



Progress Report

**Implementation Status on
Recommendations from the
Pakistan-India Parliamentarians
Dialogues since 2011**

December 2014



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PILDAT is an independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit indigenous research and training institution with the mission to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan.

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Printed in Pakistan

Published: December 2014

ISBN: 978-969-558-451-4

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Implementation Status on Recommendations from the Pakistan-India Parliamentarians Dialogues since 2011

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Preface

In order to promote better understanding between Pakistani and Indian legislators on cooperation regarding cross-border issues, PILDAT has successfully initiated and has been facilitating a series of Dialogues between Parliamentarians of Pakistan and India in order to enhance the role of Parliamentary Diplomacy in improving and enhancing regional relations. MPs from both sides lead the Dialogue by setting its agenda while PILDAT serves as the secretariat to assist the process. So far 5 rounds of Pak-India MPs Dialogues have taken place: in Islamabad on January 06-07, 2011; in Delhi on August 17-18, 2011; January 17-18, 2012 in Islamabad; in New Delhi, India on August 23-24, 2012 and in Islamabad, Pakistan, on September 19-20, 2013.

The latest in the series of such Dialogues, and 6th so far, is scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India on **December 11-12, 2014**. This report is prepared as a backgrounder for Parliamentarians from Pakistan and India joining the upcoming Dialogue.

The objective of the report is to record and assess any progress that has taken place at the official level on various recommendations made by MPs dialogues over the years. This Implementation Status Report has been prepared using various Joint Statements issued by MPs of the two sides to assess the progress that has been achieved on these by the two Governments so far.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the support and facilitation provided by Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in updating this report. In addition, the data used for updating this report has been obtained using official websites of the Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Indian Ministry of External Affairs.

Disclaimer

PILDAT has made every effort to record details and developments in their available accuracy. Any omission or error, therefore, is not deliberate.

Pakistan-India Parliamentarians Dialogue Series

In order to promote better understanding between Pakistani and Indian legislators on cooperation regarding cross-border issues, PILDAT (www.pildat.org) has been facilitating a series of Dialogues between Parliamentarians of Pakistan and India. Even though PILDAT began facilitating Parliamentary exchanges between Pakistan and India as early as 2004 and continued these onwards, more structured and formal rounds of MPs Dialogues were initiated in January 2011.

To-date, 5 MPs Dialogues have taken place. Dialogue-I was facilitated from January 06-07, 2011 in Islamabad, Pakistan in which a delegation of 7 Indian MPs joined 18 counterparts from Pakistan. Round-II was held in New Delhi from August 17-18, 2011 in which twenty (20) Pakistani MPs and twenty-one (21) Indian MPs engaged in the structured Dialogue. Pak-India MPs Dialogue-III was held in Islamabad from January 17-18, 2012 where fifteen (15) Indian MPs and fifty-two (52) Pakistani MPs interacted with each other. This was followed by Dialogue-IV held from August 23-25, 2012 in New Delhi and Patna in India. The latest dialogue, i.e. Pakistan-India Parliamentarians Dialogue-V, was held in Islamabad, Pakistan on September 19-20, 2013 that saw the participation of fifty (50) Pakistani and thirteen (13) Indian MPs.

The 6th round of **Pakistan-India Parliamentary Dialogue** is scheduled to be held on **December 11-12, 2014** in New Delhi, India.

This brief report is based on Joint Recommendations issued by Parliamentarians from India and Pakistan at the end of each one of the 5 rounds of Dialogues held so-far.

The report is meant to track status of implementation of recommendations made by MPs from the two sides. The objective of the report is to record and assess any progress that has taken place at the official level on various recommendations made by the MPs in 5 rounds of dialogues held since 2011.

The report is prepared for Parliamentarians from Pakistan and India joining the Dialogue in particular and Parliamentarians of the two countries in general in order to facilitate a coordinated follow-up by the two countries' Parliaments on efforts in Parliamentary diplomacy.

December 2014

Progress on the Implementation of Recommendations of the Pakistan-India Parliamentarians' Dialogues

Progress on the Implementation of Recommendations emanating from Pakistan-India Parliamentarians' Dialogues from January 2011 to December 2014 is assessed below in detail:

No.	Recommendations	Progress as of December 2014
1.	<p>Parliamentarians urged the two Governments to sustain the resumed dialogue between the two countries to speed up the process of achieving durable peace, recognizing, at the same time, the need for serious action on issues of concern for reinforcing the continuity of the dialogue process. Underscoring the need for a holistic approach on conflict resolution, Parliamentarians asked the two Governments to engage with each other on all issues, including issues relating to Jammu and Kashmir, through dialogue. They expressed the hope that the two Prime Ministers meet in New York to keep open doors for peace and good relations between Pakistan and India.¹</p>	<p>Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York on September 29, 2013 where an agreement was reached on pursuing peace on the Line of Control. This was to be done by holding regular meetings of the DG Military Operations. Talks on the Jammu and Kashmir issue were reserved till the resumption of the Composite Dialogue.</p> <p>Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also visited India to attend the Swearing-in Ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on May 25, 2014. During the meeting, the two premiers decided that the Foreign Secretaries should maintain contact and initiate the process of dialogue. However, India unilaterally cancelled the Foreign Secretary talks in August 2014.</p>
2.	<p>As there are wide spread concerns in Pakistan about the persistence of water problems relating to the flow of water during the sowing season and timely sharing of information in the Indus Basin, the Parliamentarians urge upon both Governments that such concerns be addressed within the framework of Indus Water Treaty 1960. This includes the resolution of any possible issues of water resources, jointly examining the issues of climate change and conducting environment impact assessment.² According to the Parliamentarians, the treaty had stood the test of time and should be complied in letter and spirit and the problems and the concerns in Pakistan be addressed to ensure the continuation of a cooperative joint approach to the resolution of these concerns.³</p>	<p>In the second round of the resumed dialogue, Secretary Water of the Government of India and Secretary Water and Power of Government of Pakistan met in New Delhi on March 27-28, 2012 to discuss the Wullar Barrage / Tulbul Navigation project. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The two sides reiterated their commitment to bilateral engagement in a spirit of constructive cooperation. They discussed their respective positions on the Project while reaffirming the commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty 1960. No further progress has been made on the issue since.</p> <p>Pakistan was to host the third round of Water Secretary level talks on Wullar Barrage. Ministry of Water and Power had proposed two sets of dates, which were August 27-28, 2013 to</p>

1. This recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V Held on September 19-20, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan. India Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>
2. This recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V Held on September 19-20, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan. India Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>
3. This recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue II Held on August 18-19, 2011 in New Delhi, India Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=494>

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No.	Recommendations	Progress as of December 2014
		<p>September 10-11, 2013. However, this meeting could not take place.</p> <p>It is important to note that since 2012, no Secretary level meetings have taken place between Pakistan and India for the resumption of the Composite Dialogue.</p>
3.	<p>Economic ties, related to both trade and investment, should be boosted through easing or removal of restrictions and considerations of a preferential duty regime.⁴ To this end, the Parliamentarians made the recommendation of immediately granting the MFN status to India.</p> <p>Generic drugs also represent an important trade sector, recommended Mps.⁵</p>	<p>Three agreements i.e. (i) Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters; (ii) Bilateral Cooperation Agreement on Mutual Recognition between PSOCA and BIS; and (iii) Agreement on Redressal of Trade Grievances between India and Pakistan were signed during the 7th round of Pakistan and India Commerce Secretaries' level talks held on September 20-21, 2012 at Islamabad. The agreements were ratified by Pakistan's Federal Cabinet on October 21, 2012.</p> <p>Arrangements have been implemented by both sides as of January 2014 to keep the Wahga-Attari Land Customs section open during all 7 days of the week.</p> <p>A Joint Business Forum of various corporations' Chief Executive Officers from India and Pakistan has met thrice since the formation of the current Government to explore areas of trade where cooperation can be increased.</p> <p>The MFN Status, or as it is revised as Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA) has not yet been officially granted by Pakistan to India.</p>
4.	<p>Implementation of agreements to open new transit routes across the line of control in Kashmir and at Kokhrapar-Monabao, as also commencing additional flights.⁶ This should also include opening up the Kokhrapar-Monabao route for trade as well.⁷</p>	<p>No progress has been reported on the issue so far.</p>
5.	<p>Easing travel restrictions is of the utmost importance and visa regimes to be implemented keeping in perspective those extended to friendly countries. The Parliamentarians</p>	<p>Visa agreement between the Government of Pakistan and the Government of India was signed at Islamabad on September 08, 2012 with</p>

4. This recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue II Held on August 18-19, 2011 in New Delhi, India Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=494>

5. This recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V Held on September 19-20, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan. India Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>

6. The recommendation was made at Pak India Parliamentarians dialogue II, held on August 18-19, 2011 in New Delhi, India. Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=494>

7. The recommendation was made at Pak India Parliamentarians dialogue V, held on September 19-20, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>

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	<p>believed that early action should be taken bilaterally to introduce various categories such as “trusted visitors programme” to include categories such as elected representatives, senior citizens, business persons, cultural and sports personalities, accredited journalists, former diplomats and various categories of students and researchers. Where feasible, multiple entry, 10-year, no city restrictions and no police reporting should be urgently pursued.⁸</p>	<p>the following key agreements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Visa Processing time for diplomatic visa is 30 days and 45 days for non-diplomatic visa. ii. Visitor visa for a maximum of five specified places for a longer period of up to two years with multiple entries only for (a) senior citizens above 65 years of age (b) national of one country, married to a national of other country (c) their children below 12 years of age accompanying parents. iii. Visa on arrival for senior citizens of more than 65 years of age has been operationalized at Wagha / Attari border since March 31, 2013. This is granted for 45 days with single entry, non-extendable / non-convertible. iv. Group Tourist visa for not less than 10-members and not more than 50 members in each group valid for upto 30 days and non-extendable will be operationalized after completing necessary formalities. Indian side has provided list of 20 tour operators while the list of Pakistani tour operators is not yet been provided by the Ministry of Interior. v. During a meeting of the Commerce Ministers of Pakistan and India in January 2014, both of them agreed in principle to ease the visa regime for businessman in order to facilitate cross border trade. <p>All current categories of visas stated above are being implemented by both sides except <u>Group</u></p>
6.	<p>Parliamentarians also urged the re-opening the Indian Consulate General in Karachi and opening a counterpart Pakistani Diplomatic Mission in Mumbai and strengthening air and shipping routes between Karachi and Mumbai.⁹</p>	<p>No progress on the subject has been made so far.</p>
7.	<p>International roaming facility on mobile telephone should be made available bilaterally. Pakistan and India should also be connected through optic fiber link.¹⁰</p>	<p>No progress on the subject has been made so far.</p>

8. The recommendation was made at Pak India Parliamentarians dialogue II, held on August 18-19,2011 in New Delhi, India. Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at

9. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V at New Delhi, India held on September 19-20, 2013. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>

10. The recommendation was made at Pak India Parliamentarians dialogue II, held on August 18-19,2011 in New Delhi, India. Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=494>

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No.	Recommendations	Progress as of December 2014
8.	Parliamentary Committees on both sides to be formed to undertake the issues relating to prisoners and fishermen ¹¹	No progress has been made so far. However, a Judicial Committee on Prisoners exists that was constituted in 2007 by the two Governments to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners. Judicial Committee on Prisoners visited India in 2012. However, the Indian side is yet to approach Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi with regards to the visit of the Indian side to Pakistani jails.
9.	The current initiatives to complete the transition from the current positive list approach to a small negative list should be finalized and ratified by end February 2012 and in the second stage, to further phase out the negative list by end 2012. ¹²	Negative list declaring 1209 items as non-tradable with India was approved by the Pakistani Cabinet on February 29, 2012. India has also developed a small negative list of 614 goods that cannot be traded with Pakistan. However, only after Pakistan grants the NDMA status to India will this negative list be further reduced. This would affectively reduce the non-tradable items to 100. However, since there are no updates on the NDMA, no further progress has been made.
10.	The process of seeking preferential trade agreements within the framework of SAFTA should be completed on priority basis. ¹³	Again, a decision was made by both India and Pakistan to grant Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA) to each other. However, no further progress on this has been reported thus far.
11.	The two Governments should undertake appropriate measures for minimizing sector specific barriers as well as foster a dialogue between the regulatory bodies of both sides. ¹⁴	Although the Trade Development Authority Pakistan exists as a forum to foster dialogue between businessmen from Pakistan with those from India, no such dialogue has been recorded between regulatory authorities such as Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to reduce sector specific barriers. However, Director General level talks have taken place between Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), Pakistan.
12.	It is also necessary to create an appropriate grievance-rederessal mechanism to facilitate clearance of trade consignments at land, sea and airports. Trade-facilitations measures for expeditious clearance of goods, harmonization of custom procedures needs to be undertaken expeditiously.	Agreement on Redressal of Trade Grievances between India and Pakistan has been signed on February 15, 2012

11. The recommendation was made at Pak India Parliamentarians dialogue II, held on August 18-19, 2011 in New Delhi, India. Joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=494>

12. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary dialogue III at Islamabad, Pakistan, held on January 17-18, 2012. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-01-18/pdf/JointStatementPak-IndiaParliamentaryDialogueIII.pdf>

13. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary dialogue III at Islamabad, Pakistan, held on January 17-18, 2012. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-01-18/pdf/JointStatementPak-IndiaParliamentaryDialogueIII.pdf>

14. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary dialogue III at Islamabad, Pakistan, held on January 17-18, 2012. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at

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	A customs cooperation agreement needed early conclusion. This should include valuation and mutual recognition of prescribed and approved quality standards. For facilitating this it was felt that a group under Finance / Revenue	
13.	While trade constituted an engine of growth encouraging investments by both countries, it would further deepen economic relations. The early conclusion of an Investment Protection Treaty along the lines with many other countries would enhance the confidence among the business community to undertake investment and realise the benefits of growing economic opportunities both countries had to offer. ¹⁶	No progress has been made on this so far
14.	Trade links cannot be strengthened or sustained without requisite financial and banking arrangements. It was noted with disappointment that the absence of such agreements had persisted for long. There was a need to open bank branches in each others countries. ¹⁷ Discussions between the central banking authorities must be undertaken quickly for enabling appropriate banking arrangements. Similarly permitting cross-border listing of stock indices and financial instruments should also be encouraged within the regulatory framework/ institutions in both countries. ¹⁸	Although the opening of bank branches across the border was discussed during the meeting of the Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan in January 2014, no further progress has been reported thus far.
15.	Cooperation between the two countries should be diversified to encourage tourism, sports, youth and cultural exchanges. ¹⁹	Slow progress on these initiatives.
16.	The two Governments should consider modifying the parade at Wagha / Attari border and make it more ceremonial and friendly. ²⁰	No progress has been reported so far.
17.	The Parliamentarians also made a recommendation to fully utilize and further expand newly built infrastructure at the Wahga-Attari border. ²¹	No progress has been reported so far.
18.	Both Governments to remove the ban / blockage on showing each other's news and entertainment channels and allow free exchange of print media. The awareness about each other on a daily basis should be elevated to a level that enables understanding, mutual respect, constructive co-operation and collective progress. ²²	No progress has been reported so far.

15. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary dialogue III at Islamabad, Pakistan, held on January 17-18, 2012. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-01-18/pdf/JointStatementPak-IndiaParliamentaryDialogueIII.pdf>

16. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary dialogue III at Islamabad, Pakistan, held on January 17-18, 2012. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-01-18/pdf/JointStatementPak-IndiaParliamentaryDialogueIII.pdf>

17. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V at New Delhi, India held on September 19-20, 2013. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>

18. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary dialogue III at Islamabad, Pakistan, held on January 17-18, 2012. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-01-18/pdf/JointStatementPak-IndiaParliamentaryDialogueIII.pdf>

19. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary dialogue III at Islamabad, Pakistan, held on January 17-18, 2012. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-01-18/pdf/JointStatementPak-IndiaParliamentaryDialogueIII.pdf>

20. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue IV at New Delhi, India held on August 23-24. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-08-24/pdf/JointStatement.pdf>

21. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V at New Delhi, India held on September 19-20, 2013. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>

22. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue IV at New Delhi, India held on August 23-24. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-08-24/pdf/JointStatement.pdf>

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19.	Partnership between media groups of both countries needs to be facilitated to help establish candid, regular communication, foster trust building and mutual respect. The parliamentarians noted the need for a new positive narrative of Indo-Pak relations. ²³ Attaching great importance to the electronic and other news Media on both sides, Parliamentarians urged for strengthening research-based reporting that can promote peace and business between the two countries on a long-term basis. ²⁴	Informal links between media groups exist between the two countries.
20.	Exchange of Students and teachers at the level of universities and specialised institutions, such as for medicine and technology. ²⁵	Slow progress on exchange of Universities and students.
21.	Exchange of youth delegations / facilitate study in each others universities/facilitate adequate representation of Pakistan in the South Asia University – New Delhi. ²⁶	No progress has been reported so far.
22.	Parliamentarians from Pakistan and India also agreed to strengthen Parliamentary ties and learn from best practices in the two countries on legislative and Parliamentary spheres. They also agreed that special ties should be built between the two Parliaments at the respective committee and friendship groups' levels. ²⁷	Although no such group exists in the Indian Parliament, the 14th National of Pakistan formed the Parliamentary Friendship Group for India. This has become a regular feature in successive Parliaments of Pakistan with the latest Group on India notified on September 29, 2013.
23.	Both countries to cooperate on Local Government issues. The agreement on cooperation in Local Government to be revisited and revised. ²⁸	No progress has been reported so far.
24.	Both the Governments may consider providing free medical treatment to all children and the poor when they travel to either country. ²⁹	No progress has been reported so far.
25.	Exchange of Medical Students to be promoted	No progress has been reported so far.
26.	The two countries should share best practices on polio eradication	No progress has been reported so far.
27.	Duty free import of generic drugs to each country must be promoted	No progress has been reported so far.

23. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue IV at New Delhi, India held on August 23-24. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-08-24/pdf/JointStatement.pdf>
24. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V at Islamabad, Pakistan held on September 19-20, 2013. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>
25. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue IV at New Delhi, India held on August 23-24. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-08-24/pdf/JointStatement.pdf>
26. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue IV at New Delhi, India held on August 23-24. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-08-24/pdf/JointStatement.pdf>
27. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue V at Islamabad, Pakistan held on September 19-20, 2013. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=649>
28. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue IV at New Delhi, India held on August 23-24. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-08-24/pdf/JointStatement.pdf>
29. The recommendation was made at Pak-India Parliamentary Dialogue IV at New Delhi, India held on August 23-24. The joint statement of the dialogue can be accessed at <http://www.pildat.org/events/12-08-24/pdf/JointStatement.pdf>



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