



Embassy of the  
Republic of Tajikistan



Embassy of the  
Republic of Uzbekistan



Center for Global &  
Strategic Studies, Islamabad



## NEW DIMENSIONS OF TAJIKISTAN-UZBEKISTAN RELATIONS: POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE REGION



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**CGSS**  
**Center for Global & Strategic  
Studies**

3rd Floor, 1-E, Ali Plaza, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92-51-8319682

Email: [info@cgss.com.pk](mailto:info@cgss.com.pk) Web: [www.cgss.com.pk](http://www.cgss.com.pk)

## **Conference Report**

### **"New Dimensions of Tajikistan-Uzbekistan Relations: Positive Impact on the Region"**



**Organized by**  
**Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan, Islamabad**  
**Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Islamabad**  
**Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad**  
**at Hotel Margala, Islamabad**  
**On 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2018**

## **Participants**

The Conference was attended by almost 300 participants including diplomats, former Ambassadors, government representatives, armed forces officers, experts of foreign policy and individuals from public and private entities.

**Guest Speakers** **Brigadier Akhter Nawaz Janjua, SI (M), (Retd) – Member Advisory Board Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)**

**His Excellency Mr. SherAli Jononov – Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan**

**His Excellency Mr. Furqat A. Sidiqov – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan**

**Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad**

**Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal – Senior Member Advisory Board Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad**

**Dr. Adam Saud – Associate Professor of International Relations at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University Islamabad**

## **Introduction of the Speakers**

### **Brigadier Akhter Nawaz Janjua, SI (M), (Retd) – Member Advisory Board Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)**

Brigadier Akhter Nawaz Janjua, SI (M), (Retd) – Founding Member of Center for Global & Strategic Studies and Senior Member Advisory Board CGSS. He has served on various key positions in his military career and is an expert on Central Asian Republics.



### **His Excellency Mr. SherAli Jononov – Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan**

His Excellency Mr. SherAli Jononov – Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan is a graduate of law from Tajikistan National University. He was appointed as Ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the year 2013, before his appointment as Ambassador to Pakistan he served on various key positions including at the Embassy of Tajikistan in Austria, Head of Legal Department of MFA and National Coordinator of Tajikistan for Shanghai Cooperation Organization.



### **His Excellency Mr. Furqat A. Sidiqov – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan**

Since 2015, he is appointed as the Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan in Pakistan. From 2011 to 2015 he worked as the First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in USA. Before his appointment to this position during 2007 – 2011 he held a position of Leading Specialist of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. From years 2002 to 2007 he served as Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in USA.



**Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President**  
**Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)**

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) is the Former Director General of Anti-Narcotics Force, Pakistan and also remained Pakistan's Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has served on various command, staff and instructional assignments including Military Intelligence Directorate, General Headquarters and Inter-Services Intelligence Headquarters.



**Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal – Senior Member Advisory Board Center for**  
**Global & Strategic Studies**

Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal is a LLB graduate. He retired as the Federal Secretary to the Government of Pakistan. He served as Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broad Casting. He remained Chairman Pakistan Television Cooperation / Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and Director General Radio Pakistan. He also remained Principle Information Officer to the Government of Pakistan. Moreover, he also had the honor of holding key role position as the Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Press Counselor, Pak High Commission to India, New Delhi. Presently, he is the Senior Advisory Board Member of Center for Global & Strategic Studies.



### **Dr. Adam Saud – Associate Professor at Bahria University, Islamabad**

Dr. Adam Saud is an Associate Professor of International Relations at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences in Bahria University, Islamabad. He has done his PHD in International Relations from Quaid e Azam University, Islamabad.



## **Opening Address**

### **Brigadier Akhter Nawaz Janjua, SI (M), (Retd) – Member Advisory Board Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)**



Brigadier Akhter Nawaz Janjua, SI (M), (Retd) – Member Advisory Board Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), welcomed the esteemed guests to the conference titled “New Dimensions of Tajikistan-Uzbekistan Relations: Positive Impact on the Region”. In his introductory remarks, he said:

It is my proud privilege to welcome you all on behalf of Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS). My special thanks to the worthy members of the panel who would talk on this important subject of “New Dimensions of Tajikistan – Uzbekistan Relations: Positive Impact on the Region”. I hope that today’s conference would be an informative session for all of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan have always held particular fascination and attraction for all of us in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Central Asia has always been seen as an area with which we share very strong cultural ties. The spiritual connection is even stronger. Central Asia is the land from where Islam spread to the subcontinent, bringing the knowledge of great scholars, their teachings and their wisdom with them. Central Asia is also a land of great resources and potential. It has been the focus of strategists even during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and has been called the part of the heartland of the world island.

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have a widely inter-thread history. The greatest of writers of all times such as Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī incorporated the essence of Sufism in not just the Central Asian region, but the whole of Asia and beyond. Poets such as Abu 'l-Qasim Firdowsi Tusi spoke volumes to the people through the art of poetic reflection. Nasir al-Din Tusi is still recognized as one of the greatest philosophers of all times. The list of contributions of brilliant individuals of the lands of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are unending till day, and the interdependent histories contribute many folds to the alikeness of the two nations even in present day. Ever since the independence of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, we have

endeavored to establish strong relations with these countries, however with limited success for various reasons. Nevertheless, due to the current environment and example formed by Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, there appears to be a strong desire to develop relations, and this should be capitalized upon. Pakistan is a huge market which can be tapped by the Central Asian States, and vice versa. Security is an issue which has plagued the region for some time and the way forward is only by establishing peace in the region; which has now been achieved to a great extent. Pakistan has always recognized the geo-economic significance of the Central Asian Republics. The region has abundant natural resources, and offers unexplored markets to international goods. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers a great opportunity to Central Asia to emerge as a revived, economically significant region. The common vision for the region based on economic prosperity will significantly assist the improved relations between Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. All three can also help use their collective resources to improve agricultural productivity in the Central and South Asian regions.

Pakistan enjoys cordial relations with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are our neighbors. Many issues of development in these countries such areas as transport and communications, water use and energy, trade and, of course, security, are in many ways "tied" are to the position of neighboring states. Thus, today, the main thing for the region is to realize our common destiny, our common interests and take advantage of the available opportunities to turn the region into a stable, economically developed and prosperous region. To accomplish this, it is necessary to eliminate misunderstandings, show political will to solve the problems, establish



stable and mutually beneficial economic and cultural-humanitarian ties, and ensure matching of national development prospects with region-wide priorities.

### **Uzbekistan – Tajikistan Relations:**



There have been enormous changes in bilateral relations of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The Presidents repeatedly expressed their readiness to work together to bring bilateral ties to a new level, taking into account the interests of the peoples. Last year, air and railway communication between the two

countries resumed, the international road was opened on the Samarkand-Penjikent section. The checkpoints on the Uzbek-Tajik State border have resumed their work. As a result of 2017, the trade turnover amounted to 240 million US dollars. This is the highest rate for the last 20 years. Cooperation in energy sector has been established Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. An active negotiation process is being conducted between Uzbekenergo State Company and "BarkiTojik" company on resuming the interaction of the energy systems in the framework of parallel work with the United Energy System of Central Asia. The legal base of bilateral Tajik-Uzbek relations includes 111 contracts and agreements signed at the interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental levels in the period from 1992 to the present. The approved documents between two countries cover all the key areas of cooperation between two countries and provide a solid legal basis for the further strengthening of bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in the political, economic, trade and other areas. Pakistan has always been a strong advocate of the geo-strategic relevance of the Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Pakistan believes that for the economic sustenance of the region, the opportunities and resources the two countries have to offer cannot be overlooked. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have always enjoyed mutually beneficial relations with Pakistan, which can hopefully help move towards enhanced tri-lateral relations between the three countries. In the changing geo-strategic environment, the countries are willing to mutually work towards a simultaneous progression in terms of trade, security, development and peace for the region. It must

be realized that this is our common region. We are connected to each other with one history, one religion and common values. By promoting the implementation of our common projects, we will achieve our common goals, create conditions for the full realization of all available potential of our relations.

### **Speaker 1**

#### **His Excellency Mr. SherAli Jononov – Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan**



His Excellency Mr. SherAli Jononov addressed the audience on the topic of “Tajikistan – Uzbekistan shared prospects for the region”. His speech comprised of following remarks:

The destiny has defined that Tajiks and Uzbeks, being close neighbors, live in the same geographical space and consume water from the same watercourse. High sense of friendship, fraternity and mutual support passing from a generation to another one make the historic core of the Tajik-Uzbek relations. Our peoples bound together by ancient and common culture, traditions and customs, lived side by side for centuries in an environment of peace, friendship and fraternity. Tajiks and Uzbeks are the two nations, whose spiritual imperatives, culture, holidays and traditions are fully alike each other. Moreover, dozens of hundreds of mixed families, who are examples of relatively ties between the Tajiks and Uzbeks, live in our countries. Our glorious ancestors have created and inherited us a unique cultural and scientific heritage during the past centuries. This very invaluable spiritual capital helps us today and will help in the future live and work in an atmosphere of sincere friendship and fraternity. Creativity of outstanding celebrities in science, literature and art, which the Tajiks and Uzbeks are proud of, is rightfully the great spiritual heritage of our peoples. Nuriddin Abdurahmon Jomi and Nizomuddin Alisher Navoi majestically stand in this circle. The life path of these two great poets and thinkers, reflected in their rich artistic heritage, is the highest model of friendship and mutual respect of our peoples. At present we have the full favorable environment in place between our countries for free movement and comfortable communication of our citizens, their visits of their relatives and friends, tourist trips and trade. In this environment we need to double our efforts for the development and

strengthening of creative values of our good neighborliness relations. The joint initiatives and efforts of the heads of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with the aim of enhancing interstate relations and to raise bilateral relations to a qualitatively new level, which we have at the present stage, originate from the meeting of The Founder of Peace and National Unity – Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoev, in the framework of the meeting of heads of summit of the SCO member state, in 2018 gives its fruits.



In 2018 bilateral relations between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been witness of significant events that have laid the foundation for raising cooperation to a qualitatively new level. This has been proven during the first state visit

of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoev to the Republic of Tajikistan on 9-10 March 2018. During the talks between the two heads of state and with the participation of the delegations of both sides, in the atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the most important issues concerning the development and strengthening of bilateral cooperation in all aspects of mutual interest, including trade and economic sectors, culture and humanities, transport and communication, the use of water and energy resources, security and defense, as well as expanding the relations between the two countries have been thoroughly considered. The heads of states also discussed the regional and international issues, including the political situation in Afghanistan and highlighted the importance of regional security as a matter of social and political stability in Central Asia and beyond. From the remarkable results of that state visit were introduction of a visa-free regime for a mutual travel of citizens of the two states up to 30 days, delimitation and demarcation of almost all parts of the state border and restoration of all the passages on the Tajikistan and Uzbekistan border, including the opening of the railway of the

Galaba-Amuzang and the expansion of opportunities the use of transport and communication facilities of both countries, including the submission of a considerable discount on Tajikistan's freight passage through the Uzbek border with the automobile and railway as well as the use of Farhod reservoir and joint implementation of energy projects and other important issues of cooperation between the two countries. Following the completion of the high-level negotiations, 27 new cooperation documents between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have been signed, which is the reflection of a new spirit of bilateral relations. The heads of both countries also attended the exhibition of the Uzbek products and business forum of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and later participated in the cultural event "Shomi Dusti" - "Evening of Friendship".

It should be noted that closeness of positions of the countries of the region on many issues became the occasion for the Heads of Central Asian countries to gather at the first consultative meeting in Astana, on March 15, 2018. During the meeting, it was stressed that Central Asia is a region with extensive natural, transport, communication and human resources, and opportunities should be used effectively and efficiently for the benefit of all peoples in the whole region. On August 17-18, 2018, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon paid a state visit to Uzbekistan. During the visit, the agreements that were signed during the visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Tajikistan have been strengthened and after negotiations and high-level talks, 26 new bilateral documents were signed, the most important of which was the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, which enhanced the relations between the two countries to the qualitatively new level of cooperation. In general, during these two state visits the legal and legislative base has been expanded and currently covers almost 170 documents and agreements that are signed at the interstate, intergovernmental, and intersectoral levels. The specific agreements that were signed during these visits, there are the willingness of the joint construction of two hydroelectric power stations in the Zarafshon River with a capacity of 320 megawatts and the creation of joint ventures for the production of electronic goods of Uzbek companies "Artel" in Tajikistan, the opening of a new border point Khisor-Bobotog and etc. During the visit the Heads of the States took part in the opening ceremony of the Product Exhibition of the Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and in the cultural event

under the title "Evening of friendship". In process of the visit also had held the Business Forum of the Tajikistan and Uzbekistan Entrepreneurs.

According to the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, was awarded the order "El-yurt hurmati", for his huge contribution to the strengthening of



centuries old friendly ties, deepening Tajikistani - Uzbekistani good neighborly relationships and mutually beneficial cooperation, expanding trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian ties between brotherly Uzbek and Tajik peoples, development of all-round fruitful cooperation of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the name of well-being of present and future generations, effective initiatives to ensure peace, security and stability in our region. On September 27-28, 2018 the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev had a working visit for participation in a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of States and during this visit the two Leaders of the countries held a meeting. In the process of the meeting, which held in the sphere of sincerity and constructivism, the issues of the deepening the bilateral cooperation were under the consideration. There were noticed that, solutions achieved during the reciprocal visits, signed documents, and strong will of the brotherly and friendly peoples of the two countries put a convenient platform for liquidation of the present issues and advancement relations in all directions, being under the special attention. For the implementation of these goals there are favorable base of law and settlement, material resources and human potential, good friendly and historical traditions and mutual understanding neighborliness. Also during the visit the Leaders of the two countries held a visit to the "Tajik Aluminum Company" and then they gave the launch of the Joint Venture of Tajikistan – Uzbekistan Limited Liability Company (LLC) "TALKO-KRANTAS", which planned for the production

connection and assembly of the types of cranes and special freight vehicle also for public and construction goals.

The Founder of Peace and National Unity – Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev officially opened the Park named after "Nizomiddin Alisher Navoi". The park is built for the purpose of immortalization of the Uzbek poet Nizomiddin Alisher Navoi's memory and strengthening the friendship of the Tajik and Uzbek peoples. The park is located on the territory of 2.23 hectares and fully meets the modern requirements. It should be noted that the Park was named after "Nizomiddin Alisher Navoi" on the basis of the issued Order of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon on March 5, 2018 and the monument of great thinkers of two brotherly and neighboring countries Nuriddin Abdurahmoni Jomi and Nizomiddin Alisher Navoi are built as a symbol of friendship between the peoples of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In a solemn atmosphere, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev removed the veil from the monument and laid a wreath at the foot of the monument in respect and reverence for the past and the memory of the two outstanding historical personages. The monument of poets was created and installed on seven steps by the project of Honored Art Worker of Tajikistan Ghafur Juraev as a symbol of enlightenment and describes the moment of discussion of the newly created work of Alisher Navoi with his master Abdurahmoni Jomi. The pedestal of the monument is crowned with marble, and ornaments specific for both nations are engraved on it. The creation of a modern park and the establishment of the monument of the great thinker Nizomiddin Alisher Navoi is an expression of good human qualities, humanism and peace, respect and reverence for the past. The Heads of States highly appreciated the design of the park, the use of various ornamental trees, seasonal flowers, arrangement of benches and other garden infrastructure. The Founder of Peace and National Unity – Leader of the Nation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon charged the officials with specific instructions and guidance for preserving the charming beauty of the park. At the present time, the sides are trying their best for bettering the cooperation fields and achieving the new qualified level of the relations and the issues concerning for comply the balance of the taxation for the transports during the crossing the border (for tracks and passenger transports), round-trip of citizens (during the registration in the each other countries),

increasing mutual trades, advancement the issues on water and energy, the disarmament of mines and other problems in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect for the rights and benefits.

The Heads of State underlined with satisfaction a high level inter-state dialogue, friendship, good neighborliness and mutual respect, expressing their belief that constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan meets the long-term interests of peoples of the two countries, which is also a key factor in ensuring peace, stability, security and sustainable development throughout the vast region of the Central Asia, reaffirming adherence to the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, as well as the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, including the principles of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, striving for further expanding and deepening of Tajik-Uzbek relations, ensuring the timely and full implementation of the reached agreements.



The Heads of State stressed the importance of transforming the State border between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan into a border of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation that meets the vital interests of the two brotherly people. The Parties, noting the significance of constructive political

dialogue for the progressive expansion of relations between the two states, supported the further development of contacts at the highest, higher and other levels. The leadership of the both countries expressed their support for the initiatives to intensify regional cooperation, in particular, to organize a consultative meeting of the Heads of State of the Central Asia on a regular basis.

The Presidents also stressed on the strategic character of further expansion of the mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Parties noted with satisfaction credible positive dynamics in mutual trade cooperation and stressed the presence of significant

potential for diversification of nomenclature of bilateral goods turnover and to increase its volume up to 500 million US dollars in near future.

The Heads of State, paying a particular attention to comprehensive implementation of common transport and communication opportunities and transit potential of the both countries, instructed the relevant authorities to intensify cooperation in the sphere of transport communication and address the issues of renewal of existing and elaborating of new transit automobile, railway and flight routes. The Presidents underlined with a great satisfaction the opening of a direct flight between Tashkent and Dushanbe on April 2017. The Parties noted that the renewal of previous and opening of new transit automobile, railway and flight routes between the cities of the two countries will contribute to intensification of cultural, humanitarian and trade and economic relations between Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Presidents in addition confirmed their readiness to strengthen cooperation in countering terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, illegal arms trade, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illegal migration and other challenges and threats to the regional and international security, both in bilateral and international formats, as well as to prevent unlawful activities directed against interests of the national security of the Parties in their territories. The Heads of the two states reaffirmed their readiness to develop cooperation in the military and military-technical fields, as well as in military education on mutually beneficial terms. Moreover, The Parties confirmed the concurrence or closeness of the positions on current issues of ensuring peace, stability, security and sustainable development in the Central Asia.

The Heads of state stressed that the whole set of intra-regional problems in the Central Asia can and should be solved only by states of the region through an open and constructive dialogue, based on the principles of equality, mutual benefit,



respect and consideration of each other's interests. In addition to this the Presidents stressed that one of the key factors of prosperity in the Central Asia is an integrated use of water and energy resources, by taking into account the interests of all states of the region. The importance of open dialogue, strengthening of mutual understanding and developing of constructive cooperation, searching for mutually acceptable, fair and rational solutions was noted. The parties expressed their mutual interest in developing regional partnership in the sphere of rational and fair use of water resources and stressed the importance of existing hydropower facilities for the Central Asia, and those under construction, in order to solve water and energy problems.

In this context, the Uzbek side expressed its readiness to comprehensively consider the possibility of participating in the construction of hydropower facilities in the Republic of Tajikistan, including Roghun HPS, taking into account the universally recognized international norms and standards on the construction of such facilities. The Heads of state stressed the necessity to improve the legal mechanisms for the integrated and effective use of trans-boundary water resources of the Central Asia that facilitate a constructive dialogue, taking into account the interests of all states of the region. Tajikistan as strategic partners, spoke out in favor of closer coordination and cooperation in the spheres of security and defense. Two sides will pay a special attention to the joint counteraction to terrorism, extremism, manifestations of radical religious ideology, illicit drug trafficking and transnational organized crime, and strengthening military as well as military and technical cooperation. In this context, we will focus on practical implementation of the signed agreements on cooperation between our law enforcement, security and defense agencies. We consider the fruitful cooperation in these areas as a factor for maintaining peace and stability in our countries and throughout the region. Cooperation with Uzbekistan in the field of multilateral diplomacy, including in the framework of the UN, the CIS, the SCO, as well as other international institutions is of great importance for us. We are keen to do our utmost efforts for the further rapprochement of the Central Asian countries and enhancement of positive trends in the development of regional cooperation. Tajikistan welcomes the initiative of His Excellency Shavkat Miromonovich to hold the next consultation meeting of the heads of Central Asian states in Uzbekistan next year on the eve of the International Navruz holiday. While discussing the issue of Afghanistan, we highly valued the results of the International High-Level Conference on Afghanistan held in Tashkent in late March of this year. In this context, we supported

further joint actions to provide every possible support to the process of peace-building in this neighboring country. We constantly follow the success and achievements of Uzbekistan, we sincerely commend them, and we are proud of the brotherly Uzbek people. We are pleased with the dynamics of the development of the partnership between our countries, which we reached thanks to our constant political contacts of our leaders and will continue encouraging close interstate relationships of trust at all levels and in various formats.



## **Speaker 2**

### **His Excellency Mr. Furqat A. Sidiqov – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan**



His Excellency Mr. Furqat A. Sidiqov addressed the audience on the topic of “Pragmatic & Constructive Regional Policy of the President of Uzbekistan on Building Good Neighborhood Relations on the example of Strengthening Uzbek – Tajik Cooperation”. His speech comprised of following remarks:

H.E. Furqat A. Sidiqov expressed his gratitude for the Center for Global and Strategic Studies and started by paying special attention to the issues of pragmatic and most importantly effective foreign policy. Uzbekistan’s foreign policy course was marked in the past years with unprecedented dynamism, openness and pragmatism in promoting the country’s national interests in the international arena. In this year, President of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev carried out 11 visits of various levels to 9 countries, where Uzbekistan concluded more than 400 agreements, signed trade and investment contracts for 70 billion US dollars. In the first half of the year, trade with foreign countries grew by 30 percent and amounted more than 20 billion US dollars.

President of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev declared Central Asian regions as the main foreign policy priority of Uzbekistan. The most significant result of the regional policy was the proposal to establish a consultative mechanism for regular meetings of the Central Asian States. Accordingly, the first Summit of Central Asian leaders was held in Astana. In the global level, under initiative of our President in June of this year, United Nations General Assembly has adopted new resolution “Strengthening of regional cooperation for ensuring peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Asian region”.

Taking into account that developing of relations with Central Asian countries is a main priority of Uzbekistan’s regional policy, I would like to share with you information about modern level of bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan: Uzbekistan – Tajikistan are connected by common history, similarity of spiritual values and traditions. Uzbeks and Tajiks are “one nation speaking in two languages”,

since ancient times both nations lived in peace, harmony and developed together. Both nations enjoy the benefits of each other's rich cultural heritage. This fact is manifested at the level of material cultural specifics, customs and traditions, folk art and others. From the first year of independence of Central Asian countries, they faced many challenges in terms of trans-boundary water use, energy supply and others. More than 20 years such problems accumulated especially between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and affected them very negatively. However, strong political will of the presidents Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Emomali rahmon could solve all of them within two years. The presidents repeatedly expressed their readiness to work together in order to bring bilateral ties to a new level for the sake of both nations. Moreover, 10 checkpoints on the borders were opened, as well as cancelled collection of funds for Uzbek and Tajik vehicles in territories of both states.

Highlighting the mutual visits of the Presidents: the day, when the aircraft of the President of Uzbekistan landed at the airport of Dushanbe became the significant and historical, before his visit to Tajikistan, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev stated that



Uzbek-Tajik relations will be soon raised to the level of strategic partnership. During the visit 27 documents were signed, agreement was concluded on introducing a visa-free regime for citizens of the two countries. After implementation of this document tourist flow from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan in 2018 increased 10 times and further continue to grow. The meeting of the heads of two states was not only a turning point in the relations between the countries but also the beginning of a new historical era in the Tajik – Uzbek relations.

In August of this year, President H.E. Emomali Rahmon paid visit to Uzbekistan. This event undoubtedly demonstrated fundamentally new quality of the agenda of the bilateral dialogue. During this visit were concluded 30 agreements. The President signed the joint statement and the strategic partnership agreement. President of

Uzbekistan awarded his Tajik colleague with order “EL-Yurt Khurmati” (respect of the people) for his enormous contribution in strengthening bilateral relations and friendship between our people. In his turn, short period after, President of Tajikistan, awarded Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Mr. Abdulla Aripov and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov with the order of “Ismoili Somoni” of the II degree. Special thanks to the firm political will and wise policy of the presidents bilateral cooperation and friendly ties have risen to a whole new level, where a free trade regime has been established between our countries.



Cooperation in energy sector is being developed. The volume of mutual trade turnover is growing dynamically and as a result in the first half of the year the bilateral trade increased by 35 percent. Trade agreement signed

and implemented for more than 300 million US dollars, whereas Presidents aim for bringing the Uzbek-Tajik trade turnover up to 500 million US dollars till the end of this year and 1 billion US dollars in future. In term of energy sector cooperation a new page has been opened in our relations, agreements on the construction of two hydroelectric power stations with the capacity of 320 megawatts on Tajik part of the Zarafshan River. Furthermore, Uzbekistan – Afghanistan joint project Surkhan-Puli-Khumri energy line can be used with participation of Tajikistan and later, it can become an integral part of the CASA – 100 project, through which electricity will be supplied to Pakistan from the Central Asian states.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today more than 1.5 million Tajik people live in Uzbekistan, they are making big construction to the development of the country. There are Tajik Cultural Centers and its 10 branches in Uzbekistan’s regions. Moreover, in 245 secondary schools of Uzbekistan, Tajik language is being taught. Culturally and spiritually, our nations continue to live in harmony. In the end of the speech Ambassador quoted his Presidents that “Uzbek and Tajik people are like two branches of one tree, two tributaries of one river. We have one religion, common land and water.

We were together in joy and sorrow, united by one destiny. Continuing good traditions of our ancestors, we must strengthen the friend ship of our people”.

### **Speaker 3**

#### **Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal – Senior Member Advisory Board Center for Global & Strategic Studies**



Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal – Senior Member Advisory Board Center for Global & Strategic Studies addressed the audience on the topic “Significance of Regional Stability for the Prosperity of Central Asia”. His speech contained following important features:

For the sake of peace, stability, prosperity and development in the region, peace in Afghanistan is also essential wherein Pakistan and the collaboration with the entire regional countries needs to be done. Stronger regional cooperation yielding to the multifaceted integration of the Central Asian states especially Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is the only viable avenue to achieving political stability, stimulating economic growth, and reinforcing the notions of democratic sovereignty. According to many experts, if no efforts are undertaken in this direction, in a matter of a few decades, the region will stumble and be relegated to being a marginal player, a vulnerable conduit to a strategically important part of the world. Hence, ‘integration’ is the sine qua non in the achievement of advantages and overcoming of existential obstacles.

The main question that I seek to answer is why regional integration is so important for Central Asian States?

To answers this, I have explored the main drivers, which emphasize the indispensability of regional integration and provide a common ground for an intimate relationship throughout the constituents of Central Asia. Following are the factors that can be divided into historical, cultural, economic, security related aspects;

1. The Central Asian people are bound by a common heritage: the unitary nature of their history and religion, traditions and customs, values and way of life. To put it succinctly, the facets of their civilization are identical. There is no gainsaying that commonality of civilization is a requisite for the stable and

progressive development of bilateral and multilateral relations throughout the region. It is a significant motive-force that consolidates regional initiatives and tempers the volatility in regional political processes.

2. The problems in the way of regional integration are also the potential integrators that can be part of the solution. These include boundary issues, amicable water management policies, and the concert use of regional transport and communication networks, the joint nurturing of the environment, and so on. Even here, there are grounds for optimism. On the one hand, the aforesaid are real obstacles to regional integration, widening the gap between national policies. On the other hand, they are also integrators, fostering cooperation in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and priorities for the Central Asian states. Regional countries are objectively interested in the effective regulation and formulation of policies for addressing these issues, which can be accomplished only through regional cooperation. In other words, these inhibitors, actually go on to afford a common ground for a growing vibrant relationship to emerge at the regional level, in the future.
3. The aspect of security rivals, in principle, all countries of Central Asia are confronted by similar threats to their security. The nefarious confluence of the scourge of religious extremism, trans-national terrorism, drug trafficking, etc., are common to all of them. These are non-traditional or unconventional threats. The trans-border character of these threats encourages the countries in the region, to undertake synergetic efforts to combat these menaces. Experts are in concurrence that, when it comes to assessing the importance of mutual security efforts in terms of regional stability, integrative tendencies and mechanisms are key to the establishment of a regional security system in all its dimensions— political, economic, and environmental, etc. Central Asia is a single ‘regional security complex’. The national security and internal stability of regional countries are interdependent and interconnected. Schisms in security policies impinge on the stability of neighbours; therefore, an idea of complex security must be a priority on the agenda for policymakers in every country of the region.
4. A potentially important integrator is the synergic cooperation of Central Asian nations in reviving and resuscitating Afghanistan’s economy and ensuring its long-term stability. This entails the consummation of many regional projects—

from the development to an elaborate and advanced transport and communications network, to the joint prosecution of the campaign against illicit trafficking, global terrorism and amicable water management. Afghanistan is very much a part of Central Asia and therefore a participant stakeholder in the notion of complex regional security. Hence, ensuring the direct involvement of Afghanistan in the ongoing regional processes, is vital to the positive outcome of regional integration and cooperation within Central Asia.

5. The Central Asia is rich in natural resources. This implies that the countries in the region need not totally rely on outside imports of raw materials for their economic well-being. The technological and human resource potential as well as the social infrastructure (the health care and education systems) is well developed within Central Asia. In terms of education Central Asian is one of the better disposed regions in the world. The region is home to a fair number of high-skilled and low cost work forces that in due course, will be the fountainhead for increased visibility and resonance of the region.
6. The Newly Independent States of Central Asia, have not yet become strong stakeholders in the international arena. This is the obvious reality. Therefore, it should be emphasized that integration provides the countries of the region ‘a better bargaining position with outsiders’. Unless the countries of Central Asia make a concerted mutual effort towards integration, they will continue to remain weak players, both individually and in terms of their regional significance. It goes with the territory that an effective integration movement, is the strongest response to the geo-political and geo-strategic challenges in Central Asia.
7. A major redeeming factor has been that the nations of the region have not been steeped in any kind of historical rivalry or bloody ethnic wars. There are no historical territorial claims or lingering issues that can seriously impact the march towards regional integration.
8. The regional integration is a facilitator for foreign investment. Economists and investors argue in unison that ‘the economies of the Central Asian states, taken separately, are too small and limited, to attract the interest of foreign investors; only by uniting to create a larger economic space, would they be able to engender an abiding attraction in the investor-fraternity and usher in much-

needed investment'. It is important to emphasize that the region was, historically speaking, a unified market: during the Soviet period and even under the Central Asian khanates regionalism was the underpinning variable of economic relationships in the region.

In addition to the above mentioned integration points on Central Asian Republics look forward to partnering and participating in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), however there is a strong need to provide a clear way forward and detailed deliberations are yet to be defined as how they can play a constructive and meaningful role in CPEC.

### **Pakistan's Domestic Priorities**

Pakistan has transitioned from a crisis economy to a stable economy. Achieving stable, sustainable economic growth while mitigating social inequality was the priority of the government. Almost 66 percent of our population is under the age of 30. We have the challenge of finding skills, education and jobs for the young. This can be a factor for instability should these challenges not be addressed. We know that a politically and economically stable country is better able to defeat militancy and terrorists as well as create conditions that make it inhospitable for violent extremism to flourish. Increased regional stability could have a stabilizing effect for ongoing domestic efforts; hence Pakistan had committed itself to supporting the reconciliation effort in Afghanistan, and was working toward normalization of relations between India and Pakistan. Pakistan remained committed to nuclear non-proliferation. It also accorded high priority to building regional cooperation. Increased regional economic cooperation and connectivity could further contribute to the wider region's stability. Prime examples of





advances in this arena included the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (part of China's Silk Road 'One Belt, One Road' vision), to connect this entire continent to the Middle East and serve as a land bridge to Europe.

### **Pakistan's Global Responsibility**

With its nearly 200 million citizens and as the seventh most populous nation in the world Pakistan had a key role to play at the international level. As the world's second largest Muslim nation, Pakistan has a critical and influential voice in the Muslim world. Pakistan has been very active diplomatically since its inception. In the 50s and 60s Pakistan was a leading actor in the diplomacy accompanying the decolonization process at the United Nations and elsewhere. Its commitment to multilateral diplomacy remained high: Pakistan has served seven times as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and had committed more than 140,000 Pakistani troops to 41 U.N. missions in 23 countries since the 1960s.

### **Pakistan and India: A Challenging Relationship**

The ongoing tensions between the two major players in the region. It is disappointing from Islamabad's perspective to see the government in Delhi not respond to any of the peace overtures that government has made to India. No formal dialogue between India and Pakistan currently exists: Whatever the issues are between India and Pakistan, we need to be talking because a 'no talks' option is no option. The issues on partition that had never been settled were "ripe for resolution," and noted that there was much to be gained by economic cooperation for regional growth and security.

## **Pakistan's Role in Afghanistan**

There is now a firm international consensus that this war has to end by a negotiated peace in Afghanistan as we have seen the limits of military action with respect to the conflict in Pakistan's neighboring country. The Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) composed of representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, the US and China had committed to undertake efforts to promote a peace process in Afghanistan. This structure could have a benign impact on the speed of renewed diplomatic efforts. We are looking at a prolonged military stalemate there. The Afghan national forces cannot hold on to the entire country any more than the Taliban can. These are the conditions under which you have to bring the two parties together. Pakistan can only do so much. We cannot negotiate for Afghanistan.



## **Speaker 4**

### **Dr. Adam Saud – Associate Professor of International Relations at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, Islamabad**



Dr. Adam Saud - Associate Professor at Bahria University, Islamabad addressed the audience on the topic of “Pakistan’s Long Standing Astounding Bilateral Relations with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan”. His speech contained following important remarks:

Dr. Adam briefly highlighted Pakistan’s relation with Central Asian states. Pakistan has an ancient trade, cultural and historical linkages with Central Asian states, right after the independence of these states Pakistan established bilateral relations with Central Asian Republics with enthusiasm and became one of the state that immediately recognized all these states and opened its embassy in all the five capitals by granting 30 million dollar to Uzbekistan and 10 million dollars to respective Central Asian States. Before their independence, Islamabad has no such relations with Central Asian States and after their independence new doors opened for Pakistan to have healthy relations with Central Asian Republics. The 9/11 scenario becomes the opportunity in specific context where Pakistan relations further improved with all these states because of common threats, common opportunities and common challenges, and for the regional prosperity Pakistan and Central Asian States are collaborating in different aspects.

Further, he explained Pakistan’s four major area of interests in Central Asian region;

- i. Economic interests
- ii. Geostrategic interests
- iii. Transit Trade Corridors
- iv. Energy

Dr. Adam Saud quoted former Ambassador ‘Akram Zaki’ Statement that “Recognition of Central Asian Republics would open up new vistas of bilateral cooperation with these states with whom Pakistan had close ties of history, faith and culture”. Trade ratio between Pakistan and Central Asian states is steady but low and could have been

more. The two important developments CREC (Collision Region Economic Cooperation) and RBRCA (Rebuild and Reconstruct Afghanistan) will increase connectivity.

He further stated that Pakistan and Central Asian States are common members of regional as well as international organizations for instance, OIC and SCO. The platform of Shanghai Cooperation Organization will open new areas and prospects of Pakistan relation with Central Asian States. Furthermore, deliberating energy interests of Pakistan, he further added that the country needs energy not only for industrial purpose but also to fulfill domestic needs as well, where Central Asian States are rich in energy, oil reserves and gas reserves. TAPI and CASA 1000 are two important projects progressing slow due to the persistent instability in Afghanistan but on the other hand, the TAP and TUTAP proposed projects should be negotiated and mainstreamed. Additionally, highlighting Central Asian states as landlocked countries mostly, rely on its neighbors for trade routes, where Pakistan provide shortest trade route to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Gwadar port soon to be the international transit hub will allow sea trade and CPEC will provide new land route to CARs to connect with the region.

Dr. Saud stated that Pakistan and Uzbekistan's currently trade volume is starting around 300 million US dollars but this will increase up to 500 million US dollars by end of the year 2018 and will rise up to 4 or 5 billion dollars in coming years. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have signed almost 56 bilateral agreements and MOUs since 1991 to provide an institutional framework for an expanding relationship. These documents



encompass areas such as economic trade, culture, healthcare, science and technology, customs, agricultural collaboration, tourism, sports, mass media, ports and telecommunications, banking, transit and transportation, avoidance of double taxation, anti-terrorism, extradition, legal assistance, academic and educational fields, and the military-technical sphere, etc. There are certain other areas where two countries are cooperating with each other, for instance, Pakistan Foreign service academy and National Defense University Islamabad are providing training to various officials from Uzbekistan. Regular meeting among both counties officials, people to people connectivity is strengthening relations. Uzbekistan has suggested that a Trilateral Trade Agreement between Pakistan Afghanistan and Uzbekistan may provide Pakistan direct access to Uzbek market and vice versa. Uzbek is 7<sup>th</sup> largest cotton producer, KASB group and Uzbekistan export cooperation has signed agreement to establish Pakistan and Uzbekistan trade house with purpose to introduce new technologies.

Furthermore, he said that Tajikistan and Pakistan have multiple agreements of co-operation in the fields of energy, security, trade, defence, culture, infrastructure development and communication. The two sides have agreed to increase people to people



contacts and regular exchange of delegations, counter-terrorism, regional instability, extremism, and controlling human and drug smuggling. There are more than 50 agriculture and infrastructure projects which costs 700 million US dollars are under construction. Bilateral trade is merely 50 million US dollars but this will increase up to 300 million US dollars within next six months and in coming years trade between two countries will rise up to 500 million dollars. Pakistan also has Trilateral Trade agreement with Pakistan-Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

In addition to bilateral relations the countries face similar challenges and threats Dr. Saud added and mentioned that there are no direct connectivity between Pakistan and

Central Asia due to instability in Afghanistan creating hurdles for regional connectivity. Where the presence of USA and India in Afghanistan are creating more complications in the region. Better transportation and identify areas of mutual interest



## **Speaker 5**

### **Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)**

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President Center for Global & Strategic Studies addressed the audience on the topic “The role of Center for Global & Strategic Studies in regional connectivity: Efforts in developing better relations with Tajikistan and Uzbekistan”. His speech contained following important features:



Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Central Asian Republics (CARs) have assumed great significance in Pakistan’s foreign policy considerations. Pakistan’s geographical proximity with the Central Asian region serves as a gateway for strengthened political, economic and cultural ties in the region. After having several meetings and discussions with Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, on 4th May 2017, Center for Global and Strategic Studies initiated “Project: Regional Connectivity for Prosperity of Asia” for enhancing the relationship with other regional Think Tanks as well. Center for Global and Strategic Studies has actively sought to strengthen relations with CARs through a series of high level meetings and visits with counterparts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. CGSS carries out research on this topics with the interest to highlight the importance of good bilateral relations between Pakistan and Central Asian Republics. Center for Global and Strategic Studies has signed several agreements with think tanks from Central Asian Republics. These agreements are aimed at revival of cultural, historical and commercial relations between Pakistan and Central Asian Republics. Following is the detailed work of CGSS in collaboration with Central Asian Republics;

#### **Collaboration with Uzbekistan**

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Center for Global and Strategic Studies invited the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Furqat A. Sidiqov to CGSS office to discuss collaboration between the institute and the Embassy. It was further decided that the

Ambassador will introduce and assist CGSS in creating linkages with other Think Tanks in Uzbekistan.

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies Arranged Interactive Session: Pakistan – Uzbekistan: Finding Common Grounds in Islamabad on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The aim & focus of the interactive series was to invite the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to talk on ‘Pakistan – Uzbekistan: Finding Common Grounds’ to establish a platform to engage and benefit the community in finding similarities between the Uzbekistani and Pakistani culture, traditions and heritage in order to boost economic activity between the two countries

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies participated in Shanghai Cooperation Organization Conference held at Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

The aim and focus of the CGSS delegation was to deliver speeches while representing Pakistan’s voice in the SCO forum which included representatives of think tanks of the SCO member states and observer countries.

Center for Global and Strategic Studies is also working in collaboration with The Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies (ISRS) under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent. CGSS signed an MOU with ISRS at Tashkent on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2017 to further enhance cooperation between the institutes.

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged ‘MANGO FESTIVAL’ in Tashkent for Embassy of Pakistan in Uzbekistan in July 2017**

The aim & focus of the festival was to not only help enhance friendly ties between the two countries but will also comprehend each other’s culture.

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged Roundtable on ‘Mahalla System – as an Institution in Uzbekistan’ on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

The aim & focus of the Roundtable Session was to highlight the effectiveness of Mahalla System and its implications.

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Center for Global and Strategic Studies led delegation visited Higher Education Commission in Islamabad where a meeting was held between H.E.

Furqat A. Sidiqov – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Chairman HEC. It was mutually decided that Pakistan and Uzbekistan will collaboratively work for the advancements in the research field. A student exchange program will also be initiated through which research will be conducted in various universities and CGSS will play an active role in it.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017, Center for Global and Strategic Studies delegation and All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) delegation met the leadership of the important, leading newspapers of Uzbekistan. The newspapers included both Uzbek and Russian languages. During the meeting it was decided that more collaboration will be carried out between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. Print Media and CGSS will provide analysis / research material about Pakistan's real image, Pakistan's Contribution to various international platforms and other bilateral issues.

On 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018, His Excellency Furqat A. Sidiqov – Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan visited CGSS office. The Memorandum of Understanding between Center for Global and Strategic Studies and Center for International Relations Studies (CIRS) Uzbekistan was signed. As per terms and conditions of the memorandum, both organizations will be responsible to strengthen the comprehensive understanding between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Pakistan. And work towards mutual visits, communication, expertise, and develop plans to promote cooperation between the two organizations in a broader range of areas.

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged Roundtable on Foreign Policy Contours of Uzbekistan on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018**

Center for Global and Strategic Studies in collaboration with the Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan organized a talk by H.E. Furqat A. Sidikov – Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan on “Foreign Policy Contours of Uzbekistan”. The aim and focus of the talk was to describe core directions of Uzbekistan's modern foreign policy. Good neighborhood partner relations are being consistently strengthened and cooperation between Central Asian Republics is developing on the basis of high trust and mutual respect.

**Pakistan–Uzbekistan Business Council:** Center for Global and Strategic Studies has worked in close collaboration with the Uzbekistan Government to build up a “Pakistan – Uzbekistan Business Council”. The forum aims to become a bridge

between business circles of Uzbekistan and Pakistan. This initiative will enhance consistent development of cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan in trade, economic and investment spheres.

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

#### **EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged a conference on “Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) – Challenges and Opportunities”**

On 27th February 2018, the Center for Global & Strategic Studies arranged an international conference on “Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) – Challenges and Opportunities”. The aim of the Conference was to discuss the various ways in which the SCO has promoted regional connectivity. Furthermore, the conference highlighted the significance of gaining full membership for Pakistan and the benefits, problems and solutions. The conference focused on international environment, future projection with special emphasis on regional security dynamics and served as the platform for Pakistan to portray what it has to offer to the region and the world. The national and international speakers of the conference included:

- i. His Excellency Mr. Yao Jing - Ambassador of People's Republic of China, Embassy of Pakistan, Islamabad
- ii. Dr. Vladimir Kozin – Leading Expert, Center for Military-Political Studies, Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russian Foreign Ministry, Russia
- iii. Dr. Muminova Farida Mahmoodovna – Deputy Director of the Center for Strategic Studies under the President, Republic of Tajikistan
- iv. Mr. Xu Wenhong - Deputy General Secretary, One Belt One Road Center, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China
- v. Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani – Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan
- vi. Ambassador Abdul Basit - Former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India & President Islamabad Policy Research Institute
- vii. Mr. Amer Hashmi - Advisor, National University of Science and Technology (NUST)

## **Pakistan: Land of Opportunities for Central Asian Republics**

### **EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged Roundtable Discussion on “Pakistan: A Land of Opportunities for Central Asian Republics” in Islamabad on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

The event brought together senior advisory board members and experts from academia sector who provided their valuable input on this significant topic. The aim of the roundtable discussion was to identify possible opportunities that Pakistan can offer to Central Asia as Pakistan's geographical proximity with the Central Asian region serves as a gateway for strengthening political, economic and cultural ties in the region.

### **Center for Global and Strategic Studies in Collaboration with National Security Division of Pakistan Organized a 4 Day Visit of a High Level Delegation from Central Asia from 19<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

To enhance the regional economic opportunities and discuss regional security paradigm, National Security Division, Government of Pakistan along with Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) organized a four-day event / conference on the theme “Pakistan: A Land of Opportunities for Central Asian Republics” in which high level delegations from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan visited Pakistan from 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. This significant occasion facilitated the collective exploration of various opportunities and commonalities that can become the foundation for multilateral regional initiatives which will in turn, lead to strong connectivity and diplomatic relations as well as security and economic stability in the region.

### **During the five day visit, Center for Global and Strategic Studies along with The National Security Division of Pakistan arranged meetings of the Central Asian delegations at various Ministries / Government Organizations including the following;**

- i. Head of delegation meetings with H.E Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of Pakistan
- ii. Meeting with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- iii. Bilateral Meetings with Lieutenant General Nasser Khan Janjua, HI (M), (Retd), National Security Advisor, Government of Pakistan

## **Center for Global and Strategic Studies Participation in Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

### **Center for Global and Strategic Studies participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SCO Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan hosted by Institute of World Economic and Politics on 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**

The delegation of CGSS headed by Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed, (Retd) –Vice President Center for Global and Strategic Studies was invited to attend the 13th Meeting of the SCO Forum in Astana, Kazakhstan. The main aim and focus of the SCO Forum is to assist in the development of recommendations for the SCO Member States' Summit, in 2018 it is proposed to prepare a joint analytical report titled 'Current Issues on the SCO's Agenda under New Conditions'.

### **On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018, Center for Global and Strategic Studies participation in 1st SCO Media Summit held in Beijing, China**

The first Shanghai Cooperation Organization Media Summit was held in Beijing, China. It was well participated by the media bosses from 17 countries and intellectuals. Mr. Makhdoom Babar – Director General International Affairs represented Center for Global and Strategic Studies at the forum and held detailed round of talks with number of SCO states and briefed them about the activities of CGSS. The Media Summit was attended by leaders, representatives, diplomats and media delegates of member and observer states of the SCO.

## **COLLABORATION WITH TAJIKISTAN**

Center for Global and Strategic Studies with the cooperation of Tajikistan Embassy in Islamabad invited three delegations from Tajikistan in year 2018 including, The Head of the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Tajikistan, 'Dr. Khudoberdi Kholiqnazar' and his delegation for enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The agenda of the meetings were to discuss:

- Interregional Connectivity
- Trade and Commerce

- Economy
- Tourism
- Security Policy
- Counterterrorism

**Visit of Dr. Moominova Farida – Deputy Director, Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Tajikistan to Center for Global and Strategic Studies on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2018**

During the meetings it was decided that Center for Global and Strategic Studies and Center for Strategic Studies will work together in research collaboration through Bilateral Research Initiative for enhanced relations between the two countries.

**Center for Strategic Studies hosted 3<sup>rd</sup> Delegation from Tajikistan headed by Dr. Hakim Abdulohi Rahnamo – Head of the Department on Analysis and Foreign Policy Perspectives (Vision) of the Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on 6 April 2018**

During the visit, Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged meetings of the Central Asian delegations at various Ministries / Government Organizations including the following:

- i. Meeting with the National Security Advisor, Government of Pakistan – Lieutenant General Nasser Khan Janjua, HI (M), (Retd)
- ii. Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged a Conference on “Pakistan – Tajikistan: Exploring New Dimensions of Bilateral Cooperation” in Islamabad on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2018**

Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged a conference on “Pakistan – Tajikistan: Exploring New Dimensions of Cooperation”. The aim of the Conference was to discuss the various areas of mutual collaboration between Pakistan and Tajikistan. Tajikistan is a leading country in energy production. Pakistan and Tajikistan can work together on ‘Energy Corridor’ which can benefit the entire region thus, bringing prosperity to the region. However, several practical steps are required for the development of this energy corridor. If we have a common past then we must

have a common future. Pakistan and Tajikistan must use its media to promote bilateral national interest. The national news agencies of Tajikistan and Pakistan must sign agreements with each other and increase interaction for the exchange of information and documentaries so that positive image of both the countries can be portrayed.

**Center for Global and Strategic Studies Delegation visit to Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

A three member delegation from Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad visited Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Dushanbe for signing the 'Memorandum of Understanding' between two institutes. The delegation met Mr. Khudoberdi Kholiknazar – Chairman Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to boost their ties through enhanced cooperation in diverse areas, including trade, energy, connectivity, defence, health, education and culture.

**COLLABORATIONS WITH KAZAKHSTAN**

Center for Global and Strategic Studies is working in collaboration with The Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP). Center for Global and Strategic Studies signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IWEP on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged Roundtable talk session “Current Activities and Goals of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia”** in collaboration with The Embassy of Republic of Kazakhstan in Islamabad on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

Ambassador Gong Jianwei (People's Republic of China) – Executive Director of CICA briefed the participants that CICA is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. It is a forum based on the recognition that there is close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world.

## **COLLABORATIONS WITH TURKMENISTAN**

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged interactive session: "Turkmenistan - Heart of the Great Silk Road" in Islamabad on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

Center for Global and Strategic Studies jointly organized an Interactive Session in collaboration with the Embassy of Turkmenistan, Islamabad on “Turkmenistan – Heart of the Great Silk Road”. The aim and focus of the session was to highlight and provide an opportunity for the participants to understand the importance of Turkmenistan as a pivotal part of the ancient Silk Route. The Ambassador of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Atadjan Movlamov highlighted the progress and development of Turkmenistan and stated that the slogan, “Turkmenistan – Heart of the Great Silk Road”, reflects the concept of modern development of the country. The session was chaired by Major General Hafiz Masroor Ahmed, (Retd) – Vice President Center for Global & Strategic Studies.

## **Visit of Diplomats to National Agricultural Research Center**

**EVENT: Center for Global and Strategic Studies arranged a visit for Foreign Diplomats to National Agricultural Research Center in Collaboration with Pakistan Agricultural Research Council on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan Agricultural Research Council arranged a visit of Ambassadors and Diplomats from 11 countries to National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) including Russia, Iran, China, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan were briefed about the Agri-research and development activities being carried at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad. The diplomats were acquainted regarding the Research and Development activities, new innovations and technologies being practiced in Pakistan. Diplomats were also told about PARC Institutes and Centers working across the country for the promotion and development of agriculture sector in Pakistan. Research

activities about Livestock, Poultry and Fisheries were also updated. Afterwards, the diplomats were taken to the field areas of NARC. The delegates visited Climate, Energy and Water Research Institute (CEWRI) where the scientists and engineers are engaged in research activities aimed at devising solutions and management strategies for climate change, water resources and alternate energy which are economically viable, technically feasible and socially acceptable. National Institute for Genomics and Biotechnology (NIGAB) which is as a leading biotechnology institute both at national as well as international level and Tissue Culture Labs were also deeply visited by the delegates. National Gene-bank of Pakistan at Bio resources Conservation Institute (BCI) was also the part of visit. The delegates were also taken to Horticulture Research Institute which evaluates new technologies for adoption at farm level to increase the yield and quality for local & export purpose. Animal Sciences Institute was also visited where the delegates were briefed that the center conducts research of national importance in Animal Health and Animal Production. The delegates appreciated the efforts of CGSS and NARC in the field of agriculture and stated that this visit will facilitate mutual ventures between Pakistan and the representative countries in the field of agricultural development.

### **Way Forward of Center for Global and Strategic Studies for the Region**

CGSS plans to continuously develop and encourage bilateral and multilateral relations of Pakistan with Central Asian Republics and beyond.



Center for Global and Strategic Studies is working towards events of international prestige which have deep symbolic value which will pave the way for Pakistan and Central Asians Republics (CARs) for collaboration in diverse fields of mutual interest. CGSS is also contributing in conveying to the world that Pakistan is open to economic engagements and regional integration. Furthermore, the possible geostrategic cooperation may also contribute to peace and stability in neighboring Afghanistan which may increase the prospects of connectivity. The interaction between countries of the region and Pakistan witnessed during the various conferences and subsequent

meetings between delegations of CGSS, China, and Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Russia and concerned Pakistan ministries / departments is encouraging. CGSS will continue to monitor the pace of progress on areas of cooperation agreed upon during these meetings.

## **Interactive Question and Answer Session**

The conference further incorporated a question and answer session:

### **Comment:**

#### **H.E. SherAli Jononov – Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan**



We have the honor of receiving the three Army chiefs of Pakistan. General Ashfaq Pervaiz Kiyani, General Raheel Sharif and the present Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Dushanbe and in this year in May Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Rashid Mehmood visited Tajikistan, where talks on defense cooperation were held.

### **Question 1:**

#### **Mr. Raza Khan – Special Correspondent, PTV World**



Center for Global and Strategic Studies is doing a remarkable job by shifting the focus from West to Central Asian Republics. In the context of corridor projects, Central Asian Republics and Pakistan are still relying on peace in Afghanistan, why not to move towards Wakhan corridor, where CASA 1000 is the shorter route? Why not to veto Afghanistan and go straight to Tajikistan and then Uzbekistan and other Central Asian Republics?

#### **Answer by H.E. SherAli Jononov – Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan**

The aim of connectivity is peace and prosperity to all regions and the transmission lines are moving as Pakistan will get cheap energy because of the capacity of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and energy transfers. Sharing of borders in economic ways will also pave the ways towards the solution for long existing conflicts, where Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are focusing on economic issues to bring the new projects

into mainstream for instance TAPI and CASA – 1000 which will not only generate jobs, hydro power projects but will also bring peace as well.

**Answer by H.E. Furqat A. Sidiqov – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan**



We have had more than 20 conferences in Pakistan looking over to resolve the issue of Afghanistan to bring peace and stability in the region as well as eradicating terrorism. We have built 70 km long railway which connects Uzbekistan and Afghanistan and to build more with collaboration of Pakistan will help in strengthening the ties. Gwadar is very crucial for Uzbekistan because it provides direct access to Central Asian Republics and only Afghanistan divide us, so now it's better to bridge Afghanistan between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

**Question 2:**

**Mr. Amer Hashmi – Advisor to National University of Science and Technology, Islamabad**

Center for Global and Strategic Studies is doing exceptional job by highlighting the key areas. I will quote Hennery Kissinger's comment on Afghanistan that it is become irrelevant and Pakistan is become key element in term of alloy and military support. Furthermore, it is cleared that United States is staying in the Asian region and at the same time CPEC is happening, ongoing economic crisis and our Ministry of Foreign affairs is not that much active yet, so shed some light on this scenario?



**Answer by H.E. Furqat A. Sidiqov – Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan**

Yes there is economic problems going in Pakistan but we have to seek together all the issue and come up with solutions. Central Asian Republics can offer that lets work together on economic ends, our increasing trade growth is the result of mutual

cooperation. Pakistan and people like us have to adopt soft power projection methodology through enhanced trade and diplomacy to create the positive impact.

**Answer by Mr. Ashfaq Gondal – Senior Member Advisory Board Center for Global and Strategic Studies**



Yes, Central Asian republics are reaching us but we have to use the proactive approach in economic and commercial terms. For instance, China is the best friend of Pakistan but trade between both countries is very low, so we have to focus on economic ends otherwise, economically Pakistan will suffer. We have to reach Central Asian Republics and Afghanistan to settle all the projects by bringing peace in Afghanistan.

**Comment by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President Center for Global and Strategic Studies**



Keeping aside the economic aspects, I believe the pressure is on Afghanistan to provide access for Pakistan to reach for China Pakistan economic Corridor.

**Comment by H.E. SherAlijononov – Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan**

The idea of this conference is that if you wish that we can achieve peace, development than in the last six months we achieved tremendous success. Russia-Pakistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan agreement is the answer that we don't exclude Pakistan but we consider them as a key state which plays big role in bringing peace in the region with its best Armed forces in the world. Furthermore, projects are considered as key factors which brings results but if we have to set our own destinations in the perspective of our national interests.

### **Question 3:**

**H.E. Major General Ashimiyu Adebayo Olaniyi, (Retd) – Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Pakistan**

What would be the next structure of Pakistan? Uni-polar or multi-polar because Pakistan is an essence for China and other regions as well and no isolation policy would prosper.  
Highlight the role of Pakistan in the regional states?



**Answer by Dr. Adam Saud - Associate Professor Bahria University, Islamabad**

Do not underestimate the future role of Pakistan in the region and as well as in political scenario. The directions towards uni-polar or multi-polar develops according to the scenario and developments. According to the statement of United States Secretary of State 'Mike Pompeo', he said, we want to restart our relations with Pakistan because they have realized that they cannot survive in the region without Pakistan. In the perspective of economically and geo-strategically the future belongs to Pakistan.

### **Question 4:**

**Syed Kamal Shah – Former Federal Secretary**

CGSS is focusing on Central Asia and its issues which are interlinked with the stability of Afghanistan but still Pakistan got blames for destabilization of Afghanistan. We have to identify the ones who do not want to see stable Afghanistan. We do not point out India who always spoils the peace process initiatives and work. Furthermore, it is not in anyone's interest the unstable Afghanistan but in the larger picture it is in the interest of USA.



**Answer by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President CGSS**

We all know the role of India in Afghanistan and you also know very well as former secretary. International security towards Afghanistan is very important but

international players would never want that India should back down as neighbor due to strategic market interests. In the larger picture to bring stability in Afghanistan, Pakistan cannot ask anyone to shut down their activities in Afghanistan because currently there is honeymoon period going on between India and United States.

**Comment by Mr. Ashfaq Gondal – Senior Member Advisory Board Center for Global and Strategic Studies**

The issue is India didn't realize that stable Afghanistan is in the interest for the region, we have to make them realize by involving Central Asian Republics and the other members of the region. To further enhance this approach we have to develop aggressive and active diplomatic initiatives.

## **The CGSS Team**

*Compiled by Mr. Wajahat Abbas*

*Supervised by Ms. Khadeja Khan*

*Design and Graphics by: Ms. Madiha Ghaffar*



## Center for Global & Strategic Studies Islamabad

**3rd Floor, 1-E, Ali Plaza, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan**

**Tel: +92-51-8319682**

**E-mail: [info@cgss.com.pk](mailto:info@cgss.com.pk)   Website: [www.cgss.com.pk](http://www.cgss.com.pk)**