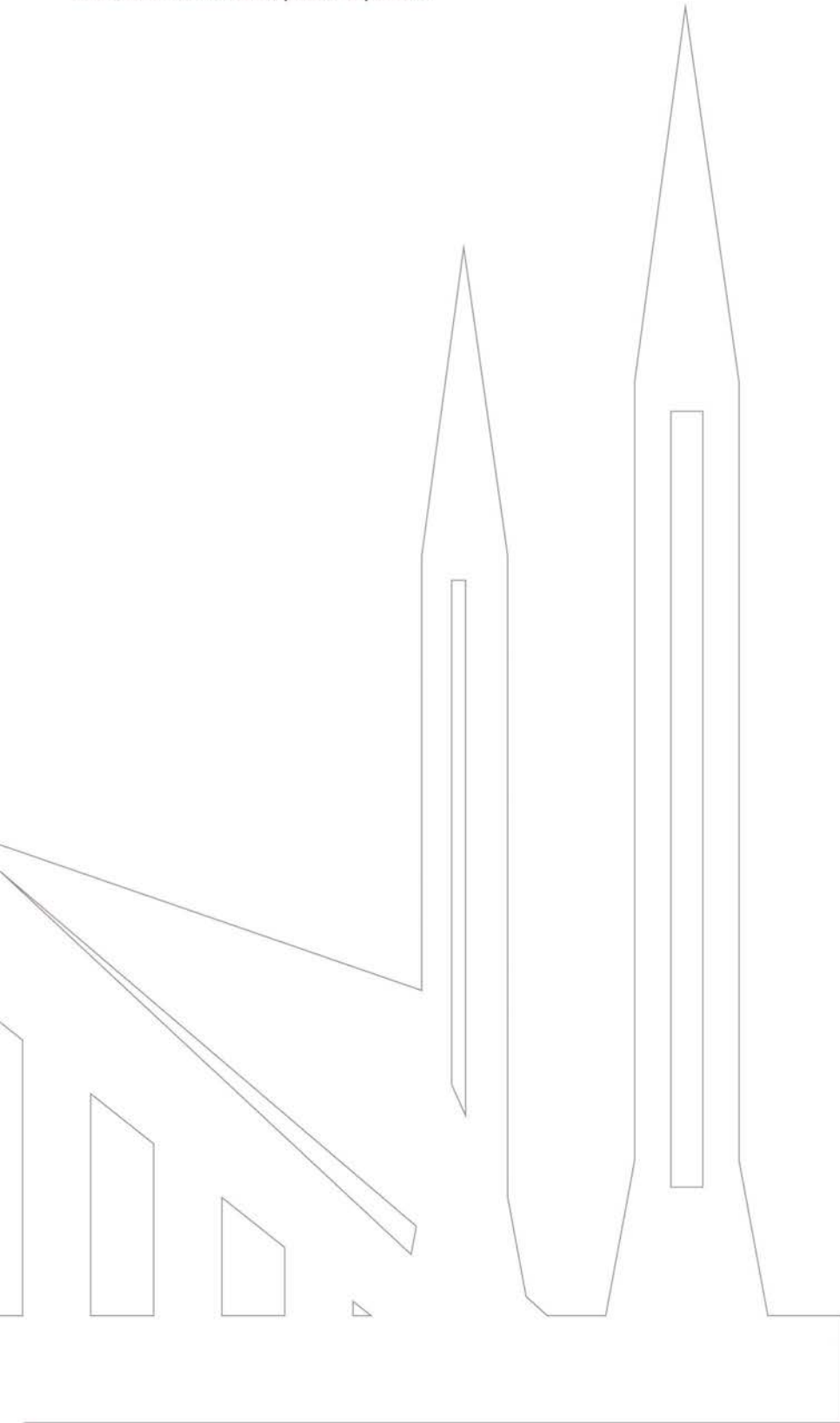
Asad Ullah Khan, *Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies*

Muhammad Abbas Hassan, *SPPC, NSD*

Maham Naveed, *Islamabad Policy Research Institute*

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## The National Security Division

Pakistan's approach to national security is broad, proactive and resolute. Rather than being set in an archaic guns vs. butter debate, the goal of national security thinking must be to identify means of expanding the national resource pie such that Pakistan can simultaneously strengthen its traditional and non-traditional security. The most prudent approach is to keep economic security at the core, and transfer the dividends of a strong economy to further strengthen our military and diplomacy, as well as human security. This is the Prime Minister's vision that National Security Division (NSD) strives to pursue.

The NSD is the secretariat of Pakistan's National Security Committee (NSC), the country's premium forum on national security. NSD remains committed to providing intellectual and administrative support to the NSC. Cognizant of Pakistan's complex security requirements, the Division responds to the Prime Minister's demand for policy input on any relevant national security issue, and partakes in relevant policy meetings at working and Principal levels to provide policy advice and affect positive policy change. In addition, the Division is geared to build international synergies by engaging in security dialogues with partner countries to strengthen Pakistan's global cooperation on matters of security.

## Strategic Policy Planning Cell

Housed within the NSD, the Strategic Policy Planning Cell (SPPC) acts as a conduit for providing evidence-based policy input on various issues that fall under the ambit of the National Security Committee (NSC). To fully empower decision makers with the most rigorous and relevant analysis, the SPPC absorbs scholarship for each of the thematic areas it is tasked to work on by partnering with independent experts, think-tanks/research centers, and universities through its Council of Experts – bridging the gap between the Government and Pakistan's public intellectuals and policy institutes.

Together, the NSD and the SPPC strive to offer strategic responses to Pakistan's internal and external security challenges in coordination with state institutions. The SPPC continues to work on identifying and advising on long-term policy issues through a far-sighted approach, enabling the system to be more proactive in its strategies, and capitalize on potential opportunities.



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