



**Center for Global & Strategic Studies,  
Islamabad**

## **Interactive Session with Delegation from Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom**

**8<sup>th</sup> May 2018**



## **List of Participants**

### **Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom**

1. Major General (Retd) Porter Simon Leslie - UK Army
2. Brig Ben Edwards – Defence Attaché, UK High Commission, Islamabad
3. Colonel Alrababa Omar Abedalqader Hussain - Jordan Army
4. Colonel Mokgatsi Mogotsi Abraham - South Africa Air Force
5. Colonel Kurjahn Stephan Klaus - German Army
6. Group Captain Edosa Francis Ogbejele -Nigeria Air Force
7. Group Captain Manning David Philip -UK, Royal Air Force
8. Group Captain Robinson Philip Jeremy - UK, Royal Air Force
9. Group Captain Walshe Timothy William - New Zealand Air Force
10. Group Captain Peter Daulby -UK Royal Air Force
11. Lt Colonel Chrysostomides Christodoulos - Cyprus National Guard
12. Lt Colonel Kang Kunshin - Korea Air Force
13. Lt Colonel Pantovic Aleksandar - Montenegro Army
14. Major Yvie Stephens - UK Army
15. Major Anne Seyton-Skyes - UK Army
16. Major Mike Pepper - UK Army
17. Principal Chaplain Gough Martyn Johan - UK Navy
18. Mr. Kryvdyk Ostep, - Ukraine Parliament
19. Mr. Mirti Michael Mwiti – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya
20. Mr. Wren Simon William - UK Home Office
21. Mr. Anthony Stanley - UK High Commission, Islamabad
22. Miss. Jacobs Serena – UK High Commission, Islamabad
23. Mr. Ciaran Malone UK High Commission, Islamabad
24. Lt Colonel Ben Ramsay – Military Attaché, UK High Commission
25. Mr. Andrew Hunter - UK High Commission, Islamabad
26. Mr. Stephen Hill - UK High Commission, Islamabad

## **Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad**

1. Lieutenant General Asad Durrani, HI (M) (Retd) – Former DG Inter-Services Intelligence (**Chair of the Event**)
2. Lieutenant General Naeem Khalid Lodhi, HI (M) (Retd) – Former Federal Secretary of Defence
3. Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M) (Retd) – Former DG Anti Narcotics Force, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Bosnia and presently President of CGSS
4. Air Marshall Waseem ud Din, HI (M) (Retd) – Former Deputy Chief of Air Staff, (Former student of RCDS)
5. Lieutenant General Muhammad Asif – Former Director General Joint Services Headquarters
6. Mr. Ghulam Akbar, Editor in Chief – Daily Herald Tribune/Senior Journalist
7. Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal – Former Federal Secretary of Information
8. Brigadier Akhtar Nawaz Janjua (Retd)
9. Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor - Managing Director Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation
10. Air Commodore Zahir Mirza (Retd) – (Former student of RCDS)
11. Mr. Shakeel Ahmed – Chartered Accountant
12. Mr. Abdul Rehman – CEO Rehman Travels
13. Mr. Jawad Majid – Head of Islamic Banking, Silk Bank
14. Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram, (Retd) – Director CGSS (**Moderator of the Event**)

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 2018, Center for Global & Strategic Studies hosted the delegation of Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) for an Interactive Session at Islamabad Hotel. The session was chaired by Lieutenant General Mohammad Asad Durrani HI(M) (Retd) - Former DG Inter-Services Intelligence and currently Member Advisory Board, CGSS who began the proceedings with a warm welcome extended to the RCDS delegation.

### **The Growing Geo-Strategic Relevance of Pakistan**



The session commenced with an in-depth discussion of Pakistan's current relevance to the changing world order. While the United States is struggling to retain its position as the sole super power of the world, the rise of China poses a direct threat to the hegemonic status of the US. Pakistan has a long-standing relationship with the US, which was initially based on the military assistance provided by the US to Pakistan. In addition to that Pakistan and the western world are extensively similar in terms of governmental structures, norms and values, but these commonalities and long-standing defence relations with the US, should not stand in the way of the growing regional ties between Pakistan and China. Pakistan is working to revive its relations not just regionally but also internationally, however this gain of one relationship should not be at the cost of affecting its relations with another. Lieutenant General Khalid Naeem Lodhi HI (M) (Retd) — Former Federal Secretary of Defence and current Member Advisory Board, CGSS highlighted the prospects of Pakistan's geo-strategic significance and how the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a flagship project of the Belt Road Initiative (BRI), will only add to the strategic influence of Pakistan.

Pakistan wishes to not just consider CPEC as an economic corridor but also align its influence with the development of strategic and defence partnerships with regional powers such as China and Russia. The geo-politics of the Indian Ocean, and Pakistan's direct access to the warm waters are requisite Pakistan's involvement and relevance to the changing world order.

## **Role of Media in International Politics**



The session further incorporated a discussion about the relevance of media in the establishment of a country's national and international image. The news media was recognized as the Fourth pillar of any country, making it one of the most important stakeholders of image building. The participants also talked about how free and vibrant the media in Pakistan is.

The problem, however, lies with the incentives that drive the media agencies. The media at large is economically driven by the elite of a country. This causes the inability of media to express the 'actual' views to the common public. The participants of the sessions agreed that the silent majority of a nation, has never contributed in governmental establishments, and this is one of the many reasons why the media influence over the masses needs to be curbed. Like any other country, Pakistan also has media regulation bodies such as the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), which due to certain limitations are unable to prevent the misinformation and disinformation propagated by Pakistan's media. Thus the participants realized that the challenge lies with balancing out the freedom of expression against misinformation. Even in international politics, the opinion making mechanism of CNN and Fox News are highly different from one another, yet both are considered as credible sources of information. Conclusively it was agreed that the media influence must be curbed to give *'truth to power, without compromising its integrity'*.

## **Relations within the Global Muslim Community**



Discussing the unity of the Islamic states across the world, General Mohammad Asad Durrani HI(M) (Retd) mentioned the variants in Muslim nations' structures, regardless of which, there are traces of unity in the Muslim community. The significance of organizations such as the

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is still relevant to the current world order. Instead of mourning the undoubted helplessness of the Muslim community, the Nations still help to retrieve one another's sovereignty when need be. The case of Bosnia is an excellent example of the existence of Muslim brotherhood, due to which the Muslim community joined hands to show support during the Bosnian War.

### **Inter-dependence of Military and Politics in Pakistan**



The session then discussed the inter-dependence of the political and military systems of Pakistan, and what challenges this may pose for Pakistan in the times to come. Realizing how Pakistan at birth was an insecure nation in terms of security challenges, the initial dependence on the military strength

of the country, made the domestic order dependent on the army. Due to this form of dependent governance, when the Pakistan military suggests reforms to the government, in accordance with the military paradigm, the civil order often deems it as an imposition of the military rather than a suggestion. However with time, the peaceful transitions with further align the interests of the country's military and politics.

The participants also highlighted the gap in the implementation of certain governmental decisions. For instance, military to military conclusive measures when incorporated into government policy making, the narratives are often blurred due to misinformation and lack of relevant defence and security perspective.

### **Prospects of CPEC: All Eggs in One Basket**



The RCDS delegation expressed its concerns regarding Pakistan's undivided focus on the prospects of CPEC, as being unfeasible. It was then highlighted that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project for the reinvigoration of the Silk Route. Pakistan thus realizes that the next 100years of the human populace will be for economic gains, and Asia will without a doubt emerge as the biggest strategic beneficiary for the economic

benefits. With that said, Pakistan's geo-strategic relevance in terms of its access to the warm waters and neighboring countries is helping Pakistan develop better relations not just with China, but also Afghanistan, Central Asia and Europe. The focus of developing relations is not routed through China solely.

The session also discussed that Pakistan needs to invest in other aspects of development such as education, to match the pace of other developing nations of the region such as China. The six percent of growth in Pakistan's GDP in the last one year, can be increased many folds with a better educational system and restructuring taxation mechanisms. This will help use the annual revenues of the country in efficient debt remuneration as well as development.



### **Kashmir: The Unresolved Issue**

The session further discussed the efforts that Pakistan has made in order to resolve the issue of Kashmir by bringing India to the table. The participants then discussed the role of international actors in providing a peaceful solution to Kashmir, as the issue does not seem to be one that can be bilaterally resolved. The participants discussed the atrocities of India in Kashmir, and requested the international community to urge a feasible solution for the sake of Kashmiris and their 70 years of suffering. Pakistan has the ability to manage its threats in terms of Kashmir and guard its borders in accordance to Afghanistan, but what Pakistan wishes to suggest is a multilateral solution for Kashmir.



### **Views of Major General (Retd) Porter Simon Leslie – United Kingdom Army**

Major General (Retd) Porter Simon Leslie, delighted by the fruitful interactive session, extended his willingness to work in collaboration with Center for Global & Strategic Studies to learn about the perspective of Pakistan in terms of concepts and ideas of defence. He further stated that this six country tour of the RCDS was built around theories, concepts and ideas,

which will help the delegations gain a multi-dimensional perspective of defence. This session will help recognize opportunities of stability and security with regards to Pakistan and the issues discussed in the session will be worked upon in accordance with the suggestive measures highlighted.