

**Statement By Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent  
Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations at the Arria  
Formula Meeting on the Peace Process in Afghanistan  
20 November 2020**

**Mr. Chairman,**

Pakistan has consistently maintained that decades old conflict in Afghanistan can end only through a political settlement involving the full spectrum of Afghanistan's political landscape, not the use of force.

A peaceful and stable Afghanistan is indispensable for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Pakistan, as a shared responsibility, has therefore, facilitated the Afghan peace and reconciliation process for bringing an end to the 19-year old conflict through a comprehensive and inclusive, negotiated political settlement that is Afghan-led and Afghan-owned.

My governments' clear and unambiguous message is that Pakistan will continue to support a peaceful, stable, sovereign, united, democratic and prosperous Afghanistan, at peace with itself and its neighbours.

The commencement of the Intra Afghan negotiation in Doha on 12 September 2020, has re-kindled hope for peace through a comprehensive political settlement.

Arriving at this inflection point has been an accomplishment, and this success belongs, first and foremost, to the Afghans.

Pakistan has walked along-side the international community in every possible way, by encouraging reduction in violence and by urging dialogue and negotiations.

The commencement of Intra-Afghan Negotiations was the result of our combined efforts.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It is now for the Afghan leaders to seize this historic opportunity, work together constructively, and secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement.

The ongoing negotiations are an opportunity for the Afghans to decide about their future. The Afghans alone must be the masters of their destiny, without outside influence or interference.

Pakistan is committed to respect the will of the Afghan people in whatever they choose as an outcome of the ongoing negotiation process.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Spoilers, from within and from without, will pose formidable challenges on this process.

Pakistan continues to remind international community to be watchful of the role and machinations of such spoilers. Constant vigilance will be required to guard against their machinations.

Today we have heard one such spoiler. The statement made today by the Permanent Representative of India has made it clear that India does not want peace in the region. As the incoming non-permanent member of the Security Council. India will not let go of any opportunity to derail the Afghan peace process.

It is in fact India that is using the ungoverned space across our western borders to foment terrorism in Pakistan.

Today, India is involved in four kind of terrorism: **First** India's "State terrorism" used to suppress the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir; **Second**, India is financing and supporting the TTP & JUA, both of which are affiliated with ISIS/Daesh and ISIL-Khorasan, in the cross-border terrorist attacks against Pakistani military and civilian targets; **Third**, India is financing and organizing secret mercenary terrorist organizations and conduct attacks in Pakistan to impede the implementation of the CPEC; **Fourth**, India's Hindu supremacist organizations, especially the fascist RSS, the ruling BJP's parent organization, is perpetrating state terrorism against its own religious minorities, especially the 170 million Muslims of India.

Pakistan has irrefutable evidence of Indian support to terrorism in Pakistan. We are sharing this evidence with the UN Secretary General and the international community

We hope all Afghan sides persevere in the face of all challenges and possible setbacks, and remain unflinchingly committed to achieving a positive outcome.

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the bilateral level, Pakistan's leadership has maintained active contacts with their Afghan counterparts. These contacts have given a positive trajectory to our bilateral relations.

Yesterday, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan visited Kabul on the invitation of President Ashraf Ghani.

The leadership of Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed on a Shared Vision to Support Peace and Stability in both Countries and the wider region.

The shared vision between Pakistan and Afghanistan is a comprehensive document to support peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan and the region. The document also outlines clear time bound actions to further enhance intelligence cooperation, refugee repatriation and regional connectivity.

**Mr. Chairman,**

During these challenging times when the world is grappling with the effects of the COVID-19. Pakistan as a neighbor and in view of fraternal bilateral relations stands in complete a solidarity with the people of Afghanistan.

At a time when the world was closing borders, Pakistan opened five border crossing points with Afghanistan.

We have also revised visa policy for Afghan nationals with the aim to facilitate Afghan brethren in their visit to Pakistan. To help Afghanistan fight Covid-19 Pakistan has donated medical equipment to Afghanistan.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In the days ahead, we also look forward to enhanced economic cooperation with Afghanistan. As Afghanistan readies to enter a new phase, continued humanitarian assistance to country is essential.

In this context the upcoming Afghanistan Conference in Geneva will provide an opportunity to the international community to express solidarity with the people and government of Afghanistan to sustain a new phase of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

As Afghanistan neighbor and a brotherly country, Pakistan has committed US\$ 1 billion to development in Afghanistan. Nearly US\$ 500 million has already been used for infrastructure and capacity building projects.

Pakistan has constructed three hospitals in Kabul, Jalalabad and Logar. Construction of additional carriage-way for Torkham-Jalalabad Road is underway.

Pakistan has offered 6000 scholarships to Afghan nationals. 1000 of these scholarships have been offered this year and the process is underway for the selected students to join their universities.

All these measures are practical manifestations of our desire for closer people-to-people contacts.

**Mr. Chairman,**

On the pathway to peace, Afghanistan will also need support from the international community to create an enabling environment for the return of refugees to their homeland, with dignity and honor.

At this moment of hope, I reassure our Afghan brethren that Pakistan will always be in full support and solidarity with them as they continue their momentous journey on the path to peace, security and development.

Pakistan will always support a peaceful, stable, united, democratic, prosperous and sovereign Afghanistan, at peace with itself and with its neighbours.

**I thank you...**