

PILdAT

Annual Report

2013-2014



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Foreword

Foreword by the President PILDAT

I am pleased to share the PILDAT Annual Report 2013-2014 covering the period from **July 01, 2013 to June 30, 2014**. We at PILDAT have continued to focus on issues close to our heart and the key highlights and achievements for PILDAT during the reporting period are:

- i. PILDAT began the first-ever assessment of Quality of Governance in Pakistan; developed an indigenous Framework to assess Quality of Democracy across Federal and 4 Provincial Governments and sought and received data from all 5 Governments based on the 25-indicator framework
- ii. PILDAT produced and launched the Pakistan Report on *Views on State of Democracy in South Asia: 2013: Comparative Analysis of Pakistan and India Reports* as a part of the State of Democracy in South Asia initiative through partnering with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi.
- iii. In a welcome development, responding to a plea by PILDAT, the Federal Ombudsman asked the National Assembly of Pakistan to provide the attendance records of MNAs to PILDAT.
- iv. Major Milestone achieved by PILDAT as the Government formed the Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) later renamed as National Security Committee (NSC) with a permanent Secretariat - Activating and restructuring the institutional decision-making institution on defence and national security has been one of the key planks of PILDAT's reform initiatives in establishing democratic civil military relations in Pakistan.
- v. PILDAT's analyses on a range of public policy issues as well as defence and national security sought by country's highest civil and military training institutions including the National School of Public Policy (NSPP) and the National Defence University (NDU).
- vi. PILDAT received Special Consultative Status at the United Nation's Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC)
- vii. A first-ever Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Defence Committees of Senate of Pakistan and Meshrano Jirga (Upper House) Afghanistan to hold defence specific Parliamentary Dialogues.
- viii. Advocacy with political parties ahead of May 2013 General Election resulted in three political parties PML-N, PPPP and PTI give more value to defence and national security issues in their Manifestoes.
- ix. Turkish President Abdullah Gul shared lessons on Civil-Military Relations with Pakistan delegation during a PILDAT-facilitated *Study Visit to Turkey*
- x. PILDAT Report on Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in First 100 days of New National and Provincial Governments was produced using Pakistan specific framework.
- xi. Public verdict on Performance of Governance and Democracy in First 100 Days of new Governments gauged through a nationally representative survey
- xii. Through Regional Parliamentary Dialogues with India and Afghanistan, a momentum was retained on improving bilateral relations.
- xiii. Parliamentary Friendship Groups on India and Afghanistan became more active by leading their respective Delegations in the Dialogues.
- xiv. PILDAT began publishing an in-house Monthly Monitor on Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan
- xv. A record high number number of Expressions of Interest - 2081 against 60 seats - received for the 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan

PILDAT initiative on broadening and deepening public discourse on civilian and Parliamentary oversight on Defence continued during the reporting period. PILDAT highlighted the analysis of National Internal Security Policy (NISP) for the benefit of Parliamentarians, who have to engage not just in policy analysis but find effective means to oversee the implementation of the policy.

PILDAT worked closely with major political parties on developing well-defined defence and national security policies and to outline those in greater clarity and detail in their respective manifestoes. The PILDAT Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations approached the new Government to share reform proposals on effective democratic oversight on Defence and National Security.

PILDAT continued with its initiative of assessing democracy in Pakistan, which continued to receive media attention and coverage. PILDAT interacted with leadership of the country on the basis of findings of its evaluations to generate democratic reform.

In continuing with our initiative of facilitating regional Parliamentary Dialogues for sound bilateral and regional relations between Pakistan and its neighbouring countries, we facilitated 4 Parliamentary Exchanges during the period between Parliamentarians of Pakistan and Afghanistan in Kabul and Islamabad respectively while an Indian Parliamentary Delegation also visited Pakistan to engage in a dialogue with their Pakistani counterparts to discuss way forward for improving Pakistan-India relations.

PILDAT has been advocating key reforms in the Electoral process for over a decade in Pakistan and we believe that Pakistan has made huge strides towards putting in place required Electoral Reforms ahead of May 2013 General Election. However, we at PILDAT believe that the less-than-satisfactory conduct of election on the polling day and the overall election management in general has once again pushed to the fore some major requirements for insulating electoral reforms in Pakistan. During the period, PILDAT reached to the Government, the ECP and other stakeholders advocating for a proposed Agenda on Electoral Reforms after the General Election. Some of the recommendations forwarded to the stakeholders included that the ECP should exercise Control, Superintendence and Discipline on Staff assigned for Election Duty, Better Training of Returning Officers & Polling Staff and Training of Polling Agents, monitoring and regulating spending by political parties during Election campaigns as well as increasing of Polling Stations & making those stations permanent, use of thumb impression to check bogus Voting, etc.

It was for the first time that in addition to using the IIDEA framework on assessing quality of democracy, PILDAT also created a Pakistan-Specific Framework to assess the quality of democracy in the first 100 days of the new Government – resulting in the score of 44.5%.

During the year, PILDAT was proud to continue our initiative of Youth Parliament Pakistan, moving on to launching the 6th batch. The Youth Parliament is a platform conceived, planned and implemented by PILDAT to inculcate in the youth the value of democracy and fact-based review and discourse on national policies on issues.

These initiatives and other modest contributions of PILDAT this year in strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan are being shared with you through this report. PILDAT management and staff are united in pursuing our mission for strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan. We are focused on instituting non-partisan monitoring framework for the elected representatives and legislatures while facilitating greater participation of all segments of the society in the democratic process and development of new political leadership.

We place a high emphasis on learning lessons from all aspects of our work to help us develop stronger and more effective programmes and initiatives. We value your opinion and support and therefore invite you to get in touch with us with any thoughts or feedback at info@pildat.org



Ahmed Bilal Mehboob
President

Islamabad
July 2014

Abbreviations & Acronyms

AJK	Azad Jammu Kashmir
AMPS	American Muslim Studies Program
APNS	All Pakistan Newspaper Society
ANP	Awami National Party
APC	All Parties Conference
BJD	Biju Janata Dal
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BNP-A	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
CGEP	Citizens Group on Electoral Process in Pakistan
CMR	Civil-Military Relations
CNIC	Computerized National Identification Card
COAS	Chief of Army Staff
CPNE	Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors
DAG	Democracy Assessment Group
DCC	Defence Committee of the Cabinet
DGCMR	Dialogue Group in Civil Military Relations
DPEC	District Polio Eradication Committee
ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
EU	European Union
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
GB	Gilgit Baltistan
ICT	Islamabad Capital Territory
INC	Indian National Congress
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
ISPR	Inter Services Public Relations
JDU	Jannata Dal United
JUI-F	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazlur Rehman)
JUI-S	Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Samiul Haq)
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
MEP	Member European Parliament
MJ	Meshrano Jirga
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
MNA	Member of National Assembly
MP	Member of Parliament
MPA	Member of Provincial Assembly
MQM	Muttahida Quami Movement
NA	National Assembly
NADRA	National Data Base and Registration Authority
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCP	Nationalist Congress Party
NESPAK	National Engineering Services of Pakistan
NFC	National Finance Commission
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
LEA	Law Enforcement Agencies
PAC	Public Accounts Committee
PML	Pakistan Muslim League
PML-N	Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz
PPPP	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian
PSC	Provincial Steering Committee
PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
SSCP	Support of the Solidarity Centre, Pakistan
SC	Supreme Court

UNICEF
WHO
WJ
YP
YPF

United Nation Children's Emergency Fund
World Health Organisation
Wolesi Jirga
Youth Parliament
Young Parliamentarians Forum

Basic Information

Name of the Organization

Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency – PILDAT

E-mail

info@pildat.org

Website

www.pildat.org

Formation Date

November 01, 2001

Legal Entity

Society registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860

Objective

To Strengthen Democracy and Democratic Institutions

Registration Date

September 19, 2002

Auditors

M. Yousuf Adil Saleem & Co.
(Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu)

Bankers

Faysal Bank Ltd and Bank Alfalah Ltd



Board of Directors

Board of Directors



Mr. Muhammad Javed Nawaz
Acting Chairman Board of Directors

Mr. Muhammad Javed Nawaz is the Managing Director of Agro Dev in Oman. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1980-83). He established 3 schools while he was the Chairman Board of Governors, Pakistan College, Muscut. He is a Law Graduate and has a post graduate degree in Business and Statistics. Mr. Nawaz was member of the First Group Study Exchange Team sponsored by Rotary International to visit California, USA in 1974.



Mr. Abdul Latif Mirza
Board Member

Mr. Abdul Latif Mirza has served as Manager Production Support, Technology Services, Saudi Hollandi Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Head, EDP Saudi Hollandi Bank, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Mr. Ismet Amin Khawaja
Board Member

Mr. Ismet Amin Khawaja is General Manager for Foundations Building Contracting Company, Ltd. He is Chairman of the Institution of Engineers Pakistan, Eastern Province Sub-Centre, Saudi Arabia. In October 2001, he was appointed Honorary Investment Counsellor for Eastern Region of Saudi Arabia by the Board of Investment, Government of Pakistan. Mr

Khawaja has been involved in a number of international projects.

Mr. Mohammad Haroon
Board Member



Mr. Mohammad Haroon is Senior Vice President / Assistant General Manager at the United Gulf Bank, Bahrain. He has served as an Investment Banker at Investment Corporation of Pakistan at Karachi and Peshawar; Manager, Senior Manager (Development), Acting Zonal Head, Senior Manager (Credit & Marketing for Gulf); and as Commercial Manager, National Bank of Pakistan, Peshawar, Abbottabad and Bahrain, 1974-1981.



Mr. Mohammad Jameel Bajwa
Board Member

Mr. Mohammad Jameel Bajwa has served as General Manager at the National Engineering Services of Pakistan (NESPAK), one of the largest multi-disciplinary consulting firms in Pakistan. His expertise is in Infrastructure Development. He has earlier worked in Nigeria as Project Manager of Kaduna State Housing Authority and has executed mega-scale projects in his field including housing projects in Pakistan and abroad.



Dr. Sania Nishtar
Board Member

Sania Nishtar, SI, FRCP, PhD, is the founder and president of the Heartfile, an NGO think tank. Her areas of interests are health systems, global health, broader

issues of governance and public-private relationships. She is also the founder of Pakistan's Health Policy Forum and provides support to many agencies in an advisory role. Internationally, she is a member of many Expert Working Groups and Task Forces of the World Health Organization and is currently a member of the board of the International Union for Health Promotion and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research. She is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council, the Clinton Global Initiative, the Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health, etc. She speaks to audiences around the world and has been extensively published in and quoted in the media. Sania Nishtar is the recipient of Pakistan's Sitara-e-Imtiaz, the European Societies Population Science Award, 16 gold medals and many accolades of the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge and the American Biographical Centre. Sania Nishtar holds a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of London and a Ph.D.



Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob
Secretary General

The founder President of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency – PILDAT, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob has over 25 years experience in senior management and advisory positions and over 10 years experience in design, planning and implementation of projects in the field of Parliamentary development, strengthening democratic institutions, democratization, political discourse, election monitoring and dialogues for reconciliation. Mr. Mehboob is considered an authority on political, legislative and electoral affairs of the country and is often invited to comment in the national and international media.

Mission Statement

“PILDAT will work for strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan by building the capability of and instituting non-partisan monitoring framework for the elected representatives and legislatures while facilitating greater participation of all segments of the society in the democratic process and development of new political leadership”



Activities During the Reporting Period

Democratic Civil-Military Relations in Pakistan

Under this initiative, a snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include:

Federal Government should pursue High Treason Case with complete fairness, PILDAT Forum

There was a general consensus in the PILDAT Public Forum on 'High Treason (Punishment) Act 1973 and its Implications' held on July 1, 2013 that the Federal Government should pursue the High Treason Case against General (Retired) Pervez Musharraf but it should be handled carefully with complete fairness and without any hint of ridicule to any State institution. Rule of Law is the most important principle to uphold in a civilized society and the prime objective of the case should be to establish the principle of supremacy of rule of law. It was also observed that by good governance the civilian Government can create its credibility and performance legitimacy which is greatly helpful in undertaking accountability of people who allegedly violated the Constitution.

Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi, Political & Defence Analyst, **Mr. Salman Akram Raja**, Senior Advocate Supreme Court, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Talat Masood**, Former Secretary Defence, **Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani**, Chairman Gallup Pakistan, and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, were speakers at the Forum. The Forum was well attended by Parliamentarians, academia, Civil Society and media.

PILDAT Forum on US Rebalance to Asia: Whither Pakistan

PILDAT organized a Discussion Forum on The U.S. Rebalance to Asia: Whither Pakistan on July 9, in Islamabad. **Mr. Ziad Haider**, a Washington-based Senior Attorney on National Security matters, was the keynote speaker at the Forum.



(L-R) Mr. Ziad Haider and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob at the PILDAT Forum



(L-R) Gen. (Retd.) Ehsan-ul-Haq, Mr. Mehboob and Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA at Forum to discuss Reforms in HDO

Mr. Ashraf Jahangir Qazi, Former Ambassador, and **Dr. Moeed Pirzada**, Senior Journalist/ Anchor, were the lead discussants in the Forum while experts on Foreign policy issues, academia, former ambassadors and members of PILDAT Dialogue Group on Civil Military Relations were present at the Forum.

Reforms in Pakistan's Higher Defence Setup an Urgent Necessity: Gen. Ehsan, former CJCS

In a PILDAT Roundtable Discussion on Restructuring the Higher Defence Organisation in Pakistan held on September 3, 2013, former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, **Gen. (Retd.) Ehsan ul Haq** shared his proposals on what he termed an urgent necessity on reforming the Higher Defence Organisation in Pakistan. **Gen. (Retd.) Ehsan ul Haq**, Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Pakistan (Oct 2004-Oct 2007), and Former Director General ISI (Oct 2001-Oct 2004), presented a paper written on the platform of PILDAT titled **Restructuring Higher Defence Organisation of Pakistan**.

Other key speaker at the session included **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA, former Defence Minister, (NA-222, PPP Hyderabad-V, Sindh), **Senator Rafique Rajwana**, (PML-N, Punjab) and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT. Parliamentarians, Members of PILDAT Dialogue Group on Civil Military Relations and Academia participated in the session.

Welcoming the restructuring of DCC recently as the Cabinet Committee on National Security by the Government, **Gen. (Retd.) Ehsan ul Haq** said that the restructured CCNS may require harmonization with the National Command Authority, where the Employment Control Committee has a similar composition. There is need to strengthen and articulate the role of the Ministry of Defence by having an empowered full time Minister of Defence to exercise authority over the Armed Forces on behalf of the Prime Minister. He advised against the PM holding this post himself. The Minister of Defence may also be included

in the Development Control Committee of the NCA as a Deputy Chairman. Ministry of Defence Production may revert to its earlier status of a separate division under the Ministry of Defence, headed by a Minister of State. The Ministry should primarily be manned by civilian staff except where the expertise of uniformed military personnel is inescapable. There is an urgent need to develop the capacity in the civil bureaucracy on defence matters. While empowering and articulating the functioning of the Ministry of Defence, it is essential to clearly delineate political /policy direction by the political leadership, and exercise of administrative authority by the civil bureaucracy from the operational control of the Armed Forces, which must firmly rest with the military authorities. There must be cognizance of the corporate interests of the Armed Forces and the need for operational autonomy. Establishment of an appropriate media/public relations office in the Ministry of Defence and integration of the Services Public Relations Organization with it are also required. He also said that the Defence Council should be made effective and functional.

President Abdullah Gul shares lessons on Civil-Military Relations during PILDAT Study Visit to Turkey

In a meeting with the Pakistan delegation on November 13, 2013 at Ankara, Turkey, **President of Turkey, His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Gul**, shared lessons on civil-military relations and the pre-eminence of civilian, democratic dispensation over the security sector. While both Turkey and Pakistan are proud of their Militaries, both civil and military have distinct domains that are essential to consolidation of democracy in two countries.

Mr. Abdullah Gul was addressing a visiting Pakistan delegation that called upon him at Ankara.

Mr. Gul said that Turkey and Pakistan have a special bond that can neither be put in words nor can be

understood by a third entity. The special relationship between the two countries is both a historic and futuristic relationship that goes beyond politics. Both countries have and will remain friends regardless of the political party in power in either country.

Mr. Gul said that democracy and pluralism are the preferred systems for both Turkey and Pakistan. While both countries have faced similar problems of military coups and financial crises, Turkey has dealt with these through economic and political stability. He hoped that Pakistan will also see a period of stability soon.

Congratulating Pakistan on the successful holding of General Election and transfer of power, Mr. Gul said that Pakistanis deserve accolades for the grace and political maturity through which democratic transition has been completed. He hoped that the ensuing period will that be of stability in Pakistan.

He highlighted that in order to move forward, energies of democratic governments should be focussed on setting their own houses in order. Energies focussed on internal political disputes instead weaken the countries. He said that while addressing the OIC summit in Tehran, he had shared the same thoughts with the countries of the Islamic World, failing which, either public uproar or foreign intervention would plague the OIC countries. Putting our own houses in order alone will be able to deal with the outside world adequately, he added.

Pakistan delegation was on a Study Visit to Turkey from November 11-15, that was facilitated by PILDAT. Under the leadership of **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, Chairman Pakistan Senate Defence Committee, the delegation includes **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA, former Defence Minister of Pakistan, **Senator Farhatullah Babar**, former spokesperson of the President of Pakistan, **Senator Mir Hasil Bizenjo**, President National Party, **Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan**



(L-R) Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed in conversation with the Chairperson of the Plan and Budget Committee of the Turkish Grand National Assembly

Leghari, MNA, former IT Minister, **Ms. Shaista Pervez Malik**, MNA, **Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA, **Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi**, former MNA and former Deputy Speaker National Assembly, **Mr. Cyril Almeida**, Senior Journalist, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Humayun Bangash**, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, former Governor Sindh and former Interior Minister, **Mr. Shahid Malik**, former Ambassador, **Mr. Tasneem Noorani**, former Federal Secretary, **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, senior Journalist, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT. **Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Haroon Shaukat** was also part of the Pakistan delegation's Call-on the President of the Republic of Turkey.

Study Visit to Turkey

The week-long study visit of Pakistani MPs and members of PILDAT Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations was undertaken in November 2013. The Study Visit, which was conceived, designed and facilitated by PILDAT, was focussed at learning and interactions in Turkey on democratic consolidation and democratic civil-military relations in Turkey.

The 16-member multi-party, multi-discipline Pakistan delegation was chaired by **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, (Islamabad- PML) and included **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA, Former Federal Minister of Defence, (NA-222 Hyderabad-V, Sindh, PPPP); **Senator Farhatullah Babar**, Former Spokesman President of Pakistan, (Khyber Pakhtukhwa-PPPP); **Senator Mir Hasil Bizenjo**, President National Party, (Balochistan, NP); **Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari**, MNA; Former Federal Minister (NA-173, D.G. Khan-III, Punjab, PML-N); **Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik**, MNA, (NA-278, Punjab, PML-N); **Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA, (NA-342, Non-Muslim-X, Sindh,



(L-R) Senator Farhatullah Babar, Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA and Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, former Deputy Speaker

PML-N); **Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi**, Former Member of National Assembly; former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan; **Mr. Cyril Almeida**, Senior Journalist; **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Humayun Bangash**, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey; **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, Former Governor Sindh; Former Federal Minister for Interior; **Mr. Shahid Malik**, Former High Commissioner of Pakistan to India; **Mr. Tasneem Noorani**, Former Federal Secretary Interior; **Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin**, Senior Journalist/ Analyst; **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT.

As part of its interactions in Turkey, the Pakistan delegation called on **H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gul**, President of the Republic of Turkey, **H.E. Mr. Cemil Cicek**, Speaker, Grand National Assembly of Turkey, as well as **H.E. Mr. Kemal Yardimci**, Deputy Defence Minister of Turkey, while detailed meetings were held with the Chairpersons of the Plan and Budget and Defence Committees of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

In order to understand how the Turkish National Security Council works, especially after the changes incorporated by the ruling AKP on civilian supremacy on the military, the Pakistan delegation met with and



Pakistan delegation during an interaction with a Turkish Think Tank

was briefed by H.E. Mr. Muammer Turker, Secretary General of the National Security Council, and his team, at the offices of the Turkish NSC.

Pakistan delegation also engaged in a candid conversation on civil-military relations in Turkey and prospects of Pak-Turkish cooperation with leading Turkish think tanks including the Turkish Asian Centre for Strategic Studies (TASAM), The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) and the International Strategic Research Organisation (USAK).

The Pakistan delegation also visited the Headquarters of the ruling AKP, as well as that of the principal opposition party, the Republican People's Party (CHP) where the delegation was briefed respectively by the Deputy Chairman of the AKP, H.E. Dr. Muzaffar Çakar and the Chairman CHP H.E. Mr. Kemal Kiliçdaroglu. The delegation also interacted with the Chair and members of the Saadet (Felicity) Party.

Prof. Dr. Ersel Aydinli, Associate Professor of International Relations at the Bilkent University, Ankara, gave a comprehensive briefing on Turkish journey towards democratic civil-military relations to the Pakistan delegation.

H.E. Mr. Burhan Kayaturk, MP and Chairman of the Turkish-Pakistan Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group of the National Assembly of Turkey alongside other members of the Friendship Group hosted the Pakistan delegation at a Luncheon reception.

The Study Visit received very gracious facilitation by Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, **H.E. Mr. Muhammad Haroon Shaukat** and his team as well as Turkey's Ambassador to Pakistan, **H.E. Mr. Babur Girgin** and his team.

Current Government is a weak Government under



Participants at the PILDAT Forum

Strong Rule of Law: Senator Pervaiz Rashid at Book Launch for 'Biting the Silver Bullet'

Federal Minister for Information said that Current Government is a weak Government under strong rule of law. **Senator Pervaiz Rashid** said that nation should be proud of their Government which upholds the Constitution and the rule of law. On the question of Gen. Musharraf case, he said that Government has nothing to do with the case and it is up to the courts to decide the fate of former dictator. He was speaking at a book-launching Forum on Biting the Silver Bullet organised by PILDAT on January 7, 2014.

Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said that the book is timely one and its contents are important keeping in mind the post-NATO withdrawal scenario in Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan has paid high costs in both human and material losses and Pakistan has lost more soldiers than the total number of NATO and US casualties in past one decade. He said that the Government has made a comprehensive policy to resolve all the issues with the neighbours. We must create an environment to save our next generation from hate.

Rana Athar Javed, author of the book, appreciated PILDAT for organizing the book launch ceremony.



Senator Pervaiz Rashid, Federal Minister for Information (centre) at a PILDAT Forum

Presenting the book to the audience, he said that although Pakistan as a state has its integral problems but the international community has never fully realised the contributions and sacrifices of Pakistan in war on terror. He said that Pakistan contributes significantly in UN peace-keeping missions across the world. He said that National security is discussed in a wider context in the book.

Lessons from Consolidation of Democracy in Turkey Shared

Lessons from consolidation of democracy in Turkey were shared in a Public Forum on January 9, with MPs, think tanks and media representatives at a PILDAT Public Forum.

Chaired by **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, (Islamabad-PML), the Speakers at the Forum included **Syed Naveed Qamar**, MNA, Former Federal Minister of Defence, (NA-222 Hyderabad-V, Sindh, PPPP); **Senator Farhatullah Babar**, Former Spokesman President of Pakistan, (Khyber Pakhtukhwa-PPPP); **Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari**, MNA (NA-173, D.G. Khan-III, Punjab, PML-N), Chair of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs; **Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik**, MNA, (NA-278, Punjab, PML-N); **Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA, (NA-342, Non-Muslim-X, Sindh, PML-N); **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Humayun Bangash**, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey; **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, Former Governor Sindh; Former Federal Minister for Interior; **Mr. Tasneem Noorani**, Former Federal Secretary Interior; **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT.

Opening the Forum, **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** appreciated PILDAT and its initiative to get



Senator Farhatullah Babar (left) sharing his views and analysis

together a diverse group of people to learn from Turkish democratic consolidation. He said that PILDAT has developed a strong role as a political yet non-partisan political think tank that is connecting Parliament and multi-party MPs on critical issues of public policy. Sharing details of the Study Visit, Senator Sayed said that meetings and interactions were held at the highest level of the President of the Republic of Turkey.

Senator Farhatullah Babar said that despite many similarities in Pakistan and Turkey, Pakistan's unique challenges include the large footprint of military in State and commercial affairs as well as the role of non-state actors in Pakistan. He said that the internal factors contributing to democratic consolidation in Turkey include economic development and political stability followed by constitutional reforms. The desire to have EU accession and to promote market economy is the external factors that have contributed to Turkish success in democratic consolidation.

Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, MNA, Chair of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, said that the visit provided avenues of great learning to him personally. Citing his written analysis emanating from the Study Visit, he said that economic consolidation preceded democratic



(L-R) Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Mr. Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, MNA and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider sharing lessons from Consolidation of Democracy in Turkey

consolidation in Turkey, followed by successful model of democratic civil-military relations. Financial and political discipline, alongside good governance, has been the major contributions of the Turkish political players to the betterment of Turkey today. He shared that the drive to change the current constitution of Turkey has not just been confined to the Parliament but the Turkish Parliament has involved citizens down to the village level to seek their input. Accountability of the military in Turkey by the AKP Government has been termed to be the greatest deterrent against future military interventions in Turkey.

Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA, Former Federal Minister of Defence, said that in order to understand democratic consolidation in Turkey, one must understand Turkish history. The secular ethos of Turkey, brought in by Kemal Ataturk, has largely defined Turkish history and the role of Turkish military in politics. Secularism and military both should not be this strong. Desire to join the EU and economic stability and political openness have stacked up to make Turkish story a success, he believed. Service delivery was recognised by Mr. Erdogan as the best model. Despite the party's religious moorings, the party has not started what he termed as talibanisation of the Turkish society, which is a critical lesson for Pakistan. Mr. Qamar said that a populist approach by Mr. Erdogan in foreign policy has begun to create rifts within Turkey's traditional allies in the Middle East. The current cracks appearing in Turkish polity, believed Mr. Qamar, have come about due to the desire to hold on to power by Mr. Erdogan. Both domestic and external forces will exploit those cracks. While Pakistan must learn from the good lessons Turkey has to offer, at the same time we should also learn from any mistakes that Turkey stumbles from, he added.

Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, MNA, said that the visit has provided her with an immense avenue of learning. Turkey's experience offers many useful lessons for Pakistan striving to consolidate democratic governance



Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA and Former Federal Minister for Defence sharing his analysis on the Turkey Visit



Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, MNA and **Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik**, MNA

and effective management of civil-military relations. The study visit was timely. Both Pakistan and Turkey have entered a new phase of their respective political histories. The debate over the democratic reforms and dynamics of civil-military relations has become a permanent feature of political discourse in Pakistan and Turkey. She believed that convenience and electoral strategy, already a growing cause for concern, can undermine AKP's ability to be a party that can also lead Turkey in future and ensure a balanced, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, MNA, said that the Turkish case is most relevant to Pakistan today as a democratic Government has moved to conduct a trial of a former military chief under article 6 of the Constitution of Pakistan. He said that the principle of secularism in Turkey is what Pakistan needs to learn from, in addition to good economic and political management.

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider, Former Governor Sindh and former Federal Minister for Interior, said that the Turkish success at democratic consolidation shows the dividends of performance legitimacy. He said that there is a lot to learn from Turkey's experience in the fields of political stability, Civil-Military Relations, Economic Reforms, Municipal Services and Quality Education. Having attained political stability, extensive economic reforms were undertaken in all sectors of economy. Turkish Political Parties are well organized and receive State funding according to the number of popular votes won in the elections. Political parties are linked to think tanks and have their own think tanks also.

Mr. Tasneem Noorani, Former Federal Secretary Interior, said that Islam as a religion has no role in State affairs in Turkey. The tide of the primacy of Turkish military in politics has been turned through Turkey's desire to join the EU and the economic management of the country under the AKP.

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Humayun Bangash, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, said that while his thoughts are reflected in his paper on the subject, he must add that Turkey has seen tremendous progress, which has contributed to reversing the role of military in politics.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, said that the Study Visit, which was conceived, designed and facilitated by PILDAT, was focussed at learning and interactions in Turkey on democratic consolidation and democratic civil-military relations in Turkey. He acknowledged with gratitude the very gracious facilitation of the Study Visit Programme by Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Haroon Shaukat and his team as well as Turkey's Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Babur Girgin and his team.

Presenting an overview of the Study Visit, Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director PILDAT, said that Turkey has made important strides towards creating a democratic balance of civil-military relations. The country's longest-serving Prime Minister since it became a democracy in 1950, Mr. Erdogan and his AK Party are key players in bringing about this change. Economic development, the resultant prosperity and a clean government have been the key indicators which have helped Mr. Erdogan win three successive elections with ever-increasing majorities. His coalition has included Islamists, nationalists, center-right voters and pro-business liberals. Mr. Erdogan has sway over the executive and legislative branches of government, as well as much of the media and business community. Many factors are ascribed to the "change" that has taken place in consolidating the primacy of the democratically-elected civilians in Turkey. The 'gradual change' brought about by Turkey's desire to join the European Union, the change in Turkish society with opening up and diversification in media, corporate

and business, a more aware citizenry have all contributed to democratic consolidation in Turkey. In terms of democratic civil-military relations, she said that perhaps the most instructive of all has been the trials and sentencing of the senior Turkish military officers which will contribute as a psychological deterrent against intervention of military in politics. Known as the Ergenekon trials, these have been based on a belief that there is a lingering "deep state," said to be a network of army officers, business leaders, secularists and arch-nationalists who seek to undermine and even overthrow elected governments. In the Ergenekon case, the administration of Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused the "deep state" of conspiring to cause social unrest, which would then provoke a military coup. Since Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan came to power in 2002, hundreds of military officers - serving or retired - including Generals and former Chief of Staff have gone to jail in the process. While some circles in Turkey also question fairness of prosecution and trials, they also believe these have offered a turning point for the Turkish military by driving home the point that it will certainly be held accountable for any political adventure. This has, believed Turkish analysts, resulted in instilling self-control which is the most important control than any other, she shared.

End of 2014 is not the end of NATO commitments and support in Afghanistan and the Region: NATO Officials

In a roundtable discussion with MNAs on February 12, 2014, NATO officials said that end of 2014 is not the end of NATO commitments and support in Afghanistan and the region.

Mr. Gilles Vander Ghinst, Head of the Partners across the Globe Section at the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO and **Mr. Nick Williams**, Head of Section 2 (Afghan operation) of NATO HQ



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed (centre) addressing the Roundtable Discussion with NATO delegation

Operations Division, NATO, were speaking at the PILDAT Roundtable on NATO Pakistan Partnership after 2014. The roundtable was chaired by **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, (Islamabad-PML) while **H.E. Mr. Petros Mavroidis**, Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan, and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, also spoke at the Roundtable. Parliamentarians, Ambassadors, former Ambassadors, Academia and media were present in large numbers in the roundtable.

H.E. Mr. Petros Mavroidis, Ambassador of Greece to Pakistan, was of the view that NATO is focusing on direct diplomacy between NATO and Pakistani citizens especially with the Parliamentarians to overcome the misunderstandings. He said that NATO wants to promote Pakistan-NATO relations in every aspect. Discussing Indian presence in Afghanistan, he said that India, like many other international players, is present in Afghanistan. He said that NATO does not have a mandate to support Pakistan in development but the EU is spending more than US \$ 2 billion in Pakistan on development and most of the EU countries are part of the NATO. He also said that it is not possible for NATO to seal the Pakistan Afghanistan borders.

Mr. Gilles Vander Ghinst said that the NATO supports democracy and welcomes the peaceful transition from one to another civilian democratic Government in Pakistan. He said that NATO recognises the sacrifices of the Pakistan Army and people in war against terrorism. The NATO wants to strengthen the relations. He said that there are some misunderstandings which we want to correct. Political dialogue like this is an important source to address the misunderstandings. The NATO wants input from Pakistan Government regarding NATO Pakistan partnership. Replying to a question he said that the NATO has trained some 2000 officials to control drug trafficking. He stressed that NATO has a supporting role in Afghanistan and cannot play any



NATO delegation members at the PILDAT Forum



Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Talat Masood and Senator Salim Saifullah Khan

mediator role between Pakistan and Afghanistan or any other peace talks.

Mr. Nick Williams said that Pakistan has some concerns regarding instability in the region after the NATO departure. He emphasised that end of 2014 is not the end of international community and the NATO's commitments and support in Afghanistan. International community recognises the support of Pakistan. He said that the stability of Afghanistan is not only in the interests of the NATO but it is in the interest of region and the world. He said that the NATO will build the capacity of Afghan forces and 8000 to 10000 NATO personnel will be in Afghanistan for training purposes but the final decision will be with Afghan Government. He said so far Afghanistan Government welcomes the presence of the NATO to train the Afghan security forces and the NATO is looking beyond 2014. He said that Afghanistan's relations with Pakistan are very important for the region. He believed that every operational plan and policy of the NATO in Afghanistan is in accordance with the UN resolutions. He said that most of the spending by NATO and US in Afghanistan was about development of infrastructure. He said that Afghanistan still cannot sustain without international support. Replying to a question he said that from Afghanistan's perspective, India is like any other country supporting Afghanistan.

Opening the Forum, **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** appreciated PILDAT for this initiative. He said that after the NATO's withdrawal the end of 2014, there would be a vacuum in Afghanistan and if Afghanistan remained unstable that could affect Pakistan as well and there could be millions of refugees returning to Pakistan. The stability of Afghanistan is important for Pakistan and for the region. He said that during NATO withdrawal there would be a NATO container entering Pakistan after every 10 minutes and it could damage the road infrastructure. He also emphasised that the international community must recognise Pakistan's

scarifies.

Parliamentary Oversight Mechanism Required to Oversee Implementation of National Security Policy

An appropriate Parliamentary oversight mechanism is required to oversee the implementation of the National Internal Security Policy, believed MPs and experts speaking at a Public Forum on National Internal Security Policy - An Analysis, organised by PILDAT on March 26.

With **Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi**, MNA, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, in the chair, the Forum included **Mr. Saleem Safi**, Analyst, **Sardar Awais Ahmad Leghari**, MNA, (PML-N) and Chairperson National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, **Ms. Shireen Mazari**, MNA (PTI), **Senator Farhatullah Babar** (PPPP), **Mr. Farooq Sattar**, MNA, Parliamentary Leader of the MQM in the National Assembly, **Mr. Tasneem Noorani**, former Federal Secretary Interior, and **Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) Shahzad Chaudhry**, Defence Analyst, as Speakers. A large number of Parliamentary representatives of leading political parties, academics, citizens groups and media representatives participated in the discussion at the Forum. A Discussion Paper, titled the National Internal Security Policy - An Analysis, commissioned by PILDAT and authored by Mr. Saleem Safi, was also unveiled at the Forum.

Mr. Saleem Safi said that the NISP offers a good first step and provides good coordination mechanism of LEAs. The NISP has expanded upon the parameters of dialogue by including civil society and imams of mosques, however political parties and MPs have not been consulted in preparing the NISP. Similarly Provincial Governments have also not been consulted. He said that after Government formation in June 2013, precious time has been wasted in preparing the NISP by

the PML-N. He said that even though the Government claims that the security agencies are on board with the NISP, informed sources state that the Military and Intelligence Agencies have reservations on the NISP and claim that they have not been consulted. The policy requires coordinated efforts for implementation and presumes that the various actors will cooperate. He said that despite tall claims by the Government, the CCNS Secretariat has not been made functional so far. Even though the NISP uses talks with Taliban as an option, the current framework of talks have been prepared outside the scope of NACTA. State institutions such as the Islamic Ideology Council have failed to provide the necessary counter-narrative because the leadership of it have been given as a political bribe and not based on merit.

Ms. Shireen Mazari, MNA, said that the NISP offers a good collation of data. Even though the Government had said that it will offer case studies of how other countries have tackled terrorism but these have not been provided in the policy. Qualification of who will head NACTA should have been provided in the policy. She also suggested that NACTA should have a technical board. She believed that while the NISP offers tactics, it provides no policy. She agreed with Mr. Safi that internal policy can not be seen in isolation. She added that Dis-engage, isolate and terminate are the 3 pronged strategy of the PTI in dealing with terrorism. Police needs to be depoliticised and de-weaponisation has to be undertaken in Karachi.

Sardar Awais Ahmad Leghari, MNA, said that an across-the-political spectrum consensus exists on stricter border management in Pakistan, as presented by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. He noted that the NISP rightly mentions border control; and management as a critical area of internal security. Mr. Leghari highlighted the threat posed by sectarianism and said that Pakistan needs to put in place



(L-R) Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MNA, Mr. Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, MNA, and Mr. Saleem Safi discussing the NISP

a clear-cut policy.

Presenting an analysis of the NISP, **Mr. Tasneem Noorani** said that the policy mentions dialogue as the most preferred though not the only option. How would the criminal justice system be strengthened has been left unsaid in the policy? While everything in the policy is dependent on NACTA, there seems to be no hurry to have a credible head for NACTA. He said that the policy has detail organogram of bodies to be setup but very guarded and caution on the tough issues. The only thing that stands out of policy is Dialogue as the main plank of the policy.

Air Vice Marshall (Retd.) Shahzad Chaudhry said that the NISP is a good beginning but the Parliament needs to improve upon it. He said that while terrorism poses an existential threat to Pakistan, the role of State is in providing good governance and its policy formulation is indicative of protecting the people. Fighting terrorism is an art and a science while it is being dealt with as a philosophy. Intelligence collation is a problem in every country.

Senator Farhatullah Babar said that running with hares and hunting with hounds can not constitute as a policy of the State. Threat from non-State actors that are even protected by the State should have been discouraged in the policy. This major threat perception has not been dealt with in the NISP. He said that the split policy is not that of the political Governments but that which has been adopted by the State institutions overtime. He said that there exists a disconnect between the civil society, political society and the security apparatus. This disconnect should be acknowledged before it can be addressed. He said that the Interior Minister has been on record on the floor of the Senate that there exists a disconnect in the civil and the military but the policy created under his Ministry does not acknowledge it. He said that the policy appears to be a hastily-done document, at places copying sentences and phrases from various documents such as the US Patriot Act and the US National Security Policy.



Senator Farhatullah Babar sharing his views on the NISP



(L-R) Mr. Shahzad Chaudhry and Mr. Farooq Sattar, MNA

He said that media is a powerful actor in developing the narrative, an aspect which has not been covered under the NISP. For Border management, while the policy mentions NACTA, Interior Ministry and SAFRON as the key institutions charged with this, the Foreign Office is conspicuous by its absence from the list. He said the most worrisome aspect in the NISP is the way the role of the ISI has been defined, as mentioned on page 76 of the NISP, which says that law enforcement constitutes one of the functions of the ISI. He questioned how law enforcement is a role of the ISI when the ISI's functions itself are not governed under a law. The role of the ISI is intelligence gathering only, he added.

Mr. Farooq Sattar, MNA, Parliamentary Leader of the MQM in the National Assembly, said that the country is in a race against time against those elements that wish to impose their version of religion on the majority of the population. He said that radicalisation of the State and Society of Pakistan is the biggest problem and the root cause of crises facing the country. However, he lamented, that there exists no uniformity of view on this root cause, which is essential for finding a unanimous solution. Without de-radicalising the State and Society, and without ownership of all segments, no policy will work in this respect. This lack of clarity has led to a scenario in which the world capitals are questioning whether Pakistan is a successful or a failed State. He said that the NISP should indeed be Pakistan's National Security Policy.

Opening the Forum, **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT, said that Pakistan has unveiled its first ever National Internal Security Policy (NISP) after 67 years of its existence. The NISP was presented in the National Assembly on February 26, 2014 after the approval of Federal Cabinet. Being the first-ever policy of its kind in the country, the NISP is worth analysing at all relevant forums in the country. She said that PILDAT has organized the Forum for MPs and Political Parties so as to provide a critical analysis of the NISP for the

benefit of Parliamentarians, who have to engage not just in policy analysis but find effective means to oversee the implementation of the policy both in the short and the long-term. She said that PILDAT believes that now that a policy is in place, the critical question is that of the need for a review and oversight mechanism in place for the policy. She raised questions such as whether the Government is planning on presenting a periodic review of the implementation of the NISP and present it to the Parliament? She presented the example of the UK Government's annual report on Strategic Defence and Security Review in this regard. She also drew the attention of Parliamentarians to the question on the role of the Parliament in overseeing implementation of the NISP. Would a special body like that of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security be put in place to oversee the implementation? Again, drawing on the UK example, she shared that in the UK Parliament, for instance, when the first National Security Policy of the UK Government was launched in October 2010, a special Joint Committee of the UK Parliament on National Security Strategy was formed as a Committee of both Houses of the UK Parliament to consider the UK National Security Strategy. The Committee brings together 22 members of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, including the chairs of the relevant Commons departmental select committees to consider the National Security Strategy.

Balance Between Tough Anti Terrorism Legal Regime and Respect for Human Rights Must Be Maintained by the Parliament: PILDAT Forum

Speakers at the Public Forum on Protection of Pakistan Bill, 2014, held on April 10, remained divided on whether the PPO 2014 should be promulgated in its current form or it should be amended to uphold respect for human rights.

In an intense discussion, speakers, while they agreed that Pakistan faces exceptional circumstances of

security, disagreed whether the PPO 2014 offers excessive and unconstitutional or the right amount of powers to the security agencies to fight the war against insurgency.

Ms. Ayesha Hamid, Advocate High Court, **Mr. Ali Zafar**, Advocate Supreme Court and **Senator Farhatullah Babar** (PPPP; KP) spoke at the Forum while they were joined by **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, **Senator Hasil Bizenjo** (NP; Balochistan) and **Mr. Wazir Jogezi**, former Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan. A large number of MPs, experts, and media persons joined the PILDAT Forum.

Presenting an overview of the PPO 2014, **Ms. Ayesha Hamid** said the PPO and specifically the PPO (Amendment) Ordinance 2014 are a direct response, in letter though not in spirit, to the observations and order(s) dated 10.12.2013 of the August Supreme Court of Pakistan in the Human Rights Case No.23388-K of 2013 viz the Mohabbat Shah case. Ms. Hamid believed that it would have been wiser to amend the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 [as amended vide Anti-Terrorism (Second Amendment) Act 2013(ACT XX of 2013)], if required, or preferably to strengthen agencies, charged with prosecution of those accused of the scheduled offences rather than creating a new controversial law which attempts to remedy the failure(s) of the prosecuting and policing agencies by granting the same wide and unfettered discretionary powers in terms of arresting and searching suspects without warrants, conducting trials in secret and meting out harsher punishments. She said that it would appear that the PPO (Amendment) Ordinance 2014 has been promulgated to retrospectively give legal cover to the heretofore illegal detention of the 'missing persons.' She said that it is recognized that in Pakistan there is an abiding threat to judicial officers and prosecutors involved in the prosecution of terrorists, most recently



Ms. Ayesha Hamid, Advocate, presenting her analysis on the PPO 2014 alongside Senator Hasil Bizenjo and Mr. Mehboob

seen in the terrorist attack on the Islamabad District and Civil Courts on March 3, 2014. However, the solution lies in beefing up the protection afforded to judges and prosecutors and strengthening the institutions of the judiciary as well as the prosecuting agencies and not in making the proceedings of the trials for the scheduled offences secret. She said that given that there are 2 separate petitions, one pending before the August Supreme Court and the other before the Honourable Islamabad High Court, challenging the vires of the PPO and in the light of the order dated 10.12.2014 passed by the August Supreme Court and given that the PPO has serious ramifications for citizens' human rights, Parliament must ensure that the law meets the serious and urgent requirements of containing terrorism as well as meet the needs of protecting human rights. Following are some recommendations for consideration by legislators who may wish to amend the PPO and the PPO (Amendment) Ordinance 2014 so as to:

- Make it inapplicable to the Civil Armed Forces
- Curb the powers of arrest & search without warrant
- Curb the powers of firing upon suspects on 'reasonable apprehension'
- Make preventive detention subject to Review Boards as per provisions of Article 10 of the Constitution
- Remove the bar to the jurisdiction of the High Court(s)
- Allow public trials
- Make it compulsory for the accused to be informed of the charges against them and make it incumbent upon the authorities to release the information regarding location of detainees
- Remove the power of the special court to deprive an offender of his citizenship
- Reverse the burden of proof; the prosecution agency must prove its case against the accused rather than rely on adverse presumptions against the accused



Mr. Ali Zafar (Right) sharing his views on the PPO 2014



Senator Farhatullah Babar (Right) sharing his analysis on the PPO 2014

- Remove the retrospectivity of the PPO; illegal detentions and enforced disappearances cannot be ratified and given legal cover through the PPO

Mr. Ali Zafar said that the PPO 2014 is one of the most crucial laws and apt in response to security challenges facing Pakistan. He said that exceptional circumstances call for exceptional measures. We are facing a war and we require adequate legal regime to ensure that battles that we fight and in battlefield, we should not lose those in the Courtrooms. Quoting Lincoln, he said that the State comes before the Constitution and human rights. Referring to the US Patriotic Act, he said that while it is known as draconian laws in every respect, the US Supreme Court upheld the Patriotic Act. Quoting a recent verdict of the New York Federal Court, he said that the Court ruled that reasonable suspicion gives US intelligence agencies the right to shoot on said and that protection of the State precedes the individual human right. Similarly, he said the anti terrorism law in India, known as TATA was upheld by the Supreme Court of India. Emphasising his point he said that the PPO 2014 offers the right balance and opposition for the sake of opposition would not serve the interests of the State. He warned that if we do not become part of the solution, we will become part of the problem. He believed that the opposition should work together with the treasury benches to amend the law by adding protection of witnesses, judges and prosecution. The law should also incorporate forensic science as evidence. He said that the detention provision exists in all anti terrorism laws around the World and at the end of the day, Constitutional right to recourse is available to citizens.

Senator Farhatullah Babar said that while nobody disagrees with the objective of the law, there are fundamental problems with the current provisions. He believed that the definitions in the law should include such non-State actors that use the soil of Pakistan to engage in subversive and terrorist activities outside the borders of Pakistan. The law, he believed, gives the

license to kill to civil and military LEAs there by allowing extra-Judicial killings. Military agencies have been given police powers but these do not answer to civil accountability. The law no longer requires civil and military agencies to obtain a warrant to enter into a house. Detention period of 90 days can not be questioned by any Court or Parliament under the law. This, he warned, would amount to legalizing enforced disappearances. He said that the law in its current shape will breed resentment. He also questioned dispossessing a convict of nationality and rendering a person Stateless. The law must contain provisions of recourse against misuse.

Earlier, opening the Forum, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, said that the Protection of Pakistan Bill 2014 raises the classic question of maintaining a balance between tough Anti Terrorism Legal Regime and respect for Human Rights. Pakistan is facing a war and it needs to be ensured that Parliament strikes a well-considered and right balance to the State to effectively fight the war.

PILDAT Dialogue Group on Civil-Military Relations Proposes Reforms

- i. Civil-Military Leadership should demonstrate cohesion**
- ii. CCNS should at least meet on fortnightly basis**
- iii. PM should appoint a full-time Defence Minister**

In the meeting held on April 17, 2014, the Dialogue Group on Civil Military Relations convened by PILDAT noted with concern that the Civil Military relationship in Pakistan in recent weeks has suffered a set back for various reasons. At a time when the country faces critical internal and external challenges, the leadership of both Civil and the Military institutions needs to secure and demonstrate cohesion, mutual trust and respect.



(L-R) Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Mahmud Ali Durrani and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Talat Masood at the PILDAT Meeting



(L-R) Vice Admiral (Retd.) Khalid Mir and Mr. Omar Khan Afridi

The Group stressed that the Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) has been designed to be an effective channel of communication and both sides should use this forum and refrain from making public statements. The CCNS should start meeting, at least on a fortnightly basis, to discuss the enormous challenges facing the country and to make sure that all the stakeholders are on the same page on issues of national security. Informal one-on-one meetings between the Prime Minister and the COAS are not a substitute for structured meetings of the Cabinet Committee on National Security. Issues such as the question of release of prisoners, dialogue with the TTP, the emerging situation in Afghanistan, the situation in Balochistan and the PPO, etc. are some of the questions that should be discussed regularly in the CCNS.

The Group has stressed that the Prime Minister should appoint a full-time Defence Minister who can give full attention to such an important ministry. Similarly, the Premier should also appoint a full time Foreign Minister and a full-time National Security Advisor.

The Group also emphasised that while Gen. (Retd.) Pervez Musharraf, like every Pakistani citizen, should be given all the opportunities for a fair trial, efforts by all State organs should be made to ensure that the law takes its course in an unhindered manner. It is the responsibility of the Government and all its institutions to educate citizens on the significance of uniform applicability of the rule of law and the vital importance of strengthening authentic, accountable democracy.

Members who joined the meeting, with **Gen. (Retd.) Ehsan-ul-Haq** in the chair, included **Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Athar Abbas**, former DG ISPR, **Mr. Omar Khan Afridi**, former Federal Minister, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Humayun Bangash**, former Ambassador, **Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Mahmud Ali Durrani**, former National Security Advisor, **Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider**, former Governor Sindh, **Mr. Javed Jabbar**,

former Federal Minister, **Lt. Gen (Retd.) Talat Masood**, former Secretary Defence Production, **Vice Admiral (Retd.) Khalid Mir**, former Ambassador, **Mr. Rustam Shah Mohmand**, former Federal Secretary; **Mr. Asraf Jahangir Qazi**, former Ambassador, **Mr. Saleem Safi**, Senior Journalist, **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT and **Ms. Aasiya Riaz**, Joint Director PILDAT.

Parliament of Pakistan should consider appointing Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation in Pakistan: Lord Carlile

Pakistan should consider appointing Independent Reviewer of Anti Terrorism Legislation, recommended **Lord Alex Carlile**, QC and former Independent reviewer of Terrorism Legislation in UK. He was addressing a PILDAT Forum on Anti Terrorism Laws and Human Rights in Islamabad on April 24, 2014.

Other than Lord Carlile, the key speakers at the Forum included **Barrister Zafarullah Khan**, Federal Secretary Law, **Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani**, Chairman Islamic Ideology Council, **Mr. Tasneem Noorani**, Former Federal Secretary Interior, and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT. The Forum was attended by Parliamentarians, Academia, Lawyers, members of civil society and media in large numbers.

Sharing the UK experience, Lord Carlile said that the principle behind good counter terrorism laws is that these should be seen as normal and not exceptional and no Government should be able to take liberties with the law. The power of judicial review in UK as in Pakistan is available. He said that the UK law changed over the years from the initial custody of foreign terrorist suspects to now what are known as control orders. He also said that the range of human rights argument is narrower in UK than in Pakistan and while the intent of

the PPO 2014 appears to be right, a greater scrutiny of text by the Pakistan Parliament may be required.

However a comprehensive anti terrorism regime in any country is not complete without trained police force and judges. Both police and judges are trained to try and convict criminals based on evidence and not confession. He also offered the UK assistance, through the British a High Commission in Pakistan, to provide capacity building and support to the Government of Pakistan in this regard.

Finally, he said, preventing violent extremism is a key part of anti terrorism legal regimes. UK has very active prevention programmed through which young and radicalized individuals are identified, drawn into a therapeutic session and are helped to find more lawful expressions. UK, in this process, has saved many dozen young men in this respect. Preventing terrorism is another area where UK is willing to help Pakistan, he offered.

Speaking at the Forum, Barrister Zafarullah Khan, Federal Secretary Law, said that a revised PPO 2014 draft, upon the direction of the Prime Minister, has been given afresh to political parties for review. The rationale behind the law is to bring into force a tougher anti terrorism law to tackle the tough challenge of combating terrorism in Pakistan. He said that the revised law, based on input by opposition parties in the National Assembly, takes into account some of the main concerns. The law should be taken as a work in progress but it should also be kept in mind that we need extraordinary laws to deal with extraordinary circumstances. He said if the law needs to be extended to FATA, the Parliamentarians of the FATA should be consulted first. He said that according to the Constitution any enemy alien could be treated equally like the citizens of Pakistan.



Barrister Zafarullah Khan (2nd from left), alongside Lord Alex Carlile, and Mr. Tasneem Noorani

Maulana Muhammad Khan Shirani said that article 3 and 14 of the PPO 2014 deny Pakistanis their basic rights. He said that there should be dialogue between Islam and west to understand each other's perspective.

Mr. Tasneem Noorani said the country is facing hostile circumstances and the Government has to make laws to protect its people. The PPO 2014 appears to be an attempt to provide both greater powers and legal cover to Armed Forces. He said that the law should be supported in principle with some amendments. Most of the provisions in the law are meant to protect judges and witnesses.

Institutions Need to be Used for Policy Making and Conflict Management: PILDAT Forum on Democratic and Parliamentary Oversight of Defence in Pakistan

While there have been positive developments in Democratic and Parliamentary oversight on defence and national security in Pakistan, consistent work is required on improving institutional structures. Unless institutions are used for addressing key issues and conflict management, these will become irrelevant. These were the views expressed by Speakers at the PILDAT Public Forum Democratic and Parliamentary Oversight of Defence in Pakistan held on June 19.

With **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, in the Chair, the keynote analysis was presented by **Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi**, Defence and Political Analyst, while leading Senators, MNAs and subject experts joined in the discussion at the Forum.

Speaking at the Forum, Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi said that Pakistan has seen important developments in democratic oversight of defence and national security as the military is more willing to interact with civilians. This is owing to the realisation that issues such as war on terrorism can not be resolved without civilian's ownership.



Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi addressing the meeting



Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jozegai and Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

Reviewing the performance of Parliamentary Standing Committees on Defence, he said that in the National Assembly, 6 months were wasted in activation of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence. The Committee has played a limited role and it needs to be enhanced given that defence is one of the most important sectors and second largest ticket item of the national budget. Dr. Askari believed that civilians need to expand their domain in a consistent and responsible manner. The Senate Defence Committee, in comparison, has continued to expand its domain by enhancing public education through public hearings, Committee's publications, its international interactions and maintaining a website, etc. The Committee is setting a good example of how to expand space and is leading the way on how civilians can expand their role on defence oversight, said Dr. Askari.

Commenting on the constitution of the National Security Committee (NSC), he said that while it is laudable, the Committee has hardly been used. Unfortunately, for security policy making, informal methods are more important than formal methods in Pakistan such as the informal meetings between the Prime Minister and the Army Chief. Despite the existence of the NSC, meetings of all the members of NSC are held in the Prime Minister House but without the rubric of NSC.

Dr. Askari also said that the role of Ministry of Defence needs to be reviewed. The Ministry has only had two civilian bureaucrats in the past 14-15 years. Role of Defence Minister is quite irrelevant and Minister is there for only procedural matters. He said that either the country should not have a Defence Minister or have an empowered Defence Minister.

Speaking at the Forum, **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence said that the Committee has indeed taken important initiatives such as a work plan, publication of reports, maintenance of website and producing media

manual on Defence Budget and Cyber Security, etc. The Committee also took the initiative of creating a Defence Reporters Forum. The Committee also initiated Parliamentary Security Dialogue with Afghanistan, China, Saudi Arabia and NATO. The Committee has made important interventions in asking that the National Security should be redefined – it can no longer be based on military might alone but must include Parliament, Political Parties, Economy, Education, Energy and Rule of Law as important elements. Secondly, threats to national security are no longer just India-centric but the new threats are non-Military and non-conventional threats including cyber security, climate change and Anti-Pakistan propaganda.

Earlier, Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director PILDAT, said that PILDAT has been analysing the performance of defence-related Standing Committees of the Parliament as well as that of the Government over the years under the overall objective of strengthening Democratic and Parliamentary oversight on defence and national security in Pakistan. She said that PILDAT is mindful of the fact that the democratic institutions like the Parliament and Parliamentary committees have not developed over the years due to repeated military intervention and long spells of autocratic or semi-autocratic regimes led by military. The performance reviews, therefore, are meant to assist the institutions in their oversight functions. The purpose of the analysis is to examine the exercise of available powers of the Democratic Government and the Parliament with regards to Parliamentary oversight of defence and security sector in the light of the Constitution of Pakistan.

The Federal Government should be credited in restructuring the Defence Committee of the Cabinet as National Security Committee with a formal secretariat. Replacing the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC), which had no independent secretariat, staff or support infrastructure, the new Committee was formed by creation of an independent Secretariat and two subsidiaries, the Planning Committee and an Advisory Board. However the NSC can only be effective if it holds regular meetings – at least once a month - on security challenges facing the country. It will be appropriate that the rules of business of the NSC should clearly stipulate the periodicity of its meetings. It is also pertinent to mention here that the UK NSC meets on a weekly basis, chaired by the Prime Minister while the Turkish NSC meets on a bi-monthly basis.

Even though the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence was activated after 6 months of

the formation of the 14th National Assembly, the Committee has progressed a step forward. The Committee reviewed the budgetary proposals and finalised recommendations on Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). They also asked the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) to brief the Committee members on the security situation of Pakistan, among others. However, comparing to the work of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence needs to both engage in greater oversight as well as produce reports and lay those in the House. Since its re-constitution in June 2012, the Senate Standing Committee on Defence has set important trends of putting in place a comprehensive work plan, holding public hearings on Defence issues and publishing reports of the Committee.

She shared that this is the first Parliamentary year in which PILDAT has reviewed the performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior & Narcotics Control. The major work done by the Standing Committee on Interior during the year was the approval of the Protection of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill 2014 (PPO) by a majority. The Committee must have invited experts' opinion on the PPO as well as other pieces of legislation under its review. During the period, Pakistan also unveiled its first ever National Internal Security Policy (NISP). It is unclear whether the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior reviewed the National Internal Security Policy (NISP) before it was unveiled. However, now that a policy is in place, the critical question is that of the need for a review and oversight mechanism in place for the policy. One of the foremost tasks of the Committee in the future will be the oversight and review of the implementation of the NISP.

Elections and Electoral Reforms

Under this initiative, a snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include:

PILDAT Citizens Forum on Agenda for Electoral Reforms after 2013 General Election

The Government, Parliament and the Election Commission must consider required electoral reforms, fresh after the experience of General Election 2013, in order to ensure Pakistan can have its 11th General Election as free and fair. These views were expressed at the PILDAT Citizens Forum organized on July 16 on Agenda for Electoral Reforms after 2013 General Election.

Syed Sher Afgan, Additional Secretary/ DG Elections, Election Commission of Pakistan, **Mr. Tariq Malik**, Chairman NADRA and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President PILDAT, spoke at the Forum.

Sharing ECP's perspective, Syed Sher Afgan said that in order to introduce certain reforms, legislative changes and new legislation are required. Mr. Afgan said that ECP is planning to hold a post-election workshop to get public feedback on the conduct of General Election 2013. He said that Election Commission is working to enhance the campaign period which is currently 22 days and ECP seeks to enhance it to 30 days. Speaking on the mechanism to monitor and regulate spending by the Political parties, he said there is no such law through which spending by the political parties can be monitored or a limit can be set to them, for which a change laws is required. He said ECP has sought data of political campaigns run on electronic media from PEMRA and different media houses, and analysis has been carried out on how much a party has spent on the electronic media for campaign.

This analysis will be made public in a few weeks. As the term for the current members of the ECP will finish just before the next election, the Parliament should ensure that those with required election experience should be appointed as members and the CEC. He also said that only election tribunals can order to verify the thumb impression on the ballot papers in case they receive any complaint.

We should learn from our mistakes and nothing should deter us from making our electoral system fool proof, said Mr. Tariq Malik. We have used technology to our advantage. 55.1 million people checked their votes through SMS technology. He also offered NADRA's support for any legislative changes that may be required to improve the conduct of all future Elections in a free and fair manner. Form 14, 15, 16 and 17 should be on the ECP website, he supported. The polling staff which is trained by the ECP should actually be deployed. He said that he did not receive a single complaint on the computerised electoral rolls as yet.

Speaking at the Forum, Mr. Mehboob said that while Pakistan made huge strides towards putting in place required electoral reforms ahead of May 2013 General Election, the less-than-satisfactory conduct of election on the polling day in particular and overall election management in general has once again pushed to the fore some lingering and some new requirements for instituting electoral reforms in Pakistan. PILDAT, which has been advocating key reforms in the electoral process for a decade in Pakistan, feels that Pakistan's new Government, Parliament and the Election Commission should re-visit, and put in place, the set of reforms that are critical to ensuring a fool-proof system and a level-playing field to all contestants in every Election. The process for instituting required reforms should begin right away while the lessons learnt from the most recent electoral exercise are still fresh in our



(L-R) Mr. Tariq Malik, Chairman NADRA, Mr. Mehboob and Syed Sher Afgan, Additional Secretary ECP

mind.

Sharing PILDAT's proposed Agenda of Electoral Reforms in Pakistan, Mr. Mehboob said that the ECP should exercise Control, Superintendence and Discipline on Staff assigned for Election Duty. Better training of Returning Officers & Polling Staff and Training of Polling Agents is also required. He added that monitoring and regulating spending by political parties during Election campaigns as well as increasing of Polling Stations & making those stations permanent also constitute unfinished agenda. He also said that use of thumb impression to check bogus Voting; Voter identification using thumb impression; Polling-station wise statement of count on the ECP website as soon as it is received in the ECP are also required. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) should also be employed. Mr. Mehboob also reiterated PILDAT's proposal that qualifications to become CEC or EC Members must be amended in the Constitution.

A PILDAT Policy Brief titled Agenda for Electoral Reforms in Pakistan After 2013 General Election was also shared at the Forum. The brief documented the required reform proposals in the light of experiences of 10 General Elections in Pakistan.

Government Supports Making Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms: Zahid Hamid

Mr. Zahid Hamid, MNA and Federal Minister of Science and Technology, has said that a Parliamentary committee on Electoral Reforms is to be constituted soon. Parliament will provide the required leadership to institute electoral reforms that had either not been put in place before General Election 2013 or the need for which has been felt after the General Election.

He was addressing the Inter-Provincial Roundtable on Required Electoral Reforms in Pakistan organised by PILDAT on October 10.



(L-R) Justice (Retd.) Ssaeed-uz-Zaman Siddiqui, Mr. Arif Nizami and Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider



(R-L) Ms. Anusha Rahman Khan, MNA and Mr. Zahid Hamid, MNA, address PILDAT Roundtable

Speaking at the Roundtable, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, expressed concern on delay in verdict by the Election Tribunals within the legally-mandated period to decide petitions in 4 months. He said that compared to the previous elections where Election Tribunals only worked part-time, after May 2013 General Election, an increased number of dedicated election tribunals have been put in place to take care of electoral complaints. 14 Election Tribunals have been formed on June 3 through a notification by the ECP. The tribunals are legally mandated to decide the petitions within 4 months (The ROPA Act, 1976, Section 67(IA)). However, their stipulated period of 4 months has ended on October 3 and these have been unable to complete their work in 4 months.

Ms. Anusha Rahman Khan, MNA and Minister of State for Information Technology, also supported the demand for Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms. She believed that political parties must come together to reform the process and address shortcomings instead of discrediting the Election.

Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MNA, Deputy Parliamentary Leader PTI, also believed Parliament needs to play its role in instituting required electoral reforms urgently.

Speaking at the Roundtable, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, former MNA and Deputy Speaker National Assembly also pointed out various irregularities in management of General and by-Election in D.I.Khan division. He share details of alleged Government influence in election and asked that the authorities must look into those.

PILDAT's objective behind the roundtable was to bring together selected Members of the National Assembly and 4 Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan to share their views and experiences on the conduct of General

Election 2013 and what, in their view, are the required electoral reforms for the future Elections in Pakistan.

Outlining various proposals relating to improving Election Day management, legislators highlighted the need for greater use of technology, employing the use of Electronic voting Machines, appointment of non-partisan and honest polling staff, investment in training of polling staff and a greater control on them by the ECP.

Political Parties represented at the Roundtable endorsed PILDAT's proposal of removing the qualification of Judiciary for CEC and other members of the ECP and suggested that any reputable citizen with administrative experience and integrity can and should be considered for appointment to the ECP. All legislators said that they did not witness any constituency monitors.

Outlining PILDAT proposals for Electoral Reforms, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, also said that continuing poor public trust in Electoral Process will discredit Democracy and fresh experiences of challenges in electoral process must lead to comprehensive electoral reforms now. He asked that legislators should raise required reforms in Parliament & agitate these in Political Parties. Mr. Mehboob said that Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of CEC even though has been formed but has not yet even met to elect its Chair. He also said that Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms must be urgently re-activated.

LG polls should be held with complete, effective preparations; Permanent CEC should be appointed immediately: PILDAT Citizens' Group on Electoral Reforms

The Citizens Group on Electoral Reforms (CGEP) convened by PILDAT has stressed that comprehensive preparations are a vital pre-requisite to ensure that the forthcoming Local Government elections are



(L-R) Mr. Javed Jabbar and Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani



Mr. Shahid Hamid and Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi

authentically free, fair and transparent and that the arrangements for them reflect some of the important lessons learnt from the General Elections of May 2013.

At the conclusion of the meeting held in Lahore on November 5, 2013 the Group said; "We respectfully urge the Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan to consider that consistent with compliance of its orders to hold all Local Government elections within the time limits set by it is the duty of the Election Commission of Pakistan to ensure that these elections are free, fair and transparent and their aftermath is not such as to lead to questions about their credibility."

The Group noted with regret that there is a serious absence of commonality and consistency on the fundamental issue of whether these Local Government polls in all 4 Provinces should be held on a party basis or a non-party basis. At this time, Sindh and Balochistan will hold polls on a party basis. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will hold polls on a mixed basis (i.e. non-party basis for village level, Party basis for Tehsil and District Level) but the Province with the largest population i.e. Punjab is set to hold the polls on a non-party basis. Whereas the Lahore High court has not yet delivered its final judgment on the petition challenging the non-party basis.

Thus, despite the declared agreement between major political parties to create a prior consensus for a common basis to hold the Local Government polls, the imminent elections are to be held without such a common and shared basis.

We urge that on a fundamental principle such as the party/no-party dimension, all 4 Provinces should ensure a common, shared basis.

The Group also said; "We would urge the Prime Minister and the Leader of Opposition to take immediate consultation steps for the appointment of a permanent Chief Election Commissioner. It is not

appropriate that at a time when the Honourable Supreme Court has directed that all Local Government elections be held within the time-limits set by it, the Election Commission should be headed by the senior Judge of the Supreme Court who is to become its Chief Justice in the second week of December 2013.”

Democracy and Legislative Performance Assessment

Under this initiative, a snapshot of activities undertaken by PILDAT during the period include:

PILDAT kicks off Consultation on Assessment of Quality of Democracy in 100 Days of New Federal and Provincial Governments

In order to assess quality of democracy in Pakistan in first 100 days of new National and Provincial Governments, PILDAT kicked off a public consultation on the topic on September 5, 2013.

Members of PILDAT Democracy Assessment Group – DAG led the consultative process. Participants at the consultative session included members of Parliament belonging to various political parties, academia, youth, civic groups, media and eminent personalities from different walks of life.

PILDAT Releases Report on Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in First 100 Days of National and Provincial Governments

The Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan in first 100 Days of National and Provincial Governments is an assessment by PILDAT and its Democracy Assessment Group (DAG) of the quality of democracy in Pakistan during this period.

Year 2013 has seen Pakistan's first successful transition from one democratic civilian Government, under a civilian democratically elected President, to another through Pakistan's 10th General Election held on May 11, 2013. As a result, Pakistan's Federal Government was formed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) with Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, MNA (NA-120, Lahore-III, Punjab, PML-N) as Prime

Minister of Pakistan on June 7; while the new Provincial Governments were formed as follows. Balochistan: coalition Government of the PML-N, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP) and National Party (NP) on June 7 with Dr. Abdul Malik, MPA, (PB-48, Kech, Balochistan, NP) as Chief Minister; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: coalition Government of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) and Awami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan (AJIP) on May 29 with Mr. Pervez Khattak, MPA, (PK-13, Nowshera-II, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI) as Chief Minister; Punjab: Government of the PML-N on June 1 with Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, MPA (PP-161, Lahore-XI, Punjab, PML-N), as Chief Minister; Sindh: Government of the Pakistan Peoples Party-Parliamentarian (PPPP) on May 29, 2013 with Syed Qaim Ali Shah, MPA, (PS-29 Khairpur-1, Sindh, PPPP) as Chief Minister.

In scoring a Pakistan-Specific Framework on Assessment of the Quality of Democracy, PILDAT's Democracy Assessment Group - DAG has scored the strengthening of the democratic process in the first 100 days at 44.5%. In comparison, this was scored at 44.2% in 2012. The Performance of Democracy, getting a relatively weaker score of 25.6% is still higher as compared to the score of 20.9% awarded to performance of democracy - or governance in other words - in 2012 by the Democracy Assessment Group. At the conclusion of first 100 days of National and Provincial Governments in September 2013, the aggregate score of quality of democracy stands at 54%, which shows a marked improvement over the score received by the same - at 45% - in 2012.

The 100 days have witnessed a change in guard at the Presidency also with Mr. Mamnoon Hussain of the PML-N replacing PPP's Mr. Asif Ali Zardari as



(L-R) Mr. Wazir Jogezeai, Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi and Mr. Mujib-ur-Rehman Shami

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as the Presidency, have witnessed a smooth transfer of power in a democratic fashion. That the transfer of power has also resulted in an almost seamless political change of guard - in the Presidency, Federal Government, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Balochistan provinces - also adds to the strengthening of the procedural democracy in Pakistan that was set in 2002 when our latest journey on consolidation of democracy resumed after the coup d'état of 1999.

Pakistan's 10th General Election, though not without its flaws, was relatively better and unlike the previous nine elections, subject to the rule of law. The independence of the Election Commission of Pakistan has been assessed at 58.8% - a relatively weaker score than 63.4% in 2012.

Government formation at the centre and in the provinces has also resulted in more inclusive democracy with a wider spectrum of political choice represented in 5 legislatures across Pakistan. The gradual maturity of Pakistan's democracy has also been evident in respect for the mandate of the largest party in each legislature. Accommodation shown by the PML-N in Balochistan and KP - by forsaking the slot of Chief Minister to a smaller, Baloch-led party and resisting the temptation to join hands with the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam- Fazlur Rehman (JUI-F) to deprive the PTI from forming Government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - reflects the maturing of the political culture in Pakistan. That the Prime Minister reportedly discouraged his party colleagues in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) from engineering a No-Confidence motion against the PPP Government in AJK also heralds developments in strengthening of this culture.

There is appreciation of this political accommodation by the Government in Pakistan's public too. According to a country-wide public opinion poll commissioned by PILDAT at the completion of first 100 days, 59% people support the Federal Government in achieving harmonious relations with political opposition.

In the first 100 days, with the Government announcement of establishing the Cabinet Committee on National Security with a permanent secretariat and a range of institutions contributing to the new institution, a major milestone has been reached on activating and restructuring the institutional decision-making mechanism on defence and national security. Even though the details of the re-constitution are somewhat vague and questions of full membership to non-cabinet members still need to be addressed, it remains an important initiative.

Convening of bye-election in 15 national and 26 provincial constituencies on August 22, 2013, simultaneously in a little more organised fashion in which administrative flaws were a little less obvious than in the General Election also constitutes one of the positive developments in first 100 days.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government starting with a progressive Right to Information law is another positive development. Its announced intention of introducing the right to services and conflict of interest legislation in the province must also be heralded.

However, with the KP Provincial Assembly convened for the least amount of days compared to the other three Provincial Assemblies - 18 days compared to 21 days of the Balochistan Assembly, 33 days of the Punjab Assembly and 19 so far of the Sindh Assembly - the KP Government's inability to even table a draft law on



(L-R) Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider, Mr. Iftikhar Ahmad and Mr. Jogezeai

Local Government in the province whereas the other 3 provinces have even passed their respective Local Government laws, indicates a negative and weaker trend on governance in the province. With 13 Ministers, 5 advisers to the CM, 7 Special Assistants to the CM and 32 new Parliamentary Secretaries in the KP Assembly, the PTI Government of the KP, brought into power with the resounding promises of austerity and respect of rule of law, has found an innovative way to hood-wink the Constitutional and legal provisions on the size of the cabinet. The increase in size of the number of MPAs awarded with Government positions almost matches the 'performance' of the ANP Government that the PTI has replaced, even though the KP Government claims no pay or perks is to be given to the 32 Parliamentary Secretaries.

Negative indicators on performance of elected Governments also include the slow and somewhat unsure formation of the Federal Cabinet. The Federal Government's inability in completing the formation of the Federal Cabinet in first 100 days, with major portfolios remaining vacant negates the very basis of choice of a majority of voters who chose PML-N to exercise executive authority as the elected Federal Government based on its 'readiness' 'experience' and 'competence.' The major activity of team building in the first 100 days remained both deficient and at times faulty. Mistakes were made in choosing the right people for key portfolios resulting in resignation or removal of some of those appointed.

There is also no evidence that an inclusive and institutional process of decision-making was followed by the ruling PML-N in its choice of candidate for the President or for that matter the Governor of Punjab. Murmurs in the party about availability of more suitable candidates for the post of President suggest that the most crucial aspect of a functioning democracy - the institutional decision-making in internal policies of a political party - has been ignored by the ruling PML-N in its key decisions during the first 100 days.



Participants at the PILDAT Forum



Mr. Ayaz Wazir, former Ambassador, sharing his views

Chief Minister of Balochistan, whose nomination was welcomed as a measure for goodwill and one that may improve years of discord between the Federal Government and the Balochistan Provincial Government, has also failed to constitute a complete Provincial Cabinet in the first 100 days.

In the newly elected 14th National Assembly of Pakistan, the Assembly rules were violated when the Standing Committees were formed after the inordinate delay of nearly one and a half month when the formation of Standing Committees is mandatory as per rules within thirty days of the election of the Leader of the House. No serious effort is evident on the part of the newly elected leadership of the Assembly to make these committees functional. The crucial responsibility of oversight over the Executive by the legislators cannot be exercised in the absence of functional committees. It is worth noting that committees only become functional with the election of their respective chairs. With non-functional committees in the first 100 days, Government's lack of concern is evident in its continuing failure to make available to legislators a critical tool for their performance. This is also a regression from the 13th National Assembly, which had completed the formation of committees within the stipulated time frame.

The latest (4th) session of the 14th National Assembly has begun and ended with the lack of participation by the Prime Minister in a single sitting. Prime Minister has also not joined a single sitting of the Senate of Pakistan in the 100 days since his oath of office on June 5. This negative trend of giving little or no importance to the legislatures by the Prime Minister is also displayed in the Punjab Assembly by the PML-N's Chief Minister of Punjab.

The 4 Provincial Assemblies have also shown slow or negligible progress on formation of their respective Standing Committees. The previous Provincial Assembly of Balochistan also had the dubious

distinction of not constituting any committee in its 5-year term (2008-2013). While an improvement in this trend is required in Balochistan, key reforms are required almost across all Provincial Assemblies in strengthening Standing Committees and empowering them with suo moto powers (except in the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where these powers already exist) as well as powers to scrutinize Provincial Budgets, among legislative issues.

One of the most pressing tasks before the Assemblies was the passage of the Federal and Provincial Budgets which the 5 Assemblies undertook by merely going through the motions of the budget process. Parliamentary Budget Process - in the National and four Provincial Assemblies - requires urgent and comprehensive reforms. Since power over the purse strings is one of the most crucial powers of these legislatures, this power needs to be structurally reformed and strengthened by mainly increasing the period of budget sessions to allow for greater review and scrutiny of respective budgets by the public representatives and for departmental Standing Committees to have the power - as well as the time - to scrutinize departmental budgets before these are passed by the Assemblies.

Even though a key reform was introduced by a PML-N MNA in the outgoing National Assembly, the party in power, if it so desired, could have made the discussion on the Federal Budget 2013-2014 more comprehensive by at least making a symbolic initiation of scrutiny of the budget by a special committee. Creative thinking was employed by the party in the Punjab province when, for discussion and scrutiny on the Local Government bill, a special committee was formed for the purpose as regular Standing Committees have not yet been formed in the Provincial Assembly.

There have been, however, some positive

developments in the performance of the Federal Government. In the first 100 days, there is a talk of the Federal Government working on a National Security Policy. It also began working, early on, on the Energy Policy and got it approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI). The Government can certainly move faster while it also improves its weak adherence to transparency. A draft of the National Security Policy - which is reportedly under review - should have been tabled in the Parliament for discussion. Its details on reconstitution of the Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) also are vague at best and could benefit from better details. The Government's proposed amended law on Right to Information is weaker compared to that put in place by the PTI in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In terms of economic development, the Government's decision regarding IMF is understandable though the more crucial issue of revenue generation and much-needed tax reforms has seen no major initiative by the Government so far.

In terms of strengthening the institutions of accountability, first 100 days of the Federal Government have passed without the appointment of the Chairperson of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). While this Government, like the previous, has begun to be uncomfortable of the Supreme Court's pushing on key decisions, the fact of the matter is that on key issues, no movement forward is generally seen unless the Supreme Court exerts its pressure against inaction. The question how successful is the democratic set-up in putting in place an effective mechanism to curb corruption has received a somewhat better score of 26.9%, while in the previous five years the average score was 20%.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's policy announcement at the floor of the House regarding his Government's decision to proceed with the High Treason case against the former Chief of Army Staff / President General



Participants sharing their views at the PILDAT Forum

(Retired) Pervez Musharraf is commendable on two counts - one that a decision to proceed against violation of rule of law and the Constitution has been taken by the new Government - and two that he decided to make this Statement at the floor of the House which is the right forum for announcing all policy decisions.

There is wide public support that the Federal Government should pursue the High Treason Case against General (Retired) Pervez Musharraf. Given Pakistan's turbulent political and democratic history and multiple violations of the rule of law, the State and Society of Pakistan require closure in order to move forward. This requires that we must proceed with this trial both to punish the violation of the Constitution as well as to close the door for any future violations. Supremacy of rule of law is necessary for peace and prosperity of the country and no country can prosper or even exist without the respect and supremacy of the rule of Law. The Supreme Court has also asked the Government to describe a step-by-step mechanism it wishes to adopt in pursuing the treason case.

However, it must be kept in mind that as per law, the final decision to go for a trial under high treason act is left to the Federal Government and only the Federal Government should independently make this decision without any pressure from any quarter. It is also important that this case, like any other, should be handled with complete fairness and without any hint of ridicule to any State institution. Rule of Law is the most important principle to uphold in a civilized society and the prime objective of the case should be to establish the principle of supremacy of rule of law.

Another positive development towards strengthening Parliamentary oversight has been seen in the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights approval of a draft bill titled "Regulate the Functioning of Intelligence Agencies" to make civil and armed forces intelligence agencies accountable to the Parliament. [8] The proposed bill, approved by the Committee on September 5, focuses on re-defining the role of intelligence agencies and addressing the grave issue of enforced disappearances. The draft bill has demanded the formation of an 'intelligence and security committee of the Parliament' comprising nine members from both houses of the Parliament. The initiative is a welcome step in the right direction as a law governing the work of the intelligence agencies in Pakistan has been long over-due. Even though the said legislation is a bill proposed jointly by the Senate Committee, its urgent passage from both Houses of Parliament and its implementation will be in line with the PML-N Manifesto 2013 in which the party pledged to bring

intelligence services under the ambit of Parliamentary scrutiny. [9] While parliamentary oversight of the intelligence agencies is a desirable ideal, it must also be kept in mind that even an established and the oldest parliamentary democracy of UK has yet to constitute a Parliamentary Committee on Intelligence Agencies though a Prime Minister's nominated committee of Parliamentarians had been undertaking some degree of 'cooperative oversight' of the intelligence agencies since 1994. A gradual but steady approach towards attaining the ideal of parliamentary oversight of intelligence agencies may be the realistic way forward.

Formation of Local Governments offers a sorry saga of unfinished business in the first 100 days. While the 4 Provincial Governments failed to put in place comprehensive legal framework for representative Local Governments in the provinces in the past 5 years (2008-2013), the recent progress on passage of Local Government laws has also come about through the pressure of the Supreme Court. While Local Government laws have been passed by Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh Assemblies in the first 100 days - with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa conspicuous by its inaction - the respective laws are not without their flaws. Sindh and Punjab have failed to create political consensus on the form of Local Governments, and Balochistan has just amended the existing law.

Contrary to its electoral pledge, the PML-N which vowed in its election manifesto to make "every effort to secure a certain degree of uniformity in the local Government system within and among the provinces," plans to hold local Government election on non-party basis in Punjab, which is not in sync with the rest of the Provincial Governments that are holding it on a party basis. The failure of the Federal Government of the PML-N has resulted in lack of leadership as it was supposed to take a lead in making a law on Local Governments in the Federally administered areas, and could have, through that law, offered guidance and certain degree of uniformity in the system of Local Governments across the country.

The Government's All Parties Conference (APC), held on September 09, 2013 - originally scheduled to be held on July 12 - called for "giving peace a chance." The APC which was termed to be held to discuss the "national security crisis besetting Pakistan," called upon the Federal Government to "initiate dialogue with all the stakeholders forthwith," leaving to the Federal Government important pre-requisites of such a dialogue such as "development of an appropriate mechanism and identification of interlocutors." Not only the Federal Government did not outline a National

Security Policy, as was expected earlier, the APC on "National Security Crisis" was held without the presence of Prime Minister's Advisor on National Security and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, who was conspicuous by his absence.

While a consensus was repeated through the APC, a critical issue, once again, was left unanswered in the 100 days, i.e., framework of the proposed dialogue as well as the lack of clarity of the Federal and some other Governments' position on how do we, as a country, characterize or define various groups fighting the State in its bloodiest, craziest forms. Should the characterization be that such groups are "our brothers and sisters gone astray who need to be brought back into the fold" or that such groups are the "enemies of the State that need to be defeated in every possible way." - or something in-between these positions. This lack of clarity is the most alarming phenomenon and one that will hamper any effort of developing a meaningful policy on national security and has been a grave cause of demoralization of our law enforcement agencies. While political parties including the PPP, ANP and MQM must be commended for their clarity on this issue, little or no development is visible on whether there are any efforts by the PML-N and the PTI, in-charge in the centre and two provinces respectively, in creating this clarity.

It is also important for any elected Government to remember that people's trust is reposed in them to take decisions for the country - a responsibility no Government can or should abdicate. While consultations are a welcome aspect of democratic decision-making and Parliament - not necessarily the APC - provides the only credible forum for political consultations, it is the Government that needs to take critical decisions. Consensus-building - another important term - has its advantages but in the modern democratic world, democratic Governments are charged with the responsibility to take decisions and move forward with or without consensus and the best place to debate an issue or policy and to build consensus is Parliament, not through APCs.

The Federal Government's intervention on the issue of law and order in Karachi, which was also appreciated in the APC Resolution, has been termed by many as a good gesture which strongly conveys that the Federal Government, like all other Pakistanis, is concerned about the situation developing in Karachi. It was, however, a difficult situation. On the one hand, the Federal Government could not remain unconcerned on the deteriorating law and order situation in the largest port city of the country and it had to find a way to

initiate meaningful actions to address the extraordinary situation; on the other hand it could not sideline or ignore the elected Provincial Government which had received the public mandate only three months back. Within these two key parameters, the Federal Government has, at least for the time being, succeeded in making the Provincial Government more cooperative in allowing the law enforcement agencies to take independent actions without much political consideration. It remains to be seen whether this arrangement can sustain itself and achieve the objective of restoring peace in the city.

On the new Government's approach on developing relations in the region, developments on the Line of Control (LoC) are not understandable at all and have almost derailed the dialogue process with India once again. Before the situation gets out of hand, the Government must thoroughly discuss this in the CCNS with complete appraisal of facts. Increasing indications are that the ruling PML-N is not clear on how the violations on the LoC have taken place. It is also important that in situations like this, the relevant Parliamentary committees, such as the Standing Committees on Defence in the Senate and National Assembly, should hold their independent hearings to ascertain the facts and to oversee the policy of the Government instead of just following the cue given by the executive. The checks and balances provided by three independent branches of the democratic State namely the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary constitute the bedrock of a democratic society.

In these 100 days, numerous complaints of mismanagement and delayed action have emerged pertaining to the performance of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The ECP must undertake a comprehensive review of quality of the General Election by involving all stakeholders. The ECP exposed its lack of grasp on the concerned Constitutional and legal position when it was unable to plan Presidential election in time that triggered a crisis in which the Supreme Court had to step in. Its inability to defend its position on the Presidential election in the Supreme Court led to the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner who later on wanted to defy the Supreme Court decision. In a welcome, though belated development, the Parliamentary Committee on Appointment of the CEC has been formed. It is high time that, learning from the experience and performance of the ECP, the Parliament initiates a change in qualification of the CEC and members of the Election Commission. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other Members of the Election Commission do not have to be necessarily from the Judiciary and a

Constitutional amendment in this regard is needed to make it in line with the practice in most of the countries including India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka where the background of Judiciary is not a pre-qualification. The effectiveness of the ECP in enforcing its writ was assessed at 51.3% while the score was 52.4% in 2012.

The Superior Judiciary's activism and independence have continued to serve as positive indicators in quality of democracy in Pakistan. Judiciary's activism has resulted in exposing successive Governments' inaction and wrongdoing and helped accelerate performance. While the Judiciary's new-found independence and assertion of its position are generally hailed as contributing to the strengthening of institutional democracy in Pakistan, criticism is rather respectfully directed towards the Supreme Court which at times zealously oversteps its legitimate sphere. Critics of this 'activism' submit that with its actions that can be termed increasingly 'populist', the Court steps into the role of other State organs in many 'public' issues and engages in policy-making, which is not its domain. Many call into question the appropriateness of the Court to adjudicate upon a specific policy issue which is otherwise deemed to be outside its realm of power. A negative outcome of this has been that other institutions are undermined to a point where they have developed a habit of looking to the Supreme Court for action instead of being pro-active themselves. The Supreme Court also may consider aligning itself to other institutions of the State in order to strengthen those and in the process strengthen democracy.

In general, media warmly welcomed the peaceful, orderly transition from the completed term of the previous Parliament, Provincial legislatures and Governments to the newly elected entities. Appreciation was also expressed for the PML-N's positive approach to enabling the formation of Governments in Balochistan and Khyber-Pukhtunkhwa by other parties. The basic duty of keeping audiences updated and informed on events was rendered with reasonable efficiency. Several sections of the media continued to give prominence to observations made by the superior Judiciary during hearings of cases, a trend now set for the past 5 years and a trend that remained unchanged in the first 100 days, sometimes tending to distract from the advent of a new democratic phase. In respect of a required sobriety on the part of media in comprehensively informing the public about the complexity of factors shaping economic conditions, be it inflation, fuel price increases, geo-political relations, internal governance, several TV channels tended to trivialize and sensationalize rather than educate with maturity and

balance. The deplorable practice of violating the sanctity of news bulletins that should convey only the facts by, instead, using infotainment techniques to add songs and comments along with the transmission of news continued unabated. This accentuated the tendency towards excessive haste in pre-judging and assailing the new Government/s instead of giving them adequate time to get to grips with the enormous challenges which the country faces. English newspapers provided the most balanced content during the initial phase of a new 5-year term. However, even though the Media Commission's Report to the Supreme Court became available on the SC's website, less than a handful of leading newspapers published analyses based on detailed scrutiny of the far-ranging Recommendations contained in the Report, some of which urge for media themselves to conduct direly needed internal reform.

The independence of media from Government influence was assessed at 55% by DAG and its diversity was assessed at 55% while in 2012, the score of independence of media was 61.8% and diversity got 52.7% scores.

Democracy has indeed strengthened in Pakistan. Given the complexity of challenges facing Pakistan, the 'performance' aspects of democracy have underperformed. Citizens expect the strengthened democracy to result in better governance. While the first 100 days are only a small indicator of this performance, greater engagement of a vigilant citizenry with the elected Governments and Legislatures offers a way forward towards better performance of democracy in Pakistan.

The scores assigned by DAG on IIDEA Framework have recorded an upward trend when compared with the previous years. Quality of democracy received a score of 55% in September 2013 as compared to an average score of 45% in the previous years, which is an increase of more than 22% or 10 percentage points.

Read, Analyse, Respect Views of Others – and participate in Democratic System – Messages to Pakistani Youth at the PILDAT Youth Forum

PILDAT held a Forum on November 27, 2013 on Pakistan, Youth and Democracy in Pakistan to create awareness among the youth about challenges to democracy in Pakistan and to discuss the role the youth of Pakistan can play in strengthening democracy and democratic institutions. Young Parliamentarians, students of different universities and colleges, members of youth wings of political parties and former members of Youth Parliament Pakistan participated in



(L-R) Mr. Javed Jabbar, H.E. Mr. Jesper Moller Sorenson and Mr. Mehboob

the Forum.

PILDAT's report on Assessment of the Quality of Democracy in Pakistan in first 100 Days of National and Provincial Governments was shared with the participants.

H.E. Mr. Jesper Moller Sorensen, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, was the guest of Honour while Mr. Javed Jabbar, former Senator and Federal Minister and Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, Senior Analyst, were the keynote speakers at the Forum. Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, presented an overview of the assessment of Quality of Democracy in First 100 days of National and Provincial Governments in Pakistan.

Addressing the young audience, Danish Ambassador Sorensen highlighted that a democratic society equals to a civil society, where the youth plays an important role in creating a culture attuned to democracy, liberty and freedom. "This is exactly the process that Denmark wants to support, because we want to make sure that Pakistan continues to move in a positive direction, where the democratic voices are outspoken, heard and mainstreamed in society," said the Ambassador. He also acknowledged the successful partnership with PILDAT, which aims to promote democratic values among the younger generation in Pakistan. "I am extremely proud that Denmark is involved in activities and that we are supporting processes which are so important for the future of Pakistan. Our partnership with PILDAT also provided the opportunity to remain active in electoral reforms - reforms which contributed to the elections this May. I am confident that through the great work of the civil society and the commitment of the youth in Pakistan, Pakistan will be going in the right direction - striving towards democracy and peace."

Youth is not determined by one's physical age but by one's dreams and visions, said Mr. Javed Jabbar. He

said that Pakistan is a unique country. Democracy allows citizens to participate in decisions that affect their lives. He said that democratic system is not necessarily Parliamentary system and we should not be afraid to explore if a Presidential form of Government, the one through which President is directly-elected, is more suitable to Pakistan. Mr. Jabbar said that his favourite reform is to make voting compulsory in Pakistan as in other 35 countries of the World. For youth to prosper and for democracy to be sustainable, youth must employ reasoned dialogue, based on understanding of issues, respecting other people's opinions and exercise tolerance.

Youth of Pakistan do not read books which is the biggest crisis facing this young country, said Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin. Make a personal exploration of your country; get to know it so that you can represent it and relate it to the rest of the World. Understand the value of ideas. Democracy is an idea that has changed the World, he said to the youth participants. In order to treat others as equals, youth must understand the concept of equality and human rights, regardless of gender, colour, caste or creed. What defined Malala as a brave girl was that she read books. Imagination is the key to creating ideas. Our future depends on libraries, reading and day-dreaming, said Mr. Salahuddin.

Democracy Can Only Thrive When the Middle Class in Actively Involved in Politics: Senator Jehangir Bader

While addressing a large group of young individuals from a multitude of academic institutions on January 10, Senator Dr. Jehangir Bader said the struggle for and sustenance of democracy is contingent upon active and passionate involvement of the middle class in the realms of politics.

Despite having been offered noteworthy administrative positions in civil services and dictatorial regimes, the motivation he received from his middle-class parents to continue with the pursuit of his education, coupled with his unfaltering interest in actively engaging in politics,



Senator S. M. Zafar (centre) sharing his views

Senator Jehangir Bader proclaimed he never wavered. It was only under the tutelage of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto that he found his ethos to graduate from engaging in varsity politics to becoming a youth leader.

Senator Bader further reiterated his desire to active foster the development of a youth movement for the strengthening of the democratic institutions of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This was complemented by the remarks made by former Senator S. M. Zafar, who declared persistence and perseverance as the two key ingredients for success in any field and for Senator Bader's rise to political prominence in the country. This was further supplemented by the comments of Dr. Mujahid Kamran, the incumbent Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Punjab. Dr. Kamran asserted the importance of education in determining of degree of success of any individual, and attributed the successes experienced by Senator Bader to his undying passion for education.

The event, which was concluded after an intense and interactive discussion between the panelists and the attendees, had commenced with an introduction of the speakers and the agenda of the event by Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehmood, President PILDAT.

Overall Satisfaction with Democracy Increased in Pakistan compared to India: Comparative Analysis of State of Democracy in South Asia Launched

Overall satisfaction with democracy in Pakistan has increased in the past decade compared to India which has seen a negative trend in satisfaction in democracy in the past decade. The comparison was made available at a Roundtable Discussion on Public Views on State of Democracy in Pakistan 2013 held on February 13, a part of the State of Democracy in South Asia Initiative & to Introduce PILDAT Democracy & Governance Programme, supported by DANIDA.

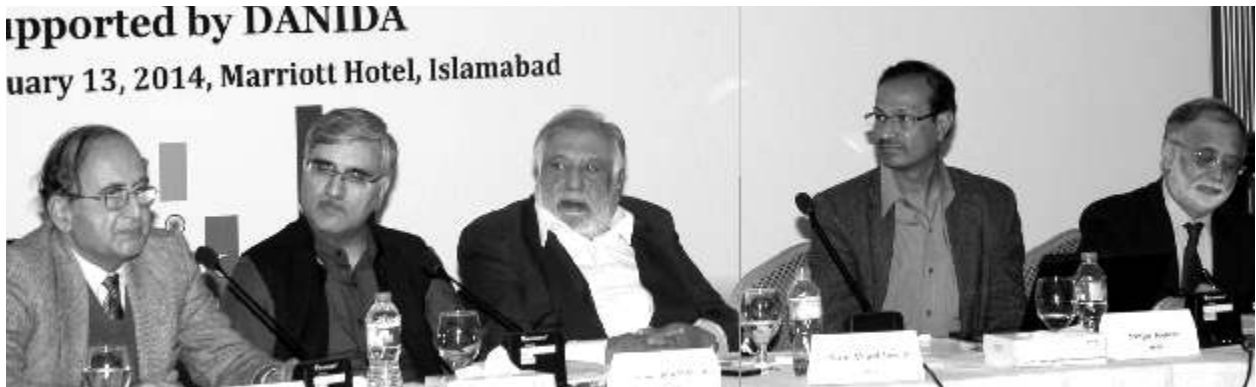
53% of Pakistan's population was satisfied with democracy at the end of 2013, a 21% increase since 2005, compared with India at 47% public satisfaction with democracy in 2013 and an 8% decline since 2005. The shift in public opinion must also be seen in the context of each country where in Pakistan it has come at the start of a new Government while in India it has come at the end of a two-term Government.

Scholars such as Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani believed that Pakistan's public opinion reflects the positive trends witnessed in Pakistan's journey towards democratic consolidation and struggle for rule of law. In Pakistan, support for representative Government, though at 78% compared to 86% in India, has seen a 16% improvement from 2005 compared to an 8% decline in India since 2005.

Similarly in Pakistan, disapproval of forms other than Representative Government has risen in the past decade whereas in India, support of other forms – such as rule by strong leader, rule by the Army, Religious Leaders and Experts – has risen from 2005. The results from the two nationally-representative surveys show that where in Pakistan opposition to authoritarian Government has risen in the past decade, its support has also risen; however indifference has declined on the issue. A challenge for Pakistan's democracy, as captured in the survey, is that dissatisfaction with democracy rises with education in Pakistan (most support for democracy – at 63% comes from the uneducated segments). The challenge is posed by the political parties which have a closed door policy to new entrants and unless there is a devolution in Government, educated classes will continue to be disillusioned and feel irrelevant in the democratic process, analysed Dr. Gilani.

Presenting his analysis at the Roundtable, Dr. Hasan-

Supported by DANIDA
February 13, 2014, Marriott Hotel, Islamabad



Speakers sharing their analysis at the launch of Pakistan Report

Askari Rizvi said that in interpreting the survey results, one must remember that democracy is a multi-dimensional process and not an end product. Democracy is a constant effort of improvement in every country. He said that the concept of attachment and alienation best defines commitment to democracy which reflects through the willingness of a populace to stand for democracy. He said that while Pakistan shows greater satisfaction with democracy, the core of Pakistan's political system is at threat which is not the same in India. Support for democracy exists in the whole of South Asia, however the details differ in terms of levels of alienation and attachments.

Presenting his welcome remarks at the Roundtable, Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA, Chair of National Assembly Standing Committee and former Federal Minister, said that over the past decade, PILDAT has been a partner in Pakistan's quest of democracy. For the Parliament and political parties, PILDAT has remained a leading friend which has helped hold our hands in strengthening and consolidation of democracy. He added that now that there is a light at the end of the democratic consolidation tunnel, he was pleased to find an opportunity to compliment PILDAT. Remarking on the results of the Pakistan survey, Mr. Qamar said that the survey validates growth and strengthening of democracy which offers not just a dispassionate analysis but food for thought for political parties and governments to introspect and improve governance.

During his speech, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Sorensen, who also inaugurated the Democratic Development and Good Governance programme in joint collaboration with PILDAT, said that around 30 per cent of Pakistan's population is between 15-29 years. He said that "our programme has a special focus on instilling democratic values in the youth through the Youth Parliament program. Under this programme, young people from across the country are trained in the values of democracy. This creates understanding, respect and tolerance for other people's opinions - besides being an innovative approach to engage youth in such an important process," he said. He emphasised that this project should not be seen in isolation. "Our approach and our assistance should be seen in its totality. Denmark is also providing support to primary education in the conflict affected areas. And we are now also more focused on facilitating contacts between Danish and Pakistani businesses so that we can create jobs, growth – and ultimately eliminate poverty."

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, said that "many Pakistanis are rightly proud of the elections

in 2013, where one democratically elected Government succeeded another. Yet democracy is still fragile, so we must continuously keep an eye on the political development and make demands to our politicians to consolidate democracy. Even more citizens from all parts of society should actively participate in the democratic processes. The citizens need better information about the government's policies and practices to hold them responsible. We are delighted that Denmark supports our work. It is in everyone's interest that we strengthen the democratic progressive forces in Pakistan, so that we do not leave the playing field to the radical forces.

During the ceremony, Joint Director of PILDAT Ms. Aasiya Riaz presented key findings from the State of Democracy in Pakistan Report, which was followed by a presentation on findings from the India Report by Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Director CSDS.

The Views on State of Democracy in South Asia: 2013: Comparative Analysis of Pakistan and India Reports is a part of the State of Democracy in South Asia initiative and presents perceptions and opinions of Pakistani and Indian citizens on how they view democracy and democratic developments in the two countries.

The first report on the State of Democracy in South Asia – an initiative to carry out a base-line evaluation of the democratic enterprise in the five South Asian countries of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka - was carried out in 2005.

PILDAT has partnered with the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, in the State of Democracy in South Asia initiative along with other organisations representing rest of the countries of South Asia. Both Pakistan and India Reports 2013 provide a comparative analysis of public opinion on these issues in 2005.

Assessment of the Quality of Governance in Pakistan

Federal and Provincial Governments brief PILDAT Steering Committee on respective Achievements on Governance

On May 22, 2014, representatives of the Federal and 3 Provincial Governments, including Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, shared their Governments' respective achievements on governance with the PILDAT Steering Committee on Assessment of the Quality of Governance in Pakistan.

Representatives of the Governments joined PILDAT upon a special invitation to share details of the initiatives undertaken by each Government during its first year in office.

The Steering Committee is part of a new PILDAT initiative to assess the Quality of Governance in Pakistan both at the Federal and Provincial levels.

PILDAT, which has been working since 2002 to assess the quality of democracy in Pakistan by using both an indigenously developed criteria as well as employing an international framework, is now, in addition, carrying out a comparative assessment and Score Card on Quality of Governance at the Federal and Provincial levels. The first such comparative assessment and Score Card on Quality of Governance will cover the 1st year of the Federal and Provincial Governments elected through the 2013 General Election.

Representatives from the Federal and Provincial Government included Ms. Zakia Shahnawaz Khan, Minister for Population Welfare, Punjab, joined by Mr. Zaman Wattoo, Provincial Project Manager Strengthening Poverty Reduction Strategy Monitoring (SPRSM), Punjab; Mr. Shah Farman, Information Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa joined by Mr. Khaliq ur Rehman, MPA / Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Bakhtiar



(L-R) Dr. Hafiz A. Pasha, Dr. Shoaib Suddle and Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin at the PILDAT Governance Assessment Group Meeting



Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider sharing his views

Khan, Deputy Coordinator Reforms Implementation Cell, KP; Mr. Fawad Hassan Fawad, Additional Secretary PM Office and Mr. Kazim Niaz, Commissioner Zhob Division Balochistan.

Members of the PILDAT Steering Committee who joined the meeting included Mr. Abdul Hakeem Baloch, Political Analyst/Formal State Minister for Railways, Mr. Salman Bashir, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Mohammad Feyyaz, Peace and Security Researcher, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moinuddin Haider, Former Governor Sindh; Former Federal Interior Minister, Mr. Javed Ashraf Hussain, Former Chief Secretary Sindh, Mr. Arshad Saeed Khan, Former Senior National Specialist (Education), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Mr. Shamsul Mulk, Former Caretaker Chief Minister KP; Former Chairman WAPDA, Dr. Hafiz A. Pasha, Former Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmed Saeed Qureshi, Former Chief Secretary Sindh, Mr. Ghazi Salahuddin, Senior Journalist/Analyst, Dr. Shoaib Suddle, Former Federal Tax Ombudsman / Former I.G. Police, Ambassador (Retd.) Ayaz Wazir, Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi, Economist, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT and Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director PILDAT.

PILDAT Welcomes Competition among Provinces for Good Governance at the end of 1st Year of the Federal and four Provincial Governments

As the Federal and 4 Provincial Governments complete their first of the 5-year tenures - (Federal Government: June 4; Government of Balochistan: June 8, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: May 30, Government of the Punjab: June 5; Government of Sindh: May 31) –PILDAT, under its programme of Assessment of the Quality of Governance in Pakistan, has noticed a trend of competition among the Provincial Governments for better governance.

Researchers at PILDAT have noticed this sense of competition with greater intensity between the

Provincial Governments of the Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Performance of these two Provincial Governments seems to have exceeded even that of the Federal Government.

PILDAT, based on the analysis of a very preliminary data, feels that there is an improvement in the quality of governance during the first year (of the Governments compared to the previous five years (2008-2013). PILDAT feels that it is a very welcome change in Pakistan's scenario where the five Governments are competing primarily on the basis of governance rather than ideology or any other abstract factor.

PILDAT Assessment on the Quality of Governance looks at the 1st year performance of the 4 Provincial and the Federal Governments elected through the May 2013 General Election. A year since the General Election 2013, assessment of key governance indicators shows that both Punjab and KhyberPakhtunkhwa (KP) are leading in several areas of governance. Interestingly, in many of the leading governance indicators, the two Provincial Governments are ahead of the Federal Government.

In order to assess the quality of governance on a scientific basis, a programme on data collection of key performance indicators has been undertaken at PILDAT. While greatly benefitting from many international frameworks to assess the Quality of Governance, PILDAT has developed an indigenous framework with the valuable input of a 25-member Steering Committee comprising some of the most eminent experts from the four Provinces. The framework takes into account key governance indicators within the context of Pakistan in particular.

Feedback from the citizens will also form part of the governance assessment programme through a public opinion poll. PILDAT will soon release a first year Governance Assessment Report for the Federal and 4 Provincial Governments. This will help citizens in making an informed judgement about the performances of the Governments.

Legislative Reforms: Strengthening and Enhancing Legislative Budget Process and capacities

Federal Budget 2013-2014 is ambitious but risky and fragile: PILDAT Seminar on Federal Budget 2013-2014

PILDAT and Social Policy Development Centre-SPDC jointly organized a seminar on Federal Budget 2013-2014 in Islamabad on July 11. Speakers at the Seminar included Dr. Hafiz Pasha, Senior Technical Advisor and Founder of SPDC; Former Federal Minister, Mr. Asif Iqbal, Secretary, SPDC and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT.

Terming the Federal Budget 2013-14 as highly ambitious, Dr. Hafiz Pasha, presented a detailed analysis of the Federal Budget 2013-2014, which was passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan on June 28, 2013. He said success in achieving higher growth hinges on containing load-shedding and improving law and order situation in the country. There is a high likelihood of return to double-digit inflation and IMF program may lead to more stabilization but less growth. The balance of payments remains vulnerable even with the IMF program unless it releases at least US \$3 billion in 2013-14, added Dr. Pasha. He further said that there was a need for provinces to devote more resources to social development in their fiscal Budgets.

Earlier in his introductory remarks, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, laid emphasis on a number of required reforms in Budget process including Effective operationalisation of Change in National Assembly Rules, Powers to Committees to Review Budget after the Presentation of the Budget and Increase in Time to Debate/ Scrutinize Budget.

A large number of representatives of Media, Civil Society, Academia, Government Officials and Members of National Assembly participated in the Seminar.



Dr. Hafiz A. Pasha sharing his analysis



(L-R) Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MNA, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob and Mr. Tariqullah, MNA

Members of National Assembly stress urgent reforms to strengthen National Assembly of Pakistan

On August 23, MNAs joining PILDAT Briefing Session on “Citizen’s Ideas of Reforms to Strengthen the National Assembly of Pakistan” demanded that reforms to strengthen National Assembly of Pakistan must be put in place urgently. Endorsing PILDAT proposals for reforms, developed through a decade of PILDAT’s experience of legislative strengthening in Pakistan, MNAs said that the time to institute legislative reforms is now when the term of the 14th National Assembly has just begun.

A set of reform proposals to strengthen the National Assembly of Pakistan were shared through the PILDAT paper titled Proposed Reforms to Strengthen National Assembly of Pakistan at the session.

Speakers at the Briefing Session included **Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi**, MNA, Deputy Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI); **Sahibzada Tariq Ullah**, Parliamentary Leader Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), **Molana Ameer Zaman**, MNA, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal ur Rehman (JUI-F), **Hafiz Tahir Khalil**, Resident Editor, Daily Jang, Islamabad and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President, PILDAT. A large number of MNAs and civil society personalities attended the briefing.

Speaking at the Briefing Session, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President of PILDAT stressed on the proposed reforms to Strengthen National Assembly of Pakistan. He said that based on PILDAT observation of the parliamentary procedures and practices for the last 11 years, PILDAT has proposed a set of reforms which need to be urgently implemented to strengthen National Assembly. The proposed reforms include Increasing “Actual” Working Days of Assembly (13th National Assembly actually worked for 103 days per year compared to the constitutional requirement of 130 days); Prime Minister’s increased Presence in the

House; introduction of a PM Question Time; Adherence to the Parliamentary Calendar; enhanced Punctuality & Decorum; Strengthening of Parliamentary Committees; Increasing the duration of budget debate from the present 12 days (average of the past 12 years) to about 45 days (Indian Lok Sabha budget process extends to 75 days) and allocating a part of this time to the scrutiny of the budget proposals of various ministries by the relevant standing committees; Operationalisation of the recent amendment in the assembly rules of procedure to allow the parliamentary committees to review the ministries budget before it is formally presented; provision of Office Space for Assembly Members; Increase in the Question Time; Televised Question Hour by all TV channels (and not just PTV); Recruitment and Promotion of Assembly Staff strictly on merit; Creation of a Parliamentary Service; Greater Public Access & Transparency of National Assembly records such as the Attendance of MNAs and their voting records; Encouragement & Facilitation of greater coordination between the Assembly and Think-Tanks; More effective Capacity-building and Orientation courses for MNAs and the Parliamentary Staff.

Addressing the Briefing Session, Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Quershi, Deputy Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) stressed the need of Ministers' presence and participation in the Assembly proceedings especially during the Question Hour. He was of the view that the Government's performance is badly affected if the ministers are absent from the Assembly during sessions. He further said that Pakistan's parliamentary system lacks Conflict of Interest legislation and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has decided to introduce this legislation in Khyber Pakhtun Khawa Assembly very soon. Endorsing PILDAT proposals for reforms, he said that the proposals indeed are a result of PILDAT's continuous liaison with MNAs belonging to all parties over the past decade.

Speaking at the briefing Session Molana Ameer Zaman, MNA, JUI-F thanked PILDAT for organising the briefing session for Parliamentarians and for highlighting National Assembly's weaknesses. He emphasised on the need to implement the laws already present in Pakistan. Mr. Zaman reiterated that Prime Minister of Pakistan should be present during all sittings of the National Assembly. He asked that there is also a dire need that the Ministers should ensure their attendance in the Assembly so that National Assembly's working is further strengthened.

Representing Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) at the Briefing Session, Mohammad Salman Khan

Baloch, MNA, (NA-239, Karachi-I, Sindh, MQM) said that there is a capacity to further improve the number of working days in NA. He said that Prime Minister should be available to MNAs for their concerns. Agreeing with PILDAT's suggestions, he said that the Question Hour in National Assembly should be extended to about 2 Hours. He confirmed that Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) supports the implementation of all the proposed reforms.

Parliamentary Leader of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sahibzada Tariq Ullah said that MNAs should stress on implementation of proposed reforms presented by PILDAT. He proposed that the MNAs should present these proposals in the house and ask the Speaker to introduce these reforms. He added that the Parliamentary Leaders should also be present in National Assembly during all sittings of the National Assembly. He emphasised that Parliamentary Calendar should be strictly followed by the National Assembly and Speaker of the National Assembly should ensure punctuality among MNAs during NA sittings. He also suggested that National Assembly should appoint and promote staff on the bases of their qualification and experiences and not on the basis of personal preferences. Recruitment on merit basis should be ensured, added Mr. Tariq Ullah. He suggested that senior Parliamentarians should present the PILDAT reforms to the Speaker for implementation through a resolution.

Speaking about the role of Media and Parliamentary Reforms in the National Assembly, Hafiz Tahir Khalil, Resident Editor, Daily Jang, Islamabad, said that scandals like Steel Mills Case, NLC case, Royal Palm Golf Club case are few examples which were highlighted by Media and taken by Supreme Court. He added that Media as a national organ has never committed contempt against any state institution including the Parliament of Pakistan. He added that most of the Members of the National Assembly use about 90 % of the Privilege Motions for highlighting their personal grievances. He stressed that point of Orders in National Assembly should be used to highlight only where rules are not being followed.

Many of the Members of the National Assembly at Briefing Session agreed that Privilege motions in the Assembly are used extensively and without any public welfare purpose. Members of the National Assembly at the briefing session also agreed that Question Hours should be meaningful and Ministers and Head of Departments should be present during the Question Hour of the Assembly. They suggested that duration of the Question Hour in the National Assembly should be

extended from one hour to about two hours. They stressed that Follow up of the Questions Answers should be arranged properly by the Secretariat of the Assembly. They demanded that a continuous feedback mechanism on Questions must be introduced and that concerned Ministry and Minister should be answerable to all the questions asked by Members. It was suggested that MNAs should take National Assembly rules of Procedures very seriously and must familiarise them with these rules.

Participants at the Briefing Session also suggested that MNAs should be provided offices in Islamabad. It was proposed that timings of the session should be fixed for specific hours daily and number of days should be extended as much as possible. It was emphasised that all MNAs should spare time to participate in the debate on all legislations, be their focus of discussion in favour or against that bill, but remarks of all MNAs should be recorded on each bill at the floor of the House.

Labour Issues and Parliamentarians

PILDAT holds Briefing Session for Punjab MPAs on Labour Issues

PILDAT held a Briefing Session on June 18 for the Honourable MPAs of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab on Understanding Labour Issues in Punjab and the Way Forward. The Briefing Session was chaired by Honourable Provincial Minister for Labour & Human Resources, Raja Ashfaq Sarwar, MPA (PP-1, Rawalpindi-I; PML-N). A presentation was given on the Briefing Paper titled 'Employment and Labour Market Issues in Punjab: Current Situation and Way Forward' by Dr. Sabur Ghayur, Chairman, CLAD, who had also authored the Briefing Paper.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President, PILDAT, welcomed the MPAs who were present at the Briefing Session and shared the objectives.

Speaking at the Briefing Session, Dr. Sabur Ghayur highlighted the post 18th Amendment scenario in Pakistan regarding labour laws and issues and shed some light on the salient features of the Punjab Labour Policy Draft 2014. He stressed on the importance of Decent Work Agenda and that it was mandatory for Pakistan to follow it whilst complying with eight fundamental ILO conventions. Dr. Ghayur mentioned how there was a great mismatch between academic qualifications of people and their jobs for which it is crucial that employment is generated along with development of enterprises. He proposed directly to the Minister for Labour & Human Resources that an early approval of the Punjab Policy Draft 2014 was needed and proper mechanisms of its enforcement be devised.

A Q&A session was followed by the presentation after which Raja Ashfaq Sarwar gave his remarks regarding the quality of work that PILDAT continues to undertake

and that some very important issues had been raised by Dr. Ghayur in his presentation. The Briefing Session once again proved to be a meaningful engagement of the relevant authorities, he said.



Speakers at the Briefing Session

Regional Parliamentary Dialogues

Parliamentarians urge active Parliamentary Friendship Groups to help normalize relations with neighbours

Parliamentarians from the two houses of the Parliament belonging to various parties underscored the importance of Parliamentary Friendship Groups in making positive contribution towards improving relations especially the neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan and India. Parliamentarians were speaking at the workshop organized by PILDAT on the Effectiveness of Parliamentary Friendship Groups of National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan with special emphasis on the Parliamentary Friendship Groups focusing on Afghanistan and India in Islamabad on August 20.

Speakers at the Workshop who shared their views included **Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan**, MNA, State Minister for Privatization, **Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi**, MNA, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan and Deputy Parliamentary Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) in the National Assembly, **Professor Dr. Hasan-Askari Rizvi**, Renowned Security and Foreign Affairs Analyst and **Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob**, President of PILDAT.

Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan, State Minister for Privatization said that the Friendship Groups in the National Assembly did not get appropriate attention during last term of the National Assembly of Pakistan due to lack of interest as well as lack of financial support. However, the current Speaker of the 14th National Assembly is more enthusiastic and the groups will be likely more active, he added. He acknowledged the offer made by PILDAT to facilitate the meetings of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups on Afghanistan and India and hoped this would help in holding frequent meetings of the groups and contributing to foreign policy of the country. Sharing his personal experience as a Member of the Pakistan-India Parliamentary



Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, MNA and Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MNA



Senator Farhatullah Babar and Senator Mohsin Leghari

Friendship Group of the 13th National Assembly of Pakistan he appreciated PILDAT initiative of Pakistan-India Parliamentarians Dialogue in 2011-2012. He said the Dialogues, which were organized by PILDAT as part of track II diplomacy between Pakistan and India successfully generated momentum for productive discussion on the issues which MPs, as representatives of the people, can only discuss the issues openly and candidly. Mr. Dastgir confirmed that Parliamentarians dialogues are necessary as, for sure, these Dialogues create intra-party and intra-parliament peace lobbies. He added that Parliamentarians Dialogues between Pakistan and India also open new avenues for exchange of views on a range of issues and sometime lead to out of the box thinking.

Speaking at the workshop Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that the Friendship Groups should be made functional as soon as possible and meetings of the groups should be held on regular basis. Mr. Qureshi said that issues of extremism between Pakistan and United States were positively addressed by the Friendship Groups during his tenure as Minister of Foreign Affairs. Friendship Groups in Pakistan are new and lack proper support and Funding. Beside, these groups are not promoted to the level which is required. He shared that Friendship Groups promote people to people contacts and tend to positively influence the relations with other countries.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Hasan Askari Rizvi, Senior Analyst on Security and Foreign Affairs Issues said that Pakistan-India Parliamentary Friendship Groups may be a better opportunity to address all the issues which are not part of the government of composite Dialogue. He emphasized that the Parliamentarians should more closely study the documents and resolutions relating to various issues between Pakistan and India so that they are able to make an informed contribution to foreign policy discourse.

Senator Farhatullah Babar strongly urged the activation of Parliamentarians Friendship Groups in order to claim for the parliament the lost ground on foreign policy turf.

Afghanistan is the 1st Priority of Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production

“Afghanistan is the first Priority of Pakistan's Foreign Policy,” said **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** while chairing the first-ever Dialogue between Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production of Pakistan and Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Committee of Meshrano Jirga of Afghan Parliament that began in Kabul on September 10, 2013.

On the sidelines of the Dialogue, the Pakistani Delegation also called on the Afghan President **Mr. Hamid Karzai** and held a candid interaction with him.

Parliamentarians from Pakistan and Afghanistan joined the first day of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Defence Committees' Dialogue which focused on issues including Security and the Defence cooperation between the two countries. Other subjects that were discussed between the Parliamentarians of the two

sides included existing and emerging challenges in Pak-Afghan Relations, Cross-Border Terrorism, Narcotics Smuggling and Border Management.

Senator Sayed Farrukh Shah Jenab, Secretary of the Meshrano Jirga and Senator Haji Mohammed Daud Asas, Deputy Chairman, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission of Meshrano Jirga jointly Co-chaired the Dialogue from Afghan side whereas **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** Chaired the Dialogue from the Pakistan side.

Pakistan-Afghanistan Defence Committees' Dialogue: Joint Declaration

The first-ever Dialogue between Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production of Pakistan and Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Committee of Meshrano Jirga of Afghan Parliament took place in Kabul, Afghanistan on September 10-11, 2013.

The two-day Dialogue focused on issues including Security and the Defence cooperation between the two countries; existing and emerging challenges in Pak-Afghan Relations; Cross-Border Terrorism, Narcotics Smuggling; Border Management, Challenges of 2014 NATO Withdrawal and Afghanistan Peace Process and



Pakistan delegation in a group photo with H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, at the Presidential Palace, Kabul

Institutionalising Pak Afghanistan Defence Parliamentary Dialogue.

Parliamentarians from both sides agreed to enhance the Defence Cooperation between the two countries while developing bilateral cooperation between the Armed Forces and Security Agencies of Pakistan and Afghanistan. They agreed that, in the best interest of both countries' people, the two brother nations should move forward with a joint approach on important national and regional issues, and should have a joint strategy on security issues affecting the both countries. It was stressed that by connecting with each other and, with the region and outside world, full economic potential of this area and the people can be actualized.

MPs at the Defence Committees' Dialogue agreed that if Pakistan and Afghanistan join hands together the two armed forces can manage their respective internal security problems in a more reasonable and effective way. They stressed that the Security Establishments of Pakistan and Afghanistan should identify and isolate the common threat. It was stressed that there is a need to keep all the channels of communication open between the two countries.

MPs agreed that after withdrawal of US and ISAF Forces from Afghanistan in 2014, there may be possibility of a sense of a vacuum, which can only be filled if the Civil Society in Afghanistan and Pakistan given a chance to be strengthen while strengthening State and Democracy in both Countries. It was stressed that both countries should look for ways and means to establish better communication between the younger generations of the two countries in all fields. It was also agreed that both countries should also cooperate with other to ensure protection of Women and Human Rights in their respective Countries.

In order to institutionalize the Dialogues between the Defence Committees of the two countries, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed at the Dialogue.

Co-chaired by Senator Sayed Farrukh Shah Jenab, Secretary of the Meshrano Jirga and Senator Haji Mohammed Daud Asas, Acting Chairman, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission of Meshrano Jirga, Members of the Afghan Parliament who joined the Dialogue included Senator Gulali Akbari, Secretary, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission of Meshrano Jirga, Senator Abdul Ahad Sultanzoy, Member, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission, Senator Saliha Mehrzad, Member, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission and Senator H. Mohammed Amin Safi, Member, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission, Meshrano Jirga. There was also a large number of participation from the International Affairs Commission of Meshrano Jirga. The notable speakers from the International Commission Affairs were Senator Arif Ullah Pashtoon, Chairman, Member, International Affairs Commission, Senator Nisar Ahmed Haress, Member, International Affairs Commission, Meshrano Jirga, Senator Dr. Hazrat Shah Nooristani, Member, International Affairs Commission, Senator Mohammadin Humdard, Member, International Affairs Commission, Senator Hafiz Abdul Qayyum, Member, International Affairs Commission and Senator Usman Rehmani, Member, International Affairs Commission. Other participants included Senator Maulwae Abdul Wahab Erfan, Chairman National Economic Commission, Meshrano Jirga, Senator Mohammad Alam Ezdeyar, First Deputy Chairman of the Meshrano Jirga, Senator Amin



Glimpse from the inauguration ceremony of Pak-Afghan MPs Dialogue in Kabul



Senator Aitzaz Ahsan and Senator Haji Adeel

Ahmadi, and Member Meshrano Jirga Senator Mola Mohammed Faizi, Member Meshrano Jirga. The parliamentary staff of Meshrano jirga participated in the two day dialogue too. Sayed Hafizullah Hashmi, Secretary General, Meshrano Jirga, Professor Shah Sultan Akifi, Deputy Secretary General, Meshrano Jirga , Mr. Mohammed Kazim Malwan, Advisor, Legislative Affairs, Meshrano Jirga and Mr. Fazal Rabi, Journalist, Meshrano Jirga.

The Pakistan Delegation chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production of Pakistan. MPs from Pakistan who participated in the Dialogue included Senator Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, former Prime Minister of Pakistan and member Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production, Senator Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan, Senator Sehar Kamran, Member, Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production. Senator Afrasiab Khattak, Convener, Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, Senate of Pakistan & Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights, Senator Begum Najma Hameed, Member Senate Standing Committee on Interior and Narcotics

Control, Senator Dr. Muhammad Jehangir Bader, Member, Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel, Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Senator Saeedul Hassan Mandokhail, Member, Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Maulana Muhammad Khan Sherani, MNA; Chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology and former member of the Senate Defence Committee.

5th Round of Pakistan-India MPs Dialogue

The 5th Round of the Pakistan-India Parliamentary Dialogue began on September 19 in Islamabad with inauguration by Senator Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Chairman Senate of Pakistan.

The Pakistan-India Parliamentarians' Dialogue, facilitated by PILDAT, was led from the Indian side by Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Union Minister and Member of Indian Rajya Sabha, while **Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed**, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA, Former Federal Minister for Defence, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, MNA, Former Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Zahid Hamid, MNA, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, officiated the dialogue from the Pakistan side.

Senator Nayyer Hussain Bokhari said that he is a firm believer in the centrality of dialogue and a healthy exchange of ideas as a key to resolving all issues, no matter how complex or distressing. Congratulating PILDAT for providing a regular opportunity to MPs of both sides to deliberate on issues, Senator Bokhari said that the channels for dialogue must always remain open between the two countries. As representatives of the public, MPs are best placed to discuss amongst each



Senator Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Mr. Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MNA and Mr. Mehboob

other the critical issues of concern between Pakistan and India, he said. It is the use of Parliamentary diplomacy which can facilitate an exchange of views and perceptions in a candid and frank manner which the hallmark of MPs' Dialogues, he said.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Union Minister and Member of Indian Rajya Sabha, said that while he cannot guarantee that the MPs Dialogue will provide any solution to Pakistan-India issues, however, he can guarantee that without any dialogue between the two countries, there will be no peace. He said the objective of the MPs Dialogue is not to reach any compromise but our mission is to build an environment of peace. He congratulated Pakistan for a successful transfer of Government from one Civilian regime to another through Pakistan's 10th General Election held in May 2013.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, while welcoming the Dialogue participants, said that in the Pakistani political spectrum, friendship with India enjoys across the board political support. This is why, he added, relations with India have not figured as a divisive issue in 6 consecutive Elections in Pakistan. Supporting the vision of regional integrity of the Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, he said the two countries have to join hands to bring in greater regional integration. He also urged India to return to the India-Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project. Going forward, he said, a prosperous Afghanistan beyond 2014, is an important challenge for both Pakistan and India.

Mr. Zahid Hamid, MNA, Federal Minister for Science & Technology, said that his party, PML-N, fully supports the aims and objectives of this Parliamentarians Dialogue. This Dialogue by MPs have been encouraging for peace and progress of the two countries. Mr. Nawaz Sharif was the first Prime Minister in 1999 to have invited the Indian PM at the time Mr. Vajpayee to Pakistan. The relationship



Mr. Zahid Hamid, MNA and Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar



Senator Afrasiab Khattak and Senator Nasreen Jalil

unfortunately was derailed in the past 14 years. However, with the PML-N back in Government, there are greater prospects of peace between Pakistan and India.

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, MNA, Deputy Parliamentary Leader PTI in the National Assembly and former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, said that while we resolve our own issues, Pakistan and India also need to adopt a regional approach to resolving the issues of Afghanistan. He criticised the slow speed of dialogue and progress on Pak-India relations. The two countries, once again, are a hostage to issues on LoC and must resume dialogue in order to resolve all issues.

Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA and former Defence Minister, said that the dialogue between two countries should be based on conflict resolution. Issues such as Siachin, for instance can be resolved. He said that as MPs we are here to create and maintain an atmosphere for dialogue and peace that the two Governments must capitalize on. Resolving old issues will usher us into the realm of discussing new possibilities of peace and collaboration.

Senator Nasreen Jalil, representing MQM, said that her party supports peace and good relations with India. Both countries have suffered enormously in the process and must now move forward towards achieving durable peace. Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism, a fact that India must recognize, she added. The new Government in Pakistan is invested in improving relations with India and enjoys bi-partisan political support in this regard.

Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of the JUI-F said that his party has always maintained a principle position of supporting peace between Pakistan and India. The two countries need to move on and work towards peace.

Senator Afrasiyab Khattak of the ANP said that while the two countries were carved out in India on the

principle that the two people could not live together in 1947, it appears now that the two neighbours now cannot stay apart as peaceful relations between the two are the need of both countries.

Pakistan-India Parliamentarians Dialogue-V; September 19-20, 2013; Islamabad, Pakistan: Joint Statement

Members of Parliaments of Pakistan and India met for the 5th round of Pakistan-India Parliamentarians' Dialogue in Islamabad, Pakistan on September 19-20, 2013. The MPs were hosted to an interactive luncheon meeting, by Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Prime Minister's Advisor on National Security and Foreign Affairs. MPs also thanked Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Senator Syed Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, for his inauguration of the 2-day Dialogue and welcomed his support towards encouraging interaction between Parliamentarians. MPs noted that this reflected the encouragement given to the Dialogue by the Speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha when Pakistani MPs visited Delhi for the 4th round of MPs Dialogue in August 2012.

Affirming their commitment to build an environment of peace through dialogue, the two sides reiterated their resolve to continue the Dialogue process to stabilize relations between the two countries.

As representatives of the people of Pakistan and India, the MPs noted the progress achieved on various bilateral issues, including Visas and Trade, contributions for which were made in recommendations by the Parliamentarians in 4 rounds of MPs Dialogues held since January 2011.

Parliamentarians urged the two Governments to sustain the resumed dialogue between the two countries to speed up the process of achieving durable peace, recognising, at the same time, the need for serious action on issues of concern for reinforcing the continuity of the dialogue process. Underscoring the



Participants at the Dialogue



(L-R) Mr. Asaduddin Owaisi, MP Lok Sabha sharing his views at the Dialogue

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.

Welcoming the democratic transfer of power from one civilian Government to another through Pakistan's 10th General Election held in May 2013, the two sides urged the two Governments to make use of the renewed prospects of peace offered by this to improve both neighbourly and regional relations.

An urgent need was expressed by Parliamentarians from both sides to address the critical issue of rising water scarcity both in India and Pakistan.

Recognising that the Indus Waters Treaty is the best guarantee of resolving any possible issues of water resources between the two countries, Parliamentarians urged the two Governments to jointly examine issues of climate change and environment impact assessment as also to consider technologies of efficient use of water in agriculture while substantially improving yields.

Underlining the huge potential for bilateral trade, now running at over US \$ 2 billion, but capable of rising to at least US \$ 10 billion if all agreements are implemented expeditiously and outstanding issues discussed, Parliamentarians welcomed the establishment of the India Pakistan Joint Business Council and the priority areas of business they have identified. Parliamentarians also welcomed the work being undertaken towards activating gas supplies to Pakistan from India and power trading through the proposed 500-megawatt HVDC link from Amritsar to Lahore. Generic drugs also represent an important trade sector.

Parliamentarians also agreed that further improvements in trade and economic cooperation between the two countries requires:

- i. Urgent progress towards granting MFN Status to India, as already agreed
- ii. Addressing Issues of Non-Tariff Barriers identified by Pakistan
- iii. Fully utilising and further expanding newly-built infrastructure at the Wahga-Attari border
- iv. Opening the Monabao-Khokhrapar route for bilateral trade
- v. 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
- vi. Opening bank branches of either country in the other to facilitate trade exchanges
- vii. Further improving the business visa regime

Parliamentarians attached particular importance to the two Governments applying and expanding the existing agreements between the two countries relating to each others' handling of humanitarian issues. The existing agreements on providing consular access to prisoners and fishermen, as well as their personal security and medical attention, need considerable improvement and Parliamentarians sought urgent action in this regard. They stressed that those people who have served their sentences must immediately be repatriated to their home country.

Parliamentarians welcomed the improvements agreed to the Visa Regime but underscored the critical importance of urgent implementation as also the need for significantly strengthening the regime.

Culture is the bonding adhesive of the people of Pakistan and India. In full recognition of the role that unimpeded cultural exchanges can play in promoting



Senator Haji Adeel, Senator Nasreen Jalil and Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar



Senator Jehangir Badar (Right) speaking at the Dialogue

people-to-people contact and improving the atmosphere for the resolution of political, economic and other issues, Parliamentarians urged both Governments to dismantle any remaining obstacles to Cultural Exchanges. Sports too provide an opportunity for strengthening contacts. Similarly, tourism, including additional pilgrimage sites, should be encouraged.

Parliamentarians also attached great importance to the electronic and other news media on both sides and urged for strengthening research-based reporting that can promote peace and business between the two countries on a long-term basis.

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.

Parliamentarians urged the two Governments to make greater investment in exchange of students. Promotion of contact among youth and woman was also urged.

Parliamentarians from both sides recognised and appreciated the initiative of PILDAT to foster these dialogues and urged that this initiative be continued and reinforced.

Parliamentarians of Pakistan and India met for the 5th round of Dialogue under the presidium of Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Union Minister and Member of Indian Rajya Sabha from India, while Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA, Former Federal Minister for Defence, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, MNA, Former Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Zahid Hamid, MNA, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Nasreen

Jalil (Sindh, MQM) and Senator Afrasiyab Khattak (KP, ANP) officiated the dialogue from the Pakistan side.

The 13-member delegation of Indian MPs who joined their Pakistani counterparts at the 2-day Dialogue included Rajya Sabha members Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar (INC); Mr. K.C. Tyagi (JD-U); Mr. D. P. Tripathy (NCP); Ms. Anu Aga (Nominated); Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel (BSP); Mr. Ram Kirpal Yadav (RJD); Mr. C.P. Narayanan (CPI); Mr. Baishnab Parida (BJD); Mr. Birendra Prasad Baishya (AGP); Mr. Mohammad Adeb (Ind.); Dr. T.N. Seema (CPI-M); and Lok Sabha Members Mr. Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) and Mr. Kirti Azad (BJP).

50 Pakistani MPs joining the Dialogue included Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA, Former Federal Minister for Defence, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, MNA, Former Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Zahid Hamid, MNA, Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Nasreen Jalil (Sindh, MQM), Senator Afrasiyab Khattak (KP, ANP), Senator Haji Muhammad Adeel (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, ANP), Senator Farhatullah Babar (PPPP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Senator Dr. Jahangir Bader (PPPP, Punjab), Senator Heman Das (Balochistan, JUI-F), Senator M. Hamza (PML-N, Punjab), Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri (Balochistan, JUI-F), Senator Dr. Saeeda Iqbal (PPPP, Islamabad), Senator Osman Saifullah Khan (PPPP, Islamabad); Eng. Hamid ul Haq, NA (NA-2, Peshawar-II, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI) and National Assembly members Eng. Ali Muhammad Khan, MNA (NA-10, Mardan-II, KP, PTI), Mr. Mujahid Ali Khan, MNA (NA-11, Mardan-III, KP, PTI), Mr. Usman Khan Tarrakai, MNA (NA-12, Swabi-I, KP, AJIP), Raja Aamer Zaman, MNA (NA-19, Haripur, KP, PTI), Mr. Sher Akbar Khan, MNA (NA-28, Bunair, KP, JJ), Mr. Salim Rehman, MNA (NA-30-Swat-II, KP, PTI), Sahibzada M. Yaqoob,



Parliamentarians from Pakistan and India during the Dialogue



Indian MPs during the Dialogue

MNA (NA-34, Lower Dir, KP, JJ), Mr. Muhammad Zain Elahi, MNA (NA-59, Attock-III, Punjab, Independent), Mr. Amjad Ali Khan, MNA (NA-72 Mianwali-II, Punjab, PTI), Mr. Muhammad Talal Chaudhry, MNA (NA-76, Faisalabad-II, Punjab, PML-N), Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, MNA (NA-82, Faisalabad-VIII, Punjab, PML-N), Chaudhry Mehmood Bashir Virk, MNA (NA-97, Gujranwala-III, Punjab, PML-N), Syed Ashiq Hussain Bukhari, MNA (NA-153, Multan-VI, Punjab, PML-N), Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, MNA (NA-126 Lahore-IX, Punjab, PTI), Mr. Muhammad Khan Daha, MNA (NA-157, Khanewal-II, Punjab, PML-N), Mr. Ghous Bux Mahar, MNA (NA-203, Shikarpur-cum-Sukkur Sindh, PML-F), Pir Bux Junejo, MNA (NA-234, Sanghar-I, Sindh, PML-F), Mr. Mehboob Alam, MNA (NA-242, Karachi-IV, Sindh, MQM), Mr. Rehan Hashmi, MNA (NA-245, Karachi-VII, Sindh, MQM), Dr. Arif Alvi, MNA (NA-254, Karachi XVI, Sindh, PTI), Mr. Abdul Rashid Godil, MNA (NA-252, Karachi-XIV, Sindh, MQM), Mr. Muzammil Qureshi, MNA (NA-253, Karachi-XV, Sindh, MQM), Ms. Nafeesa Inyat Ullah Khattak, MNA (NA-273, KP, PTI), Ms. Aisha Gulalai, MNA (NA-276, KP, PTI), Ms. Zeb Jaffar, MNA (NA-282, Punjab, PML-N), Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez, MNA (NA-295, Punjab, PML-N), Ms. Maiza Hameed, MNA (NNA-298, Punjab, PML-N), Ms. Romina Khursheed Alam (NA-303, Punjab, PML-N), Ms. Kishwer Zehra, MNA (NA-303, Sindh, MQM), Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, MNA (NA-334, Sindh, PML-N), Mr. Bhawan Das, MNA (NA-335, Sindh, PML-N), Mr. Ramesh Lal, MNA (NA-339, Non-Muslim-II, Sindh, PPPP), Mr. Lal Chand Malhi, MNA (NA-340, Sindh, PTI), Mr. Sanjay Parwani, MNA (NA-341, Sindh, MQM) and Ms. Aasiya Nasir, MNA (NA-342, Balochistan, JUI-F).

Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians' Dialogue-IX September 24-25, 2013; Islamabad, Pakistan: Joint Statement

The 9th Round of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians' Dialogue was held on September 24-25, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Facilitated by

PILDAT, the Dialogue was hosted by Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate of Pakistan under the leadership of Senator Afrasiab Khattak. The Delegation of Afghan Parliamentarians was led by Senator Syed Farukh Shah Faryabi Jenab, Secretary, Meshrano Jirga, Afghanistan.

After evaluating the progress made in the past eight (8) rounds of the Dialogue, and taking note of the recent visit of Honourable Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Pakistan, both sides agreed to continue the dialogue process to create and sustain a positive political atmosphere.

They also appreciated the goodwill generated by the recent visit of Pakistan Senate's Defence and Defence Production Committee to Kabul. Parliamentarians of the both the countries expressed pleasure over the fact that their Dialogue was gradually getting institutionalized.

Participants of the Dialogue underlined the necessity for more active cooperation between the two countries in thwarting the nefarious designs of terrorist groups active in the border areas. They agreed that the terrorist groups were attacking innocent citizens on both sides of the border and creating misunderstanding between the two countries. Experience has proved that this challenge can be met only through honest cooperation between the security institutions of the two countries. MPs hoped that the Government officials in-charge of security on both sides would play their rightful role in a manner that prevents loss of life in the two countries. The Parliamentarians at the Dialogue expressed deep sorrow over the loss of life in the recent terrorists attack on a Peshawar Church and pointed out that such despicable acts expose the criminal and brutal nature of the terrorists active in the both Countries. They extended condolence to the bereaved families. They

opined that the sacrifices rendered by citizens of Pakistan and Afghanistan in struggle against terrorism will not go in vain as they strengthen the resolve of the people to defeat terrorism.

Participants of the Dialogue discussed all the issues in a frank, honest and democratic manner. The nature of the discussion revealed the fact once again that the elected representatives of the people are capable in handling the most sensitive issues with maturity. They expressed confidence that the ideas generated by the current debate would go a long way in solving the existing issues between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Parliamentarians from both sides welcomed the recent democratic political transition in Pakistan and termed it as a major success for the people of Pakistan. Strengthening of democratic forces of Pakistan is also a positive factor for promoting peace and stability in the region. They also expressed hope that the coming presidential and parliamentary election in Afghanistan would also lead to strengthening of democracy in Afghanistan. Parliamentarians were of the considered opinion that the processes of peace and democracy are interlinked and strengthening of the one leads to the reinforcement of the other.

Participants of the Dialogue agreed that expansion of people to people contacts was paramount for the friendship between the two countries. They agreed to take further mutual steps in promoting relationship between the people of two countries as it is important for creating proper atmosphere for enhancing cooperation between the two brotherly countries. Parliamentarians from Pakistan and Afghanistan stressed that the proposed interactions between the people from both side should include people from all segments of society including women, youth, businesspersons, media, cultural and professional



Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob welcoming the Afghan MPs Delegation at the Dialogue

groups.

Participants of the Dialogue reiterated that although policy decisions are to be made by the executive branches of the government in the two countries, Parliaments in two countries need to play an important role by offering policy proposals to the two Governments to improve relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan as also oversee the implementation of respective Governments' policies vis-à-vis strengthening Pak-Afghan Relations. Elected representatives of the people are the ones who fully understand the aspiration of the people for peace and stability. In this connection, both sides agreed to make use of available Parliamentary instruments to promote the implementation of the recommendations made during the Dialogue between the MPs of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The Afghan Delegation thanked their Pakistan hosts for warm hospitality extended to them and the excellent arrangements made for facilitating the Dialogue. They also appreciated the warm welcome to them by the Honourable Senator Nayyer Hussain Bokhari, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, and all political parties represented in the Senate of Pakistan.

Similarly, Parliamentarians from Afghanistan and Pakistan thanked PILDAT for facilitating 9th Round of the Dialogue between the Parliamentarians of the two countries. They hoped that PILDAT will continue to support process of the Dialogue as it was vital for removing irritants in the relationship the two countries and promoting peace between them.

The Afghan delegation that joined Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians Dialogue-IX included Honourable Senator Farukh Shah Faryabi Jenab, Secretary, Meshrano Jirga, Honourable Senator Hafiz Abdul Qayyum Nooristani, Deputy Chairman, Legislative Affairs Commission, Meshrano Jirga, Honourable Mohammed Daud Asas, Deputy



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed addressing the Dialogue



Senator Najma Hameed and Senator Shahi Syed

Chairman, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission of Meshrano Jirga, Honourable Senator Dr. Mohammed Amin Safi, Member, Defence, Internal Security and Local Administration Commission of Meshrano Jirga, Honourable Senator Rafiullah Haieri, Member, Foreign Affairs Commission, Meshrano Jirga and Honourable Senator Lailoma Ahmadi, Member, Educational and Religious Affairs Commission, Meshrano Jirga.

Pakistani MPs who joined the Dialogue from the Senate of Pakistan under the chairpersonship of Honourable Senator Afrasiab Khattak, (ANP, KP) Convener of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in Senate of Pakistan, included Honourable Senator Haji Adeel (ANP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Honourable Senator Abbas Khan Afridi (IND, FATA), Honourable Senator Surriya Amiruddin (PPPP, Balochistan), Honourable Senator Farhatullah Babar (PPPP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Honourable Senator Dr. Mohammed Jehangir Badar (Punjab, PPPP), Honourable Senator Abdul Nabi Bangash (ANP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Honourable Senator Naseema Ehsan (BNP-A, Balochistan), Honourable Senator Saeed Ghani (PPPP, Sindh), Honourable Senator Najma Hameed (PML-N, Punjab), Honourable Senator Saeeda Iqbal (PPPP, ICT), Senator Amar Jeet (ANP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Honourable Senator Rubina Khalid (PPPP, Balochistan), Honourable Senator Baz Mohammed Khan (ANP, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Honourable Senator Saeed Ul Hassan Mandokhel (PML, Balochistan), Senator Nisar Malakand, (PMLN, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Honourable Senator Shirala Malick (MQM, Sindh), Honourable Senator Malik Najam Ul Hassan (IND, FATA), Senator Kalsoom Perveen (BNP-A, Balochistan), Honourable Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed (PML, Islamabad), Honourable Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah (Independent, FATA) and Honourable Senator Shahi Syed (ANP, Sindh). Members of the National Assembly of Pakistan joining

the Dialogue included Honourable Mr. Aftab Khan Sherpao, MNA, (NA-8, Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, QWP-S), Honourable Eng. Hamid Ul Haq, MNA (NA-2, Peshawar II, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Honourable Siraj Mohammed Khan, MNA (NA-6, Nowshera II, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Honourable Mohammed Gohar Shah, MNA (NA-7, Charsadda I, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, JUI-F), Honourable Eng. Ali Mohammed Khan, MNA (NA-10, Mardan II, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Honourable Mujahid Ali Khan, MNA (NA-11, Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Honourable Usman Khan Tarrakai, MNA (NA-12, Swabi-I, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJIP), Honourable Iftikhar Uddin, MNA (NA-32, Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, APML), Honourable Mr. Junaid Akber Khan, MNA (NA-35, Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Honourable Muhammad Jamal ud Din, MNA, (NA-42, Tribal Area VII, JUI-F), Honourable Qaiser Jamal, MNA, (NA-47, Tribal Area VIII, FATA), Honourable Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak, MNA (NA-273, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Honourable Ms. Arifa Khalid Pervez, MNA (NA-295, Punjab, PML-N), and Honourable Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, MNA (NA-334, Karachi, Sindh, PMLN).

Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians' Dialogue-X: Joint Statement

The 10th Round of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians' Dialogue was held on October 01-02, 2013 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Facilitated by PILDAT, the Dialogue was hosted by Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly of Pakistan under the leadership of **Honourable Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao**, MNA (NA-8, Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, QWP) and Convener of the Group and **Honourable Mr. Mirwais Yasini**, First Deputy Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, Parliament of Afghanistan.

After evaluating the progress made in the past nine (9) rounds of the Dialogue, both sides expressed



Mr. Mirwais Yasini and Mr. Aftab Khan Sherpao, MNA



Dr. Ghazi Gulab Jamal, MNA and Mr. Bilour

satisfaction over the emergence of positive political atmosphere in the relationship between the two countries. However, Parliamentarians of Pakistan and Afghanistan reiterated that both countries have many issues that need to be resolved in cooperation with each other.

Parliamentarians of Pakistan and Afghanistan reiterated their support and approval for the Joint Statement of the 9th round of Pakistan-Afghanistan MPs Dialogue which was held at Islamabad on September 24, 25, 2013.

Parliamentarians engaged in a candid exchange of views on issues affecting Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. They stressed that the soil of Pakistan and Afghanistan should not be allowed to be used against each other's country for terrorist activities. Parliamentarians also called for an end to blame game between the two countries.

5. MPs stressed that Parliaments must fulfil their responsibilities of improving bilateral ties through oversight of foreign and security policies. Respective Parliamentary committees need to play their role in this regard.

MPs showed concern at increasing terrorist activities in the two countries and urged the two Governments to go beyond condemnation and take effective measures to contain terrorism and extremism.

Parliamentarians highlighted the small window of opportunity in terms of time that existed for both Pakistan and Afghanistan to realistically address the issues that may emerge from the proposed 2014 withdrawal of ISAF from Afghanistan. MPs stressed that lack of appropriate decisions by Governments in Pakistan and Afghanistan at this stage may result in a more catastrophic scenario post 2014.

MPs urged both the Governments to play a positive role to contain terrorism and assist in reconciliation. In

order to achieve desirable scenario in post-2014, both Governments should work together towards the goal of peace and stability in the region.

Parliamentarians of the two countries agreed that relevant Friendship Groups in the Parliaments of Pakistan and Afghanistan should be facilitated to lead the Dialogue process to employ Parliamentary diplomacy for improving bilateral relations in accordance with the socio-political and cultural norms of the two countries. A structured follow-up on recommendations made at the Dialogues should be continued by the Friendship Groups to ensure MPs' recommendations influence policies of the two Governments.

Parliamentarians from Afghanistan and Pakistan thanked PILDAT for facilitating the 10th Round of the Dialogue. They hoped that PILDAT will continue to support process of the Dialogue as it was vital for removing irritants in the relationship of the two countries and promoting peace between them.

The Afghan delegation, under the leadership of **Honourable Mr. Mirwais Yasini**, First Deputy Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga, included following Members of the Wolesi Jirga: **Honourable Mr. Abdul Latif Pedram**, member of the Wolesi Jirga Commission on Oversight of the Implementation of the Law and Central Audit, **Honourable Mr. Alam Qarar**, member of Wolesi Jirga Commission on Internal Affairs, **Honourable Mr. Allah Gul Mojahed**, member of the Complaints and Petitions Commission of the Wolesi Jirga, **Honourable Mr. Mahmood Khan Sulaimankhail** and **Honourable Haji Sakhi Meshwani**.

The Pakistan delegation, under the leadership of **Honourable Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao**, MNA (NA-8, Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, QWP) and Convener of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly of



Mr. Shehryar Afridi, MNA, sharing his views



A glimpse from the Pak-Afghan MPs Dialogue

Pakistan, included **Honourable Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi**, Former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan included 32 MPs such as **Honourable Mr. Ghulam Ahmed Bilour**, MNA (NA-1, Peshawar I, KP, ANP), **Honourable Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan**, MNA (NA-10, Mardan II, KP, PTI), **Honourable Mr. Shehryar Afridi**, MNA (NA-14, Kohat, KP, PTI), **Honourable Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon**, MNA (NA-17, Abbottabad-I, KP, PTI), **Honourable Dr. Raja Aamer Zaman**, MNA (NA-19, Haripur, KP, PTI), **Honourable Mr. Akram Khan Durrani**, (NA-26, Bannu, KP, JUI-F), **Honourable Mr. Sher Akbar Khan**, MNA (NA-28, Bunair, KP, JI), **Honourable Mr. Iftikharuddin**, MNA (NA-32, Chitral, KP, APML), **Honourable Sahibzada Tariqullah**, MNA (NA-33, Upper Dir, KP, JI), **Honourable Syed Ghazi Gulab Jamal**, MNA (NA-39, Tribal Area, IV, FATA, IND), **Honourable Mr. Bismillah Khan**, MNA (NA-43, Tribal Area VIII, FATA, IND), **Honourable Mr. Shah Jee Gul Afridi**, MNA (NA-45, Tribal Area-X, FATA, IND), **Honourable Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti**, MNA (NA-67, Sargodha-IV, Punjab, PML-N), **Honourable Mr. Mehboob Alam**, MNA (NA-242, Karachi IV, Sindh, MQM), **Honourable Mr. Muhammad Muzammil Qureshi**, MNA (NA-253, Karachi-XV, Sindh, MQM), **Honourable Mr. Asif Husnain**, MNA (NA-255, Karachi-XVII, Sindh, MQM), **Honourable Ms. Aasiya Nasir**, MNA (NA-259, Balochistan-IX, JUI-F), **Honourable Maulana Ameer Zaman**, MNA (NA-263, Loralai, Balochistan, JUI-F), **Honourable Mrs. Tahira Aurangzeb**, MNA (NA-275, Punjab-III, PML-N), **Honourable Ms. Asiya Naz Tanoli**, MNA (NA-282, Punjab-X, PML-N), **Honourable Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam**, MNA (NA-295, Punjab-XXIII, PML-N), **Honourable Syeda Zahra Wadood Fatemi**, MNA (NA-298, Punjab-XXVI, PMLN), **Honourable Ms. Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak**, MNA (NA-322, KP-I, PTI), **Honourable Ms. Sajida Begum**, MNA (NA-324, KP-IV, PTI), **Honourable Mrs. Shahida Akhtar Ali**, MNA (NA-326, KP-V, JUI-F) **Honourable Ms. Naeema Kishwar Khan**, MNA (NA-327, KP VII, JUI-F), **Honourable Ms. Aisha Saeed**, MNA (NA-329,

KP-VIII JI), **Honourable Ms. Aliya Kamran**, MNA (NA-332, Balochistan-III, JUI-F), **Honourable Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**, MNA (NA-334, Karachi, Sindh, PML-N), **Honourable Senator Surriya Amiruddin** (PPPP, Balochistan) and **Honourable Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana**, (Punjab, PML-N).

Meeting of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group

A meeting of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate of Pakistan took place on November 7, 2013 to discuss the status of the recommendations emanating from the Pakistan-Afghanistan MPs Dialogue held in 2013, sustainability of the Dialogue and the next round of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians Dialogue.

The meeting was held under the chairpersonship of Honourable Senator Afrasiab Khattak while PILDAT facilitated the meeting at its Islamabad Offices. Syed Haider Shah, Director, Afghanistan Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented the Foreign Office in the meeting. Mr. Mudassir Sher Ali Gondal, Section Officer of the Senate Secretariat, was also part of the meeting.

Prominent members of Senate Parliamentary Friendship Group with Afghanistan who attended the meeting included Honourable Senator Farhatullah Babar (PPPP, KP), Honourable Senator Kalsoom Parveen (BNP-A, Balochistan) and Honourable Senator Zafar Ali Shah (PML-N, ICT). Honourable Senator Dr. Muhammad Jahangir Badar (PPPP, Punjab), Honourable Senator Saeed Ul Hassan Mandokhel (PML, Balochistan) and Honourable Senator Amar Jeet Singh (ANP, KP) attended the meeting as special invitees.

Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians Dialogue-XI: Joint Statement

Members of Parliaments of Pakistan and Afghanistan met for the 11th round of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians' Dialogue in Kabul, Afghanistan on December 17-18, 2013.

Parliamentarians of the two countries acknowledged and appreciated the positive momentum in bilateral relations carried forward through the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister, Honourable Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, to Afghanistan on November 30, 2013.

MPs supported the vision of deepening of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan underpinned by a strong trade and economic partnership while appreciating the pledge made by both leaders to enhance bilateral trade to US \$ 5 billion by 2015.

Parliamentarians appreciated Prime Minister of Pakistan's announcement to enhance Pakistan's commitment of assistance for reconstruction and socio-economic development in Afghanistan from US \$ 385 million to US \$ 500 million. They also supported the initiatives to enhance connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan, including through a motorway between Peshawar and Kabul, rail links between Peshawar and Jalalabad and Chaman and Spinbolduk as well as building a trade central strategic corridor between the two countries.

Welcoming the democratic transfer of power from one civilian Government to another through Pakistan's 10th General Election held in May 2013, the two sides urged the two Governments to make use of the renewed prospects of peace offered by this to improve both neighbourly and regional relations. Parliamentarians



Inauguration ceremony of the XI Round of Pak-Afghan MPs Dialogue

hoped that a democratic transfer of Government in Afghanistan, according to the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan, will take place in a peaceful manner.

Affirming their commitment to build an environment of peace through dialogue, the two sides reiterated their resolve to continue the dialogue process to stabilize relations between the two countries. They also resolved to find constructive, meaningful and lasting solutions to improve and strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

MPs recognised that despite historical ties and brotherly relations, the trust deficit between the two countries continues to sully Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the citizens in two countries, vowed to come forward to remove this trust deficit.

As representatives of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan, the MPs noted the progress achieved on various bilateral issues contributions for which were made in recommendations by the Parliamentarians in 10 rounds of MPs Dialogues held since 2008.

Parliamentarians urged the two Governments to work jointly for Afghan and regional peace and reconciliation process. They noted that extremism and terrorism remain a formidable challenge faced by both countries and joint and sustained efforts are required by the two States to overcome these challenges.

Parliamentarians reiterated the need for both States to put in place comprehensive and effective measures for border management, strengthening also the tribes on the two sides to effectively monitor the border. Parliamentarians also stressed that the soil of the two countries must not be allowed to be used against each other and concerns from both sides should be seriously and honestly addressed on priority basis.

Parliamentarians also urged the two Governments to



Pakistan and Afghan MPs sharing their views



Mr. Aftab Khan Sherpao co-chairing the dialogue

address security and humanitarian aspects of border management. Special attention should be given to the problems faced by IDPs from amongst the border tribes on both sides. Special packages should also be provided for the rehabilitation of residents affected by the conflict.

MPs, as members of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the two Parliaments, also urged the two Governments, while removing trust deficit, enter into a comprehensive Strategic Partnership Agreement. A draft of the same has been shared by Pakistan with the Afghan Government since November 2012. MPs asked for its early finalisation and signing.

MPs underscored the critical need for comprehensive Defence and Security Cooperation between the two countries while reiterating that elected Political Governments and Parliaments must maintain democratic control and oversight on defence and security in the two countries.

Parliamentarians of the two countries welcomed the focus on Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan in Pakistan's newly-constituted Cabinet Committee on National Security (CCNS) and believed that the two Governments should create linkages between Pakistan's CCNS and Afghanistan's National Security Council (NSC).

Parliamentarians of the two countries urged the Governments to prepare a comprehensive roadmap for the honourable repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan to Afghanistan in 2015 in keeping with the trilateral agreement. They also supported Pakistan Government's offer of security and other arrangements to allow the Afghan refugees in Pakistan to vote in the upcoming Afghan Presidential election.

An urgent need was expressed by Parliamentarians from both sides to address the critical issue of rising water scarcity both in Pakistan and Afghanistan. MPs

urged that the two countries, learning from regional and international best practices, should enter into a treaty on water-sharing.

Recognizing that while regional visa-free travel of MPs is facilitated through the SAARC, the MPs demanded that the two countries must also enter into a bilateral agreement to allow visa-free access to Parliamentarians and holders of diplomatic and official passports in Pakistan and Afghanistan. A relaxed visa regime that allows multiple entry visas of citizens of each country as well as business visas should also be prioritized by the two Governments.

Parliamentarians asked the two Governments to provide special protection to professionals of the two countries in each other's country.

Parliamentarians urged the two Governments to create joint comprehensive strategies to effectively address all aspects of the problem of narcotics.

Culture is the bonding adhesive of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. In full recognition of the role that unimpeded cultural exchanges can play in promoting people-to-people contact and improving the atmosphere for the resolution of security, political and other issues, Parliamentarians urged both Governments to dismantle any remaining obstacles to Cultural Exchanges. Sports, especially cricket, provide an opportunity for strengthening contacts.

Parliamentarians also attached great importance to the electronic and other news media on both sides and urged for strengthening research-based reporting that can promote peace and business between the two countries on a long-term basis. Media of both countries should be allowed to be viewed in both countries.

Parliamentarians recognised the Pakistan pledge of 3000 scholarships to Afghan students and urged the two Governments to make greater investment in exchange of students. Promotion of contact among youth and



Honourable Mr. Mir wais Yasini and Senator Afrasiab Khattak



Afghan Women MPs during the Dialogue

woman was also urged.

Parliamentarians pledged to foster greater people-to-people contacts between the two countries in the forms of jirgas and friendship associations.

Parliamentarians urged the two Governments to allow speedy consular access to each other's prisoners. They believed that Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the two countries must carry out a regular overview of the conditions of the prisoners and a review of their cases through respective authorities.

Parliamentary Friendship Groups in the two Parliaments agreed to present recommendations made at the MPs Dialogue in their respective Parliaments. They also pledged to present the Joint Communiqué to the respective Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs as well as the Foreign Offices and the Governments of the two countries.

Parliamentarians also believed the two countries should support each other's perspectives and positions on bilateral and multilateral forums including Parliamentary Forums.

Parliamentarians also recommended the development of a joint webpage of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentary Friendship Groups in Pakistan and Afghanistan Parliaments to enhance mutual cooperation and interaction.

Parliamentarians from both sides recognised and appreciated the initiative of PILDAT to foster these dialogues and urged that this initiative be continued and reinforced.

Facilitated by PILDAT, Pakistan Delegation was led by the respective Conveners of the Parliamentary Friendship Groups on Afghanistan in the National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan, Honourable Mr. Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao, MNA (Charsadda-I, KP QWP) and Honourable Senator Afrasiab Khattak

(ANP, KP). Honourable Mr. Mirwais Yasini, First Deputy Speaker of Wolesi Jirga and Honourable Senator Rafiullah Afghan, Second Deputy Speaker of Meshrano Jirga, Co-Chaired the two-day Dialogue from Afghanistan side.

The Pakistan Delegation that joined the two-day Pakistan-Afghanistan MPs Dialogue in Kabul, included Honourable Sahibzada Tariqullah, MNA (NA-33, Upper Dir-cum-Lower Dir, KP, JI), Honourable Mr. Bismillah Khan, MNA (NA-39, Tribal Area-IV, IND), Honourable Mr. Ghazi Gulab Jamal, MNA (NA-43, Tribal Area VIII, IND), Honourable Malik Ihtebat Khan, MNA (NA-58, Attock-II, Punjab, PML-N), Honourable Mrs. Mussarat Ahmedzeb, MNA (NA-323, KP-II, PTI) from the National Assembly and Honourable Senator Abdul Nabi Bangash (ANP, KP), Honourable Senator Zafar Ali Shah (PML-N, ICT) and) from the Senate of Pakistan. Special Invitees included in the Delegation were Honourable Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly, Honourable Senator Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Badar (PPPP, Punjab) and Honourable Senator Mohammad Daud Khan Achakzai (ANP, Balochistan).

Afghan MPs who joined the Dialogue included Honourable Mr. Sher Ali Ahmadzai, Honourable Mr. Fakoori Beheeshti, Honourable Mr. Abdul Sattar Darzabi, Honourable Mr. Baz Mohammed Jawzjan, Honourable Nasima Niazi, Honourable Haji Sakhi Meshwani, Honourable Ms. Brishna Rabi, Honourable Ms. Zahra Tokhi and Honourable Ms. Arian Yoon from the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House); whereas Honourable Senator Gulali Akbari, Honourable Senator Haji Mohammad Daud Assas, Honourable Senator Sediqah Balkhi, Senator Nisaar Ahmed Haress, Honourable Senator Abdul Qayyum Nooristani, Honourable Senator Rona Tareen and Honourable Senator Fawzia Sadat represented the Meshrano Jirga at the Dialogue.



Pakistan and Afghanistan MPs



Participants at the dialogue

Afghanistan-Pakistan relations suffer from lack of trust in Governments, not People: President Karzai

On December 19, 2013, President of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, said that Afghanistan and Pakistan suffer from lack of trust between Governments while there is no mistrust among the people of the two brotherly countries. He was speaking to a Pakistan Parliamentary Delegation that called on him to share joint recommendations from the 11th round of Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians Dialogue held in Kabul from December 17-18, 2013.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan understands the concerns of Afghanistan better than anyone, said Mr. Karzai, adding that both the countries are suffering from militancy and terrorism and therefore joint strategies and efforts are required to address these challenges.

The Presidium of the Pakistan delegation, Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, MNA, and Senator Afrasiab Khattak, respective Conveners of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Friendship Groups in the National Assembly and the Senate of Pakistan, shared the key points of recommendations with the Afghan President that were reached by the Parliamentarians of the two countries at the 11th round of Dialogue.

Pakistan Parliamentary delegation shared best wishes for a smooth and peaceful transition of Government in Afghanistan as per the aspirations of the Afghan people.

Mr. Karzai appreciated the continuity and progress achieved in the MPs Dialogue and hoped that the dialogue process among public representatives, aimed at conflict resolution and removing trust deficit between the two countries, will continue in the days to come.

Mr. Karzai said that the people of Pakistan have treated Afghans better than Afghans could have treated

themselves. It is the lack of security that breeds mistrust. He said that Afghanistan considers that peace in Afghanistan and in the region should be the key criteria of all strategic agreements.

It was shared with Mr. Karzai that in order to move forward, the two neighbouring countries must understand that each one has to cooperate with the other while safeguarding its own interests. Respect for each other's institutions will ensure that the two countries do not work at cross-purposes.

It is time to move on to a liberal trade regime with India: General Consensus at the Briefing Session for Parliamentarians on Pakistan-India Trade

A multi-party consensus on liberalized trade regime with India was evident at the Briefing Session organized by PILDAT on 'Pakistan-India Trade and National Interest' on February 25. The session which attracted over 50 members of the Senate and National Assembly belonging to eight political parties represented in the Parliament, was briefed by eminent experts on the subject such as Dr. Ishrat Husain, Dean and Director of IBA Karachi and a former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan; Mr. Qasim M. Niaz, Federal Secretary Commerce; Mr. Zafar Mehmood, Former Federal Secretary, Commerce; Mr. Sakib Sherani, Former Advisor, Ministry of Finance; Mr. Riaz Muhammad Khan, Former Foreign Secretary; Maj. Gen. (Retired) Anis A. Bajwa, Former Chief of Staff to Chief Executive of Pakistan; Mr. Sikandar Mustafa Khan, Chairman Millat Tractors Ltd & Chairman, Pakistan Business Council; Mr. Tariq Bucha, President, Farmers Association of Pakistan and Mr. Siraj Muhammad Khan, Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce. Syed Naveed Qamar MNA and Former Federal Minister of Finance and Defence chaired the first session and gave the viewpoint of his party – Pakistan Peoples Party. Mr. Shafqat Mehmood, MNA spoke on behalf of PTI while the former Minister of State for Finance; Omar Ayub Khan, MNA, represented the PML-N. Mr. Khurram



Mr. Mehboob speaks as Dr. Ishrat Hussain looks on



Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA and Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, MNA

Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce had to skip the session due to an unscheduled meeting of the Federal Cabinet.

Earlier Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President of PILDAT, welcomed the speakers and the participants. He said that the shifting positions of Government of Pakistan on Trade with India do not enhance our prestige among the committee of nations. It is important to develop a consensus on the subject and then enforce the agreed policy with determination. He said that Parliament and its Standing Committees are the best fora to develop consensus on the subject and hoped that this briefing would help the Parliamentarians to play their rightful role in guiding the government.

Mr. Zafar Mahmood presented the Historical Context of the trade relations between Pakistan and India and said that Regional Trade played an important role in Developing Economy. He said before 1965 the trade between the two countries was normal but after 1965 war everything changed massively. The Bank branches of the other country were closed down in each country and the properties and assets of the banks were confiscated by the Governments. The trade between the two countries remained suspended till 1972 and resumed after the Simla Agreement. Mr. Mehmood was of the view that Pakistan should liberalize Trade with India without any fear of Indian domination of our markets. He acknowledged that India had erected numerous Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) that were a major obstacle to liberalization of trade. He felt that WTO regime offered us the opportunity to correct the uneven playing field where required.

Dr. Ishrat Husain, presenting his view point said that growth in trade leads to growth in GDP as has been proved in a number of cases around the globe. He said that trade is the engine of growth in modern times and there were numerous studies to prove that Pakistani industry can not only withstand a liberalized trade with

India, it can in fact benefit from access to a much larger Indian market. He felt that a liberalized trade and the ensuing competition with Indian industry will help Pakistani industry to become more efficient and competitive. He said that if free trade agreement with China has not destroyed Pakistani industry, a similar arrangement with India would also not hurt so much. He said that India was trading with a much bigger economy of China despite the border disputes and an unfavorable balance of trade. Dr. Husain was of the view that Pakistan and India should liberalise trade with each other and address the issues on a case to case basis rather than obstructing the trade in general.

Mr. Riaz Muhammad Khan, Former Foreign Secretary, said that a liberalized trade regime with India did not pose a threat to Pakistan's national interest.

Major General (Rtd) Anis A. Bajwa presented the views from the security angle. He explained the modern concepts of national security and underscored that security was a much broader phenomenon than the notions of defence. He felt that a stronger economy was the most important factor in a country's national security. Since a liberalized trade was likely to strengthen national economy, it will enhance national security as well. He said that Pakistan should focus on its economic interest and ascertain the value of trade with India on this basis.

Presenting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) position, Mr. Shafqat Mahmood, MNA said PTI is in favour of liberalized Pakistan-India trade, as it will boost the economy.

Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, MNA, presenting the Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz position said that his party is convinced that trade with India is important for peace and healthy relations with India. He said generally it is said that only export is good, import is not good, but infact import and export both are good for any country as it creates competition in local and International



Pakistani MPs sharing views at the Forum



Mr. Riaz Muhammad Khan and Mr. Zafar Mahmood

Markets.

Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA, while winding up the discussion in the first session, said that Pakistan Peoples Party was strongly in the favor of liberalized trade with India. He said that PPP felt that there was no harm in enhanced trade with India. He also felt that neither India nor Pakistan should link resolution of disputes with trade as we had been doing in the past.

During the post-lunch session, representatives of various segments of national economy shared their views on the proposed Non-Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA) for India. Dr. Ishrat Husain chaired the session. Mr. Sikandar Mustafa Khan, Chairman Millat Tractors and Chairman, Pakistan Business Council said, while representing the Automobile sector and the business community in general, that there was no harm in opening trade doors with India as long as the concerns of the local businessmen were addressed. The government sometimes does not take stakeholder into confidence while making important policy decisions due to which local business suffers. He said if suggestions of stakeholders are taken into account, the stake holders will be the first ones to favor trade with India.

Mr. Sakib Sherani, who had authored the Discussion Paper for the Briefing Session, gave a balance sheet of pros and cons of liberalized trade with India. He felt that Pakistan would need to make a careful assessment of the sectors which might need special protective measures allowed under the WTO regime. He also cited the negative impact of Non-Tariff Barriers in India and hoped that a liberalized trade would not only mean steps on Pakistan side but also on the Indian side as well. But in principal he supported a more liberalized trade regime with India. He also proposed that the public concerns on both sides should be addressed by the respective governments by raising awareness about the benefits of greater trade and that a more liberal trade regime would not pose a security threat to any one as it

would help in boosting the economy and creation of more jobs also.

Mr. Tariq Bucha, President of Farmers Association of Pakistan, said that the Government did not include representatives of the agriculture sector in the consultations with various sectors of economy while formulating the policy of more liberal trade with India. He said that addressing the concerns of agriculture sector at an early stage would have paved the way for a liberalized trade with India. He said that the trade without taking protective measures will be beneficial only for the urban consumers but the farmers and consumers in the rural areas will suffer. He said that he was not against enhanced trade with India but the trade policy should protect the interests of Pakistani farmers as well because they are at a huge disadvantage because of the heavily subsidized agriculture in Indian Punjab.

Mr. Qasim Niaz, Federal Secretary of Commerce, appreciated PILDAT for holding this briefing session and said that the issues between Pakistan and India on bilateral trade should be addressed through negotiations and an organized dialogue on Pak India Trade would be helpful in promoting understanding on the subject. He said that officials at the Ministry of Commerce focus on expanding trade with a commercial and economic point of view and the political dimensions are left to the political leadership of the country. He admitted that Most Favoured Nation (MFN) was a misleading term and it has also contributed towards resistance to the idea by certain quarters. He said that there were non-tariff barriers from Indian side and Pakistan has the options of taking appropriate measures to safeguard its national interests. He said that the regional trade was important for every country. He believed that there were a few apprehensions in this regard, which could be addressed through dialogue. He said that Pak India business Forum could play an important role in extending bilateral trade. He admitted that there were some capacity issues, which needed to be identified and



Mr. Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, MNA and Rana Afzal Khan, MNA



Senator Afrasiab Khattak addressing the Forum

addressed in Pakistan.

Parliamentarians enthusiastically participated in the Question-Answer sessions. A general consensus for a more liberal trade with India was evident in most of the comments made by the parliamentarians across the party divide. One key sentiment repeatedly expressed both by speakers and participants was that Pakistan, while protecting its own interest, must also fulfill its international obligations under various agreements and treaties and that it must project its image as a responsible country by honouring its public pronouncements. Many parliamentarians felt that the Briefing Session was immensely useful in giving them the factual information and various viewpoints on the subject.

The Honorable Senators who attended and registered their names in the briefing session included Senator Farhatullah Babar (PPPP, KP); Senator Begum Najma Hameed (PMLN, Punjab); Senator Syeda Sughra Hussain Imam (PPPP, Punjab); Senator Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana (PMLN, Punjab); Senator M. Hamza (PMLN, Punjab); Senator Muhammad Mohsin Khan Leghari (IND, Punjab); Senator Afrasiab Khattak (ANP, KP) and Senator Suraiya Amiruddin (PPPP, Balochistan).

Honourable Members of the National Assembly (MNA's) who participated and registered their names in the briefing session included Rana Muhammad Afzal Khan, Parliamentary Secretary for Finance (NA-82, Faisalabad-VIII, PML-N), Ms. Sabiha Nazir (NA-301, Women Punjab- XXIX, PML-N), Mr. Khalid George (NA-337, NM- V, PML-N), Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatemi (NA-298, Women Punjab- XXVI, PML -N), Ms. Shahida Rehmani (NA-308, Women Sindh - I, PPPP), Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto (NA-312, Women Sindh - V, PPPP), Ms. Sajida Begum (NA-324, Women Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa - III, PTI), Ms. Asyia Naz Tanoli (NA-282, Women Punjab- X, PML-N), Mr. Alhaj Shah Jee Gul Afridi (NA-45, Tribal Area-X,

Independent), Ms. Nikhat Shakeel Khan (NA-318, Women Sindh – X, MQM), Mr. Siraj Muhammad Khan (NA-6, Nowshera-II, PTI), Chaudhry Muhammad Shahbaz Babar (NA-79, Faisalabad-V, PML-N), Shahibzada Muhammad Yaqub (NA-34, Lower Dir, JJ), Ms. Shahida Akhtar Ali (NA-326, Women Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa - V JUI-F), Ms. Shahnaz Saleem Malik (NA-285, Women Punjab- XIII, PML-N), Dr. Muhammad Azhar Khan Jadoon (NA-17, Abbottabad-I, PTI), Molana Ameer Zaman (NA-263, Loralai-cum-Musakhel-cum-Barkhan, JUI-F), Mr. Arif Ur Rehman Alvi (NA-250, Karachi-XII, PTI), Ms. Tahira Aurangzeb (NA-275, Women Punjab- III, PML-N), Mr. Ali Muhammad Khan (NA-10, Mardan-II, PTI), Mr. Lal Chand (NA-339, NM- VII, PTI), Ms. Khalida Mansoor (NA-281, Women Punjab- IX, PML-N), Mr. Sajid Nawaz (NA-3, Peshawar-III, PTI), Ms. Nighat Parveen (NA-279, Women Punjab- VII, PML-N), Ms. Parveen Masood Bhatti (NA-276, Women Punjab- IV, PML-N), Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari , Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs (NA-173, Dera Ghazi Khan-III, PML-N), Mr. Mujahid Ali (NA-11, Mardan-III, PTI), Sardar Mansab Ali Dogar (NA-164, Pakpattan-I, PML-N), Ms. Kishwer Zehra (NA-315, Women Sindh – VIII, MQM), and Dr . Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti (NA-67, Sargodha-IV, PML-N).

High turnout in Afghanistan Presidential Election shows democracy gaining ground: Senator Afrasiab Khattak

High voter turnout and political maturity displayed in Afghan Presidential Election shows democracy is gaining ground in Afghanistan, said Senator Afrasiab

Khattak while sharing his observations from the first phase of Afghanistan Election 2014. He was the keynote speaker at a PILDAT Forum on Afghanistan Presidential Election 2014 held in Islamabad on May 27.

Senator Afrasiab Khattak said that Pakistan needs to extend its support to the people of Afghanistan for a peaceful and democratic transition. Pakistan should also extend support to Afghanistan for joint economic ventures that will help both the countries to sustain economic stability in the South Asian region. Our focus should shift from Geo-Strategic to Geo-Economic relations with Afghanistan. He also pointed out that Taliban have emerged strong militarily but not politically. Both countries should make sincere efforts to curb terrorism.

A large number of Parliamentarians, Media, Civil Society Organisations and Academia participated actively in the Forum.



Speakers at the Roundtable Discussion

Polio Eradication and Parliamentarians

Parliamentary Leadership of Political Parties Re-affirmed Commitment for Eradication of Polio

Parliamentary leadership of leading Political Parties of Pakistan re-affirmed their commitment to eradicate polio from Pakistan. Leaders of parliamentary parties were gathered together at the PILDAT Follow-Up meeting of All Parties Conference (APC) on Polio here in Islamabad on July 15

Leadership and Representatives of the political parties currently part of the 14th National Assembly participated in the follow-up meeting on Eradication of Polio from Pakistan including the Balochistan National Party - Mengal (BNP-M); Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Samiulhaq Group)-JUI (S); Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM); Pakistan Muslim League Functional (PML-F); Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian (PPPP); Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI); Qaumi Watan Party-(QWP); Awami Jamhuri Itihad Pakistan (AJIP) and National Party (NP).

Political Parties which participated in the meeting unanimously agreed to the right of all children in Pakistan to vaccination and the duty of the Government to ensure no child is left un-immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases. They agreed to stand ready to support Government at all levels to achieve goal of polio eradication from the country.

Party leaders and representatives also condemned all acts of violence against healthcare workers. They demanded to make all efforts to ensure that all healthcare workers are given proper security so that they can perform their duty to the best of their abilities.

Political leaders and representatives also urged the

Government to make all efforts to access the 250,000 children in North and South Waziristan that are continually denied access to anti-polio vaccines due the ban on vaccination. They also urged the Government to make all efforts to improve routine immunization systems throughout the country.

Earlier welcoming the political leaders, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, said that Pakistan is among one of the three polio-endemic countries in the World along with Afghanistan and Nigeria. Sharing the number of Polio cases in Pakistan for the past years, Mr. Mehboob said that there were 144 cases of Polio found in 2010, 198 cases in 2011 and 58 cases in 2012. Since January 2013 to date, a total of 21 polio cases have been reported. PILDAT wants Political Parties to highlight the negative impact of Polio on population.

Dr. Shamsheer Khan and Dr. Obaid Ul Islam from Polio Eradication Initiative jointly shared Polio Eradication Updates in Pakistan. Speaking about the National Emergency Action Plan-NEAP they shared that this programme translates high level government oversight and ownership into meaningful accountability at district and union council levels. They added that NEAP ensures highest quality polio vaccination in the high risk districts and Union Councils and Populations. They also shared that Central Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA are serious threats for the progress and efforts made for eradication of polio. Situation in Gaddap town is also a serious risk for polio spread in Karachi. Low morale of health workers and insecurity and threat to them are also major issues for eradication of Polio from the country.

Parliamentary Leaders and Political Parties representatives who participated in the follow-up meeting included Mr. Usman Khan Tarrakai, MNA, Parliamentary Leader of Awami Jamhuri Itihad



Speakers at the APC on Polio Eradication

Pakistan (AJIP), Mr. Abdul Rauf Mengal, Former MNA, Balochistan National Party - Mengal (BNP-M), Moulana Hamid ul Haq Haqqani, Mr. Irfan ul Haq, Mr. Israr Madni and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Samiulhaq Group) (JUI (S)), Dr. Nikhat Shakeel Khan, MNA, Saman Sultana Jafri, MNA, Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM), Dr. Yasin Baloch and Mr. Liaqat Shawani, National Party (NP); Mr. Meer Mohammad Khokhar, and Mr. Nadeem Ahmed Mirza, Pakistan Muslim League Functional (PML-F); Mr. Mohammad Ayaz Soomro, MN, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP); Dr. Raja Aamer Zaman, MNA, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI); Ms. Anisa Zeb Tahirkhaili and Meraj Hamayun Khan, Qaumi Watan Party (QWP).

PILDAT organised the Follow-Up meeting with Parliamentary Leaders and Political Party Representatives on Polio Eradication in association with UNICEF, Pakistan under the Project "To Raise Awareness among Parliamentarians to Enhance the Effectiveness of Anti-Polio".

Resolutions to be tabled in Provincial Assemblies to observe Polio Day in all Provinces

In a Consultative Session held on September 27, Members of the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan agreed to present resolutions in their Provincial Legislatures to stress their Governments to observe 24th October as Polio Awareness Day in all the Government and Private Schools of their respective Provinces. Provincial Legislators, interested in the subject of Health gathered at a PILDAT Consultative Session on Child Health in Islamabad as the standing committees on Health have yet to be constituted in the four Provincial Assemblies.

Speakers at the consultative Discussion included Mr. Shaoukat Ali Yousafzai, Minister of Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Imtiaz Shahid Qureshi, Deputy Speaker, Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Mehreen Razaq Bhutto and Dr.



Participants at the APC



Glimpse from the Forum

Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Members National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination, Mr. Mazhar Nisar, National Health Education Adviser/ Director Implementation, Ministry of Nation Health Services, Regulation and Coordination and Dr. Taimur Shah, Assistant Director, EPI, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chairing the Consultative Session, Mr. Shaoukat Ali Yousafzai, Minister of Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said many flaws still existed in Health Department of the Province. However, PTI-led coalition Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has taken several initiatives to improve health conditions and facilities in the province. He also assured that PTI political workers will be involved in monitoring of polio cases from union council level to district level throughout the province.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Member National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination said that whether polio cases found in Sindh or in any other province, it is recognized as a case in Pakistan. He assured that the National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Committee will cooperate with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in any case.

Briefing the MPAs and MNAs at the Session on State of Polio in Pakistan, Mr. Mazhar Nisar, Coordinator of Prime Minister's Polio Monitoring and Coordination Cell said that 198 cases were reported in the year 2011, 58 cases of polio were detected in 2012 and in 2013 31 cases so far have been reported all over Pakistan. He shared that 22 Polio workers have been attacked and killed since July 2012. He also proposed a way forward to MPAs at the Consultative Session that included re-invigorated oversight, special task teams to coordinate polio activities for Peshawar and Karachi, Negotiation for the resumption of immunization in North and South Waziristan, Transit point immunization strategy for reaching mobile and migrant populations. He also asked for assistance of public representatives to ensure

accountability through political influence and nominate focal person for High Risk Union Councils in their respective constituencies. He also urged that the energy of young political workers at the UC level be utilized to promote polio vaccination.

Earlier welcoming the National and Provincial Legislators, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, said that Pakistan is among one of the three polio-endemic countries in the World along with Afghanistan and Nigeria. He highlighted that Polio cases may be on the decline compared to previous years but the disease and its alarming spread poses a huge challenge for Pakistan. It is, therefore, imperative that elected representatives oversee the polio eradication efforts in their constituencies and routinely monitor the progress towards achieving the goal of polio eradication across the province and the country.

Members of National Assembly who participated in the Discussion included Mr. Bismillah Khan, MNA (NA-43, Tribal Areas VIII, FATA, IND), Dr. Nisar Ahmed Jat, MNA (NA-81, Faisalabad-VII, PML-N), Dr. Ramesh Kumar, MNA (NA-239, Karachi, PML-N), Ms. Aisha (NA-329, Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, JI) and Dr. Mahreen Razaque Bhutto, MNA (NA-319, Sindh, PPPP).

Members of the Provincial Assemblies from Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan included Mr. Shaukat Ali Yousufzai, MPA (PK-2 Peshawar-II, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Mr. Imtiaz Qureshi, MPA (PK-39 Kohat-III, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, PTI), Ms. Meiraj Hamayun Khan, MPA (WR-19, Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, QWP-S), Dr. Wasim Akhter, MPA (PP-271, Bahawalpur-V, Punjab, JI), Mr. Arif Abbasi, MPA (PP-13, Rawalpindi-XIII, Punjab, PTI), Ms. Azma Bokhari, MPA (W-318, Punjab, PML-N), Dr. Murad Raas, MPA, (PP-152, Lahore-XVI, PTI), Mr. Sikander Ali Shoro, MPA, (PS-71 Jamshoro-I Old Dadu-I, Sindh, PPPP), Mr. Mazahir Ameer, MPA (PS-96 Karachi-VIII, Sindh, MQM),



MPAs expressing their perspectives

Khawaja Izhar ul Hassan, MPA (PS-99 Karachi-XI, Sindh, MQM), Mr. Khurram Sher Zaman, MPA (PS-112, Karachi-XXIV, Sindh, PTI), Mr. Moin Amir Pirzada, MPA (PS-125 Karachi-XXXVII, Sindh, MQM), Dr. Sumeta Syed, MPA (RSW-147, Karachi, Sindh, MQM), Ms. Naheed Begum, MPA (RSW-152, Karachi, Sindh, MQM), Dr. Seema Zia, MPA, (RSW-159, Sindh, PTI), Mr. Nasrullah Khan Zaire, MPA (PB-5, Quetta-V, Balochistan, PKMAP), Dr. Hameed Khan Achakzai, MPA, (PB-11-Killa Abdullah-I, Balochistan, PKMAP), Mr. Rehmat Baloch, MPA (PB-42-Panjgoor-I, Balochistan, NP) and Ms. Raheela Durrani, MPA (PBW-54, Balochistan, PML-N).



Speakers sharing views

Inter-Governmental Relations Workshops

Political will required for Consolidating Democratic Devolution: Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, Chairman Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

Political will is required for consolidating democratic devolution and the gains achieved the historic 18th Amendment to the Constitution, said Honourable Sardar Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari, MNA (NA-173, D.G. Khan III, Punjab) and Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. He was addressing the Workshop for CSOs and Media on the subject of Consolidating Democratic Devolution: Inter-Government Relations, Fiscal Management and Accountability, held on January 28 and organized by PILDAT and Forum of Federations, Canada.

Institutionalisation of devolution and bringing in financial discipline in provinces are the key challenges of an unprecedented and historical devolution witnessed by Pakistan through 18th Amendment. He thanked PILDAT and FoF for providing an opportunity to learn from regional and international experiences of federalism.

The first of the series of Workshops spanned over January 28-29, 2014 started as PILDAT and Forum of Federations (FoF), Canada have joined hands to organise a series of Training Workshops on Consolidating Democratic Devolution in Pakistan for Federal and Provincial stakeholders including the Legislators, Public Officials in the Civil Services, Civil Society Organisations and Media.

Prof. Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmad, Director Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi briefed the participants on the historical evolution of Pakistan and said that Pakistan's federalism has evolved over a long period. It has passed through different phases and has moved ahead through a series of trials and errors. It has eventually come to a point where one can say with



Mr. Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari speaking at the Workshop



Experts at the Workshop

some confidence that if it is operated both in letter and spirit, it could result in a successful and viable federalism.

Dr. Leslie Seidle, Senior Program Adviser, Forum of Federations (FoF), gave a thorough presentation on the concept of Federation and the Inter Governmental Relations in Federal Systems. He highlighted Cooperative Federalism, Inter Governmental Institutions and processes and Inter Governmental Agreements.

Mr. Ahmad M. Zahid, Former Federal Secretary, said that an overly centrist mindset poses the biggest challenge to implementing the devolution processes effectively. This was argued on the misperception of administrative capacity of the provinces also to run these activities smoothly God knows this mindset was the outcome of the provision of the Constitution of 1962 or whether those provisions were the reflection of our psyche at the time and which still haunts us.

Earlier Mr. Phillip Gonzalez, Program Manager Forum of Federations informed that the FoF supports better governance through learning among experts. It is supported by a couple of partner countries like Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan and Switzerland.

Opening the workshop, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, thanked the participants and expressed his gratitude for the participation by eminent scholars, civil society activists and media persons in the workshop. Mr. Mehboob said that the objective of these workshops is what is depicted in their title – Consolidation of Democratic Devolution. On Forums of Federations, he said that it is probably the most dynamic and focused inter-Governmental entity in the world working for the consolidation of federalism around the globe. PILDAT is delighted to partner with the Forum in organizing these workshops.

Later the participants were divided into two groups for

small group discussions; where they were asked to come up with recommendations for Inter-Provincial Coordination and better functioning of Council of Common Interests. Dr. Waheeda Rana, Professor, International Islamic University and Ms. Asma Qamar, Researcher, The Network for Consumer Protection represented their groups for giving recommendations.

These workshops are part of the project funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development of the Government of Canada.

Fiscal Devolution critical for Consolidating Federalism in Pakistan

Fiscal devolution is critical for consolidating federation as well as the gains made by the 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan, believed experts addressing the second day of the Workshop on Consolidating Democratic Devolution: Inter-Government Relations, Fiscal Management and Accountability, held on January 29 and organized by PILDAT and Forum of Federations, Canada.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Ikram Ul Haq, Advocate Supreme Court and International Tax Counsel, said that in the fiscal arena, Pakistan presents a story of failure with fiscal deficit increasing; debt burden on the rise; uncontrolled expenses; non-devolvement of fiscal responsibility; low tax to GDP ratio and no providing of universal entitlements by the State. In order to consolidate gains of devolution, provinces have to be aware of their taxation rights. Fiscal empowerment of provinces in real sense is needed by giving them the right to tax goods and services within their boundaries. However, he added, provinces, in turn, must empower elected Local.

Dr. Galina Kurlyandskaya, Center for Fiscal Policy, Russia, speaking on Fiscal Federalism and Accountability in Federal System said decentralization is the basic condition for an accountable Government. For sub-national Governments to be really accountable for their performance and to respond to citizens'



Speakers at the Workshop



Experts sharing analyses

opinion, they need to enjoy fiscal powers relating to revenues and spending. Dr. Galina further suggested that Government must be accountable for allocation of intergovernmental transfers and the transfer allocation has to be public, transparent, unbiased and fair.

Earlier presenting the recap of day one of the Workshop, Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director PILDAT highlighted the pertinent points that the Speakers shared with the participants during the first day of the Workshop.

Support Needed to Develop Existing Inter-Governmental Institutions to Promote Cooperative Federal Practices: Senator Farah Aqil Shah

Support is needed in developing existing intergovernmental institutions, to promote cooperative Federal practices, and to develop experience in conflict resolution at the Federal - Provincial level, said the Honourable Senator Farah Aqil Shah, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC). She was addressing the Workshop for Senior Civil Service Officials on the subject of Consolidating Democratic Devolution: Inter-Government Relations, Fiscal Management and Accountability, organized by PILDAT and Forum of Federations, Canada that began its second workshop here in Islamabad on January 30.

There is much to be done in order to see successful implementation of the constitutional reforms and to literally see the benefits of these constitutional reforms experienced by the people. This requires building state capacity in the process of transition management which will be a key to the success of this democratic transition. Supporting key reforms and strengthening a political transition are vital to internal and regional security and stability.

Prof. Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmad, Director Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi briefed the participants on the historical evolution of Pakistan and said that Pakistan's federalism has evolved over a long period. It

has passed through different phases and has moved ahead through a series of trials and errors. It has eventually come to a point where one can say with some confidence that if it is operated both in letter and spirit, it could result in a successful and viable federalism.

Dr. Leslie Seidle, Senior Program Adviser, Forum of Federations (FoF), gave a thorough presentation on the concept of Federation and the Inter Governmental Relations in Federal Systems. He highlighted Cooperative Federalism, Inter Government Institutions and processes and Inter Governmental Agreements.

Mr. Ahmad M. Zahid, Former Federal Secretary, said that an overly centrist mindset poses the biggest challenge to implementing the devolution processes effectively. This was argued on the misperception of administrative capacity of the provinces also to run these activities smoothly God knows this mindset was the outcome of the provision of the Constitution of 1962 or whether those provisions were the reflection of our psyche at the time and which still haunts us.

Earlier, Mr. Phillip Gonzalez, Program Manager Forum of Federations said that the Workshop is basically designed to understand fully the national comparative development in Inter Government Relations (IGR) and provide the opportunity to the participants to better understand the functioning processes involved in Inter Government Relations, Fiscal Management and Accountability.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT welcomed the Senior Civil Service Officials. He expressed his gratitude for the participation Senior Federal Government Officials in the workshop. Mr. Mehboob said that the objective of these workshops is Consolidation of Democratic Devolution and understand the processes of Inter Government relations, Fiscal Management and Accountability. On Forums of Federations, he said PILDAT is delighted to partner with the Forum in organizing these training



View of the Workshop

workshops.

Later the participants were divided into two groups for small group discussions; where they were asked to come up with suggestions and recommendation for effective implementation of Devolution process and fiscal rights to provinces will lead to a meaningful autonomy. Mr. Tariq Amin, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Inter Provincial Coordination and Mr. Hasnain Syed, Joint Secretary Ministry of Finance represented their respective groups for the presentation on suggestions and recommendations.

1st Series of Workshop on Consolidating Democratic Devolution: Inter Government Relations, Fiscal Management and Accountability ended successfully in Islamabad on January 31, 2014

The 1st series of Workshop organized by PILDAT and the Forum of Federations (FoF) on Consolidating Democratic Devolution in Pakistan for Civil Society Organisations & Media and Senior Civil Service Officials ended successfully in Islamabad on January 31, 2014.

Honourable Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jomezai, Former Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan chaired the second day of the Workshop.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Ikram Ul Haq, Advocate Supreme Court and International Tax Counsel, said that in the fiscal arena, Pakistan presents a story of failure with fiscal deficit increasing; debt burden on the rise; uncontrolled expenses; non-devolvement of fiscal responsibility; low tax to GDP ratio and no providing of universal entitlements by the State. In order to consolidate gains of devolution, provinces have to be aware of their taxation rights. Fiscal empowerment of provinces in real sense is needed by giving them the right to tax goods and services within their boundaries. However, he added, provinces, in turn, must empower elected Local.

Dr. Galina Kurlyandskaya, Center for Fiscal Policy, Russia, speaking on Fiscal Federalism and Accountability in Federal System said decentralization is the basic condition for an accountable Government. For sub-national Governments to be really accountable for their performance and to respond to citizens' opinion, they need to enjoy fiscal powers relating to revenues and spending. Dr. Galina further suggested that Government must be accountable for allocation of intergovernmental transfers and the transfer allocation has to be public, transparent, unbiased and fair.

Earlier presenting the recap of day one of the Workshop, Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT highlighted the pertinent points that the Speakers shared with the participants during the first day of the Workshop for Senior Civil Service Officials.

Mr. Phillip Gonzalez, Program Manager, Forum of Federations (FoF) briefed the participants on the agenda of day two of the Workshop.

Upon conclusion of first series of Workshop, Honourable Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jomezai, Former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan thanked all the participants of the workshop. He hoped that all the activities in the Workshop will be helpful to the participants in better understanding the context and issues of Federalism in Pakistan and using the material in the discharge of their duties.

These workshops are part of the project funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development of the Government of Canada.

Pakistan a Stronger Federation through 18th Amendment: Honourable Rana Muhammad Iqbal, Speaker, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab

Pakistan is a stronger Federation, even though the provinces are facing challenges but they have resilience said the Speaker Punjab Assembly Honourable Rana Mohammad Iqbal while addressing the two-day Workshop on Consolidating Democratic Devolution in Pakistan after the 18th Amendment at Bhurban February 18. He thanked the Members of the Provincial Assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for attending the Workshop and hoped that they will get an opportunity to learn from the resources provided in the Workshop.

He said that PILDAT's long-term contribution and efforts in strengthening democracy and democratic institutions and especially its contribution in highlighting that more powers should be allocated to the provinces is applaudable. The Honourable Speaker said that Pakistan is passing through a tough phase of terrorism, poverty and energy crisis but we are ready to counter these challenges. He welcomed the guests from Canada and thanked the eminent speakers of the Workshop.

Prof. Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmad, Director Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi, briefed the participants on the historical evolution of Pakistan and said that Pakistan's federalism has evolved over a long period. It has passed through different phases and has moved ahead through a series of trials and errors. It has eventually come to a point where one can say with



Experts sharing perspectives on devolution

some confidence that if it is operated both in letter and spirit, it could result in a successful and viable federalism.

Mr. David Albert Peloquin, Consultant, Forum of Federations, briefed the participants on Inter Governmental Relations in Federal countries. He gave a comparative analysis of myths and practices in the process of Federalism and Fiscal Management. He was of the viewpoint that Pakistan (like many other countries) is no stranger to major regional disparities in income and wealth (and in access to private goods and services they procure). Decentralization to the provincial/local level can increase disparities in access to public goods and services as well.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Ikram Ul Haq, Advocate Supreme Court and International Tax Counsel, said that in the fiscal arena, Pakistan presents a story of failure with fiscal deficit increasing; debt burden on the rise; uncontrolled expenses; non-devolvement of fiscal responsibility; low tax to GDP ratio and no providing of universal entitlements by the State. In order to consolidate gains of devolution, provinces have to be aware of their taxation rights. Fiscal empowerment of provinces in real sense is needed by giving them the right to tax goods and services within their boundaries. However, he added, provinces, in turn, must empower elected Local Governments.

Mr. Ahmad M. Zahid, Former Federal Secretary, said that an overly centrist mindset poses the biggest challenge to implementing the devolution processes effectively. This was argued on the misperception of administrative capacity of the provinces also to run these activities smoothly God knows this mindset was the outcome of the provision of the Constitution of 1962 or whether those provisions were the reflection of our psyche at the time and which still haunts us.

Earlier Mr. Pietro Merlo, Senior Advisor Forum of Federations (FoF), termed the Workshop topic as an essential asset for a stable, just and peaceful Pakistan.

He said that the two day workshop will cover important grounds related to Inter Government Relations and fiscal accountability and transparency. The participants of the Workshop will collectively investigate and discuss various dimensions of Inter Government Relations and Fiscal Management. These discussions will provide an opportunity to learn from the international and regional experiences. He thanked PILDAT to partner with Forum of Federations (FoF) to organise these series of Workshops.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT extended a special warm welcome to the Honourable Chief Guest, Rana Mohammad Iqbal, Speaker Punjab Assembly, for being gracious to accept the invitation despite his preoccupations as the Acting Governor of the largest Province of Pakistan. Mr. Mehboob said that the Honourable Speaker has always been a source of strength for PILDAT in reaching out to Honourable MPAs and to organise workshops. He also welcomed the Honourable Members of the Provincial Assemblies of the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who, despite their numerous engagements in their constituencies and relating to the Assembly business, have taken the time out to participate in the workshop.

Two day Workshop for the Honourable MPAs of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ended in Bhurban

The two-day Workshop for the Honourable MPAs of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Consolidating Democratic Devolution in Pakistan after the 18th Amendment ended successfully in Bhurban on February 19. Honourable Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, MPA (PP-179, Kasur-V, PML-N), chaired the second day of the Workshop.

Professor Dr. Aisha Ghaus-Pasha, Director Institute of Public Policy, briefed the participants on Fiscal Management and Accountability in Pakistan. She briefed the participants on Constitutional provisions and explained that every citizen has the right to have



Sharing of views by participants

access to information. She explained constitutional entities and their working and composition. She further explained the Budget cycle and resource distribution among provinces. In the end, Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha gave recommendations on fiscal management and transparency. She suggested that borrowing powers of Provincial Governments should continue to be restricted. The Federal Right to Information Act must include provision for setting up a high powered (powers of a Civil Court) Federal Information Commission. There should be a ceiling on growth rate annually on charged expenditure and discretionary funds must be abolished. She also favoured discontinuation of the practice of development funds for Parliamentarians. She also recommended the NAB must be required to submit an Annual Report to the National Assembly.

Ms. Rachel LaForest, Associate Professor and MPA Program Director, School of Policy Studies, Queen's University, explained to the participants the administrative decentralization and building capacity within the Federal Systems. She said that the creation of a strong legal framework must be a priority in any reform effort to ensure sound utilization of public resources and to minimize corruption.

Earlier, Mr. Faheem Ahmed Khan, Projects Manager PILDAT, welcomed the participants of the Workshop and introduced the eminent Speakers of the second day of the Workshop. Ms. Aimen Khan, Projects Manager PILDAT, gave a recap of day one of the Workshop.

Upon conclusion, Honourable Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, MPA (PP-179, Kasur-V, PML-N) thanked the participants and hoped that the Honourable MPAs will benefit from the Workshop.

The Workshop will help Parliamentarians learn and understand the process of Devolution in Pakistan after the 18th Amendment: Honourable Syed Naveed Qamar, Member National Assembly of Pakistan

These Workshops help us understand the details of the issue and give us a comparative picture regionally and internationally. It is too early to tell what we have achieved post 18th Amendment, since some important steps have been taken and some steps still need to be implemented said Honourable Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA (NA-222, Hyderabad-V, Sindh, PPPP).

He was addressing a two-day Workshop on Consolidating Democratic Devolution in Pakistan after the 18th Amendment for the Honourable Members of National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan that started

in Bhurban on February 20.

Prof. Dr. Syed Jaffar Ahmad, Director Pakistan Study Centre, University of Karachi, briefed the participants on the historical evolution of Pakistan and said that Pakistan's federalism has evolved over a long period. It has passed through different phases and has moved ahead through a series of trials and errors. It has eventually come to a point where one can say with some confidence that if it is operated both in letter and spirit, it could result in a successful and viable federalism.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Ikram Ul Haq, Advocate Supreme Court and International Tax Counsel, said that in the fiscal arena, Pakistan presents a story of failure with fiscal deficit increasing; debt burden on the rise; uncontrolled expenses; non-devolvement of fiscal responsibility; low tax to GDP ratio and no providing of universal entitlements by the State. In order to consolidate gains of devolution, provinces have to be aware of their taxation rights. Fiscal empowerment of provinces in real sense is needed by giving them the right to tax goods and services within their boundaries. However, he added, provinces, in turn, must empower elected Local Governments.

Professor Dr. Aisha Ghaus-Pasha, Director Institute of Public Policy, briefed the participants on Fiscal Management and Accountability in Pakistan. She briefed the participants on Constitutional provisions and explained that every citizen has the right to have access to information. She explained constitutional entities and their working and composition. She further explained the Budget cycle and resource distribution among provinces. In the end, Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha gave recommendations on fiscal management and transparency. She suggested that borrowing powers of Provincial Governments should continue to be restricted. The Federal Right to Information Act must include provision for setting up a high powered (powers of a Civil Court) Federal Information Commission. There should be a ceiling on growth rate annually on charged expenditure and discretionary funds must be abolished. She also favoured discontinuation of the practice of development funds for Parliamentarians. She also recommended the NAB must be required to submit an Annual Report to the National Assembly.

Earlier Mr. Pietro Merlo, Senior Advisor Forum of Federations (FoF), termed the Workshop topic as an essential asset for a stable, just and peaceful Pakistan. He said that the two day workshop will cover important grounds related to Inter Government Relations and

fiscal accountability and transparency. The participants of the Workshop will collectively investigate and discuss various dimensions of Inter Government Relations and Fiscal Management. These discussions will provide an opportunity to learn from the international and regional experiences. He thanked PILDAT to partner with Forum of Federations (FoF) to organise these series of Workshops.

Two day Workshop for the Honourable Members of National Assembly and Senate of Pakistan ends in Bhurban

The two-day Workshop for the Honourable Parliamentarians on Consolidating Democratic Devolution in Pakistan after the 18th Amendment ended successfully in Bhurban on February 21. Honourable Syed Naveed Qamar, MNA chaired the second day of the Workshop.

Mr. David Albert Peloquin, Consultant, Forum of Federations, briefed the participants on Inter Governmental Relations in Federal countries. He gave a comparative analysis of myths and practices in the process of Federalism and Fiscal Management. He was of the viewpoint that Pakistan (like many other countries) is no stranger to major regional disparities in income and wealth (and in the access to private goods and services they procure). Decentralization to the provincial/local level can increase disparities in access to public goods and services as well.

Mr. Ahmad M. Zahid, Former Federal Secretary, said that an overly centrist mindset poses the biggest challenge to implementing the devolution processes effectively. This was argued on the misperception of administrative capacity of the provinces also to run these activities smoothly God knows this mindset was the outcome of the provision of the Constitution of 1962 or whether those provisions were the reflection of our psyche at the time and which still haunts us.

Earlier, Mr. Faheem Ahmed Khan, Projects Manager PILDAT, welcomed the participants of the Workshop



Experts sharing views

and introduced the eminent Speakers of the second day of the Workshop.

Upon conclusion, Mr. Peitro Merlo, Senior Advisor Forum of Federations thanked the participants and hoped that the Honourable Parliamentarians will benefit from the Workshop. He further said that the process of Devolution is vital to effective functioning of a system; more steps are needed for proper implementation of the open issues in Pakistan Federal system. Mr. Merlo said that the open issues are not easy to achieve and all Political stakeholders should engage to target the goal for a more peaceful Pakistan. The forum is eager to further monitor training sessions. In the end he thanked the Parliamentarians for active contribution and participation in the Workshop. He also appreciated PILDAT's support and effort for providing excellent conditions to organize the event.

Two day Workshop for the Honourable MPAs of Sindh and Balochistan ends in Karachi

The two-day Workshop for the Honourable MPAs of Sindh and Balochistan on Consolidating Democratic Devolution in Pakistan after the 18th Amendment ended successfully in Karachi on March 14. Honourable Jan Muhammad Jamli, Acting Governor Balochistan, chaired the second day of the Workshop.

Speaking at the workshop, Dr. Ikram Ul Haq, Advocate Supreme Court and International Tax Counsel, said that in the fiscal arena, Pakistan presents a story of failure with fiscal deficit increasing; debt burden on the rise; uncontrolled expenses; non-devolvement of fiscal responsibility; low tax to GDP ratio and no providing of universal entitlements by the State. In order to consolidate gains of devolution, provinces have to be aware of their taxation rights. Fiscal empowerment of provinces in real sense is needed by giving them the right to tax goods and services within their boundaries. However, he added, provinces, in turn, must empower elected Local Governments.

Dr. Galina Kurlyandskaya, Center for Fiscal Policy, Russia, speaking on Fiscal Federalism and Accountability in Federal System shared that decentralization is the basic condition for an Accountable Government. For sub national Governments to be really accountable for their performance and to respond to citizens' opinion they need to enjoy fiscal powers re revenues and spending. Foundations of Government Accountability in Federal Countries, she suggested should be clear and long term delineation of powers, Prohibition of Federal unfunded mandates, revenue autonomy, spending autonomy, reliable and publicly accessible data and performance

indicators on each level of Government.

Professor Roberta Ryan, Director of the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government and UTS Centre for Local Government spoke on the ways of addressing the capacity gaps to civil society participation. She said that Civil Society Organizations and Government authorities must understand and make the case for the 'value they claim to create'. Public participation has a role in creating public value and enabling citizen democratic capacity. She argued that critical capacity gap in Pakistan – and a key to the transition to strengthened democracy – is the key role for NGO's and this can be done through harnessing citizens through educative, deliberative participatory processes.

Professor Roberta Ryan concluded that the community is interested and concerned about their environment; they have good ideas about what will work in their local context. Given good quality information, citizens will produce high quality, realistic, and practical outcomes. The importance of trusting citizens' capacity to develop better outcomes for the wider community, and the similar capacity of NGO's and local government to support citizens in this role.

Inter-Provincial Legislative Dialogues

Sindh and Punjab MPAs Call for Greater Inter-Provincial Contacts and Legislative Reforms

MPAs from Punjab and Sindh Assemblies got together at an unprecedented inter-provincial Legislative Dialogue organised by PILDAT on August 27.

The Inter-Provincial Dialogue and Briefing Session brought together 14 MPAs representing key political parties in the Provincial Assembly of Sindh who were joined by over 80 MPAs from Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.

Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, MPA, opened the Dialogue by officially welcoming Sindh MPAs in Lahore while he was joined by Panellists including Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, MPA, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly; Mr. Sher Ali Gorchani, MPA, Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly; Mr. Inayat Ullah Lak, Director General Parliamentary Research, Punjab Assembly; Mr. Fayaz Ali Bhutt, MPA and Leader of the Sindh Assembly Delegation; Rai Mumtaz Hussain Babar, Acting Secretary, Punjab Assembly; Mr. Waris Kallu, MPA Punjab and Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT.

Speaker Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan expressed his gratitude to PILDAT for facilitating the Inter-Provincial Legislative Dialogue. He said that for legislators to effectively discharge their responsibilities, it is important that Provincial Assemblies come together to discuss effective ways and means to strengthen their respective rules. Referring to the comparative analysis of Provincial Assembly rules by PILDAT, he said that there is a lot of room to learn from best practices adopted by the Assemblies. He welcomed the initiation of the inter-provincial dialogue by PILDAT and said that Punjab Assembly remains committed to taking this dialogue forward.



Honourable Speaker Punjab Assembly (centre) addressing the Workshop

Speaking at the session, Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, MPA (PP-151; Lahore-XV; PTI) and Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, both welcomed the PILDAT initiative and urged for similar capacity building exercises in the future bringing all Assemblies together. He deplored the stages of law-making in the Assemblies where the treasury and the opposition are often at loggerheads, and consensus is difficult to achieve. He believed that dialogues of this nature can take care of the behaviour of opposition for the sake of opposition. Public representatives, he said, need to come together for the good of the people. He was also of the opinion that the Leader of the House in the Punjab Assembly should attend the sessions of the Assembly regularly as it will add to the sanctity of the House. He pressed that a change in rules or even a legislation of this nature needs to be passed in the House to ensure the presence of the Chief Minister during the sessions of the Punjab Assembly.

Mr. Fayaz Ali Bhutt, MPA Sindh (PS-77; Dadu) and Leader of the Delegation from the Sindh Assembly, expressed his gratitude for the warm reception in Lahore. He said that it is strength of democracy that for the first time in Pakistan, MPAs from different provinces are meeting and participating in a dialogue aimed at improving legislative performance of Provincial Assemblies, both in form and in substance.

Mr. Inayat Ullah Lak, Director General Parliamentary Research, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, shared a comparative analysis of the Rules of 4 Provincial Assemblies at the Session.

In a discussion following the presentation, MPAs from both Assemblies discussed in detail the reforms needed to strengthen the respective rules in the two Assemblies. They focused especially on greater powers and role on financial and budgetary scrutiny of the Assemblies as well as the need to strengthen committee system for a more effective oversight role of the Assemblies.

Earlier, the Sindh Assembly delegation was warmly welcomed at the Lahore airport by Mr. Sher Ali Gorchani, MPA, Deputy Speaker Punjab Assembly, and Chaudhry Abdul Waheed Arain, MPA and Punjab Provincial Minister.

The delegation visited the Punjab Assembly the next day where it will be hosted by the Honourable Speaker of the Punjab Assembly. The delegation will also call on the Chief Minister of the Punjab, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, MPA.

Punjab MPAs Call-On Chief Minister Sindh

MPAs from Punjab concluded the inter-provincial dialogue by calling on Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, MPA on September 14, 2013.

Led by the Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, MPAs representing key political parties in Punjab had a detailed interaction with Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, MPA

Mutual cooperation between the two provinces, the precarious law and order situation in Karachi, local government elections in Sindh and Punjab, transport, education and health were the main issues discussed during the call-on.

Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, praised the new Metrobus in Lahore. He also shared with Punjab MPAs Sindh's legislative agenda on child rights, in particular child marriages and child nutrition.

Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, discussed educational reforms and said the construction of Daanish Schools for the poor and needy in Punjab justifies the high costs and urged a similar exercise in Sindh.

Members of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab who called on the Chief Minister Sindh included Honourable Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani, MPA, (PML-N, PP-248), Deputy Speaker, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab; Chaudhary Sarfraz Afzal, MPA, (PML-N, PP-06); Mr. Muhammad Arif Abbasi, MPA, (PTI, PP-13); Chaudhry Lal Hussain, MPA, (PML-N, PP-26); Rana Munawar Hussain, MPA, (PML-N, PP-36); Malik Muhammad Javed Iqbal Awan, MPA, (PML-N, PP-39); Chaudhary Amjad Ali Javaid, MPA, (PML-N, PP-86); Syed Tariq Yaqoob, MPA, (PML-N, PP-117); Mr. Muhammad Yaqub Nadeem Sethi, MPA, (PML-N, PP-175); Mr. Muhammad Naeem Safdar Ansari, MPA, (PML-N, PP-176); Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, MPA, (PML-N, PP-179); Sardar Vickas Hassan Mokal, MPA, (PML, PP-180); Mr. Javaid Alloudin Sajid,



Chief Minister Sindh with visiting MPAs



MPAs during the workshop

MPA, (PML-N, PP-186); Chaudhary Iftikhar Hussain Chhachar, MPA, (PML-N, PP-188); Mr. Shaukat Hayat Khan Bosan, MPA, (PML-N, PP-200); Qazi Adnan Fareed, MPA, (PML-N, PP-268); Ms. Azma Zahid Bukhari, MPA, (PML-N, W-318); Ms. Kanwal Nauman, MPA, (PML-N, W-321); Dr. Alia Aftab, MPA, (PML-N, W-338) and Ms. Faiza Ahmed Malik, MPA, (PML-N, W-362). Mr. Inayatullah Lak, Director Research, Provincial Assembly of Punjab was also part of the delegation including the PILDAT Team.

The Inter-Provincial Dialogue among Punjab and Sindh MPAs was the second in the series of PILDAT Inter-Provincial Legislative Exchange. The initiative is undertaken by PILDAT so as to facilitate MPAs of the four Provincial Assemblies of Pakistan to visit each other's Assemblies and exchange views on a range of subjects including comparison of Assemblies' Rules and how to effectively discharge their responsibilities of Representation, Legislation, and Oversight. The first initiative of this series was held in Lahore from August 27-29, 2013.

MPAs of Punjab and Balochistan Provincial Assembly stress to strengthen Parliamentary Committees system for a more effective oversight role of their respective Governments

In a Joint Briefing Session for MPAs of Balochistan and Punjab on "Promoting Inter-Provincial Understanding" held on October 5, 2013, MPAs of the two provinces stressed for Strengthening Parliamentary Committees System for a more effective oversight of their respective Governments. Speakers at the Briefing Session included Honourable Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, MPA, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, Honourable Col. (Retd.) Shuja Khanzada, MPA, Minister for Environment Protection Punjab and Mr. Inayatullah Lak, Director Research, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.

Chairing the Joint Briefing Session Honourable Mir



Honourable Speaker Balochistan Assembly addressing the Workshop

Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali, Speaker Balochistan Assembly, expressed his gratitude to PILDAT, and welcomed the Punjab MPAs to Quetta. He acknowledged the paramount importance of interprovincial harmony and stressed countering negative perceptions regarding other provinces.

Speaking at the Briefing Session, Honourable Col. (Retd.) Shuja Khanzada, MPA, Minister for Environment Protection Punjab (PP-16, Attock-II, PML-N), thanked PILDAT and appreciated its efforts for facilitating the Inter-Provincial Legislative interaction. He said that for legislators to effectively discharge their responsibilities, it is important that Provincial Assemblies come together to discuss effective ways and means to strengthen their respective rules.

Presenting a comparative Analysis of the Rules of Procedures of four Provincial Assemblies at the Briefing Session, Mr. Inayatullah Lak, Director Research, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, highlighted several rules and provisions in Provincial Assemblies including Summoning, prorogation, quorum, seating, oath, roll of members, election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Panel of Chairmen, leave of absence, resignation, death and unseating of members etc.

MPAs at the Briefing Session discussed in detail the reforms needed to strengthen the respective rules in the two Assemblies. They focused especially on greater powers and role on financial and budgetary scrutiny of the Assemblies as well as the need to strengthen committee system for a more effective oversight role of the Assembly Committees.

Greater Need for Inter-Provincial Harmony – Balochistan-Punjab MPAs

In a Joint Briefing Session for MPAs of Balochistan and Punjab on “Promoting Inter-Provincial Understanding”, MPAs of the two provinces stressed

for Strengthening Parliamentary Committees System for a more effective oversight role of the Government in their respective legislatures here in Lahore on October 31, 2013. Speakers at the Briefing Session included Honourable Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Speaker of the Provincial Assembly of Punjab, of Honourable Agha Syed Liaqat Ali, MPA (PB-8-Pishin-I, PkMAP), and Mr. Inayatullah Lak, Director Research, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, in his welcome address, offered fateha for the victims of the bomb blast yesterday in Quetta and welcomed the Honourable members of the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan to Lahore.

Chairing the Joint Briefing Session, Honourable Rana Muhammad Iqbal Khan, Speaker Punjab Assembly, expressed his gratitude to PILDAT, and welcomed the Balochistan MPAs to Lahore. He acknowledged the paramount importance of inter-provincial harmony and stressed countering negative perceptions regarding other provinces. He was of the opinion that we should think in terms of Pakistan and not as Sindhi, Balochi, Pathan or Punjabi.

Speaking at the Briefing Session, Honourable Agha Syed Liaqat Ali, MPA, Leader of the Balochistan delegation, thanked PILDAT and appreciated its efforts for facilitating the Inter-Provincial Legislative interaction. He said that for legislators to effectively discharge their responsibilities, it is important that Provincial Assemblies come together to discuss effective ways and means to strengthen their respective rules. He appreciated the development in Lahore and said that Lahore can be a showcase city of Pakistan to the developed countries.

Presenting a comparative Analysis of the Rules of Procedures of four Provincial Assemblies at the Briefing Session, Mr. Inayatullah Lak, Director Research, Provincial Assembly of the Punjab, highlighted on several rules and provision in Provincial Assemblies including Summoning, prorogation, quorum, seating, oath, roll of members, election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Panel of Chairmen, leave of absence, resignation, death and unseating of members etc.

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of the Assembly Committees.

Ms. Raheela Durrani, MPA, Balochistan, stressed that the legislations done in other Assemblies should be shared with the Balochistan Assembly so that legislation in all Assemblies could be brought at par.

Facilitated by PILDAT and in leadership of Honourable Agha Syed Liaqat Ali, MPA (PB-8-Pishin-I, PkMAP) the parliamentary delegation of Balochistan Assembly included Honourable Haji Abdul Malik Kakar, MPA (PB-9-Pishin-II, JUI); Honourable Manzoor Ahmed Kakar, MPA (P B-6 Quetta-VI, PMAP); Honourable Nasrullah Khan Zaire, MPA (PB-5 Quetta-V, PMAP); Honourable Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani, MPA (PBW-54, PML-N); Honourable Syed Muhammad Raza, MPA (PB-2 Quetta-II, MWM); Honourable Ubaidullah Jan Babat, MPA (PB-16-Loralai-II, PMAP); Honourable Yaasmin Bibi, MPA (PBW-58, NP); Honourable Ruqia Saeed Hashmi, MPA (PBW-62, PML); Honourable Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran, MPA (PB-17 Barkhan, JUI); Honourable Shahida Rauf, MPA (PBW-60, JUI) and Honourable Fateh Muhammad Gulaili, MPA (PB-49 Kech II, NP).

MPAs from Punjab Assembly who participated in the Briefing Session included Honourable Rana Muhammad Iqbal, MPA (PP-184-Kasur X, PML-N); Honourable Syed Tariq Yaqub Rizvi, MPA (PP-117-Mandi Bahauddin, PML-N); Honourable Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan, MPA (PP -179- Kasur V, PMLN); Honourable Syed Muhammad Mahfooz Mashedi, MPA (PP-120-Mandi Bahaddin-V, PML-N); Honourable Ayesha Javed, MPA (W-317, PML-N); Honourable Najma Afzal Khan, MPA (W-320, PML-N); Honourable Nabeela Hakim Ali Khan, MPA (W-358, PTI); Honourable Saadia Sohail Rana, MPA (W-355, PTI); Honourable Hina Pervez Butt, MPA (W353, PML-N); Honourable Raheela Khadim Hussain, MPA (W-345, PML-N); Honourable Faiza Ahmad Malik, MPA (W362, PPPP) and Honourable Lubana Rehan, MPA (W-340, PML-N).



Dr. Arif Alvi (right) sharing his views

Earlier the Balochistan Assembly Parliamentary Delegation, which is on three day visit of Lahore, visited the office of Metro Bus Authority where Chairman Metro Bus Authority Khawaja Muhammad Hassan and Managing Director Metro Bus Authority, briefed the visiting delegation regarding the Metro Bus system. Later the delegation also travelled on the Metro Bus from Punjab Secretariat to Ittefaq Hospital. The delegation appreciated the project of the Punjab Government.

PILDAT is implementing the inter-provincial legislators' exchange under which Members of the four Provincial Assemblies visit each other's Assemblies to learn from comparison of Assemblies' Rules in order to strengthen the Assemblies. The Exchange is also meant to promote greater inter-provincial understanding of issues. So far, PILDAT has successfully facilitated MPAs' Exchanges between Punjab and Sindh: a multi-party delegation of 15 Members of the Sindh Assembly visited Lahore from August 27-29, 2013 to interact with MPAs of Punjab and a 29 Member Delegation of the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab visited Karachi on September 12-13, 2013 and 15 members of Punjab Assembly delegation visited Quetta from October 4-6, 2013.

Political, Fiscal and Administrative Autonomy Must for Effective Local Governments

Speakers at the PILDAT Inter-Provincial Roundtable on Local Government Laws held on August 27 believed that Provincial Laws on Local Government system do not provide for adequate political, fiscal and administrative autonomy, without which local governance will remain weak. The Forum asked for a review of LG laws.

Speakers at the Roundtable included Mr. Shahid Hamid, Senior Advocate Supreme Court; Dr. Arif Alvi, MNA, Chief Whip PTI in the National Assembly; Dr. Shehla Raza, MPA, Deputy Speaker Provincial Assembly of Sindh and Senator Dr. Jehangir Badar. Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, welcomed participants while Mr. Abdul Qadir of FES- Pakistan presented Introductory Remarks.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shahid Hamid said that effective local government is not possible without fiscal autonomy. Provincial Governments' role in LG system should be reduced to the level of providing policy guidelines only, adding that the current Provincial Local Government Laws provide excessive role and arbitrary powers to Provincial Governments.

Mr. Hamid also advised against the excessive role provided for bureaucracy in the LG systems. Mr.

Hamid said that minimum devolution of powers has been provided in the Punjab Local Government Act 2013 as key subjects such as health and education have been left under the power of the Provincial Government. Balochistan and KP seem to have struck a better balance of powers to LG systems in a relative sense, he added. He recommended that a minimum level of fiscal guarantee should be given to provinces, such as provinces should say a certain percentage of their respective budgets would be earmarked every year for the use if LG systems. He also added that some level of control on police should also be provided for in the LG laws. Commenting on the dispute resolution mechanism, he said Sindh LG law is silent on this. Delimitation, he recommended, should be dealt with by an independent Provincial Local Government Delimitation Authority, with a direct right of appeal to High Courts. The term of office for LGs, different in each province, also requires a re-think.

PILDAT developed a comparative analysis of 4 Provincial Local Government Acts 2013 with LGO 2001 and Kerala Acts, which was shared in the form of a paper at the Roundtable.

Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, said that while provinces have brought respective Local Government laws but the Federal Government has not yet introduced LG laws for FATA, while the LG laws for ICT and Cantonments have only just been introduced in the Parliament.

Dr. Arif Alvi shared his party perspective on the LG laws. He added that since he was a member of the PM committee on LG law for Cantonments, he hoped a balance law on LG system in Cantonments has been tabled by the Government in the Parliament. He believed that Sindh offered the most restrictive law in terms of power and autonomy on Local Government.

Dr. Shehla Raza thanked PILDAT for the comparative analysis of LG laws and said that she will take back the reform proposals to the Sindh Assembly on Sindh LG



Sharing of analyses



Mr. Shahid Hamid and Honourable Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly

Act, 2013.

Mr. Abdul Qadir said that unlike the past when local government were devised to centralize and legitimise political powers in the centre at the expense of the elected provincial and federal tiers; there should exist no such apprehension now. Instead the local government system of the political governments needs to now open up participatory spaces for the citizens, for citizens, and to increase their access to social and political rights and enable them to hold the state directly accountable. The provinces now hold sufficient political and legislative powers and instead of encroaching it is a right opportunity to empower the local government and its functions. It will provide the opportunity for parties to strengthen their organisation at the local levels and develop political and organisation linkages between local government leadership with provincial and national leadership.

Sharing PILDAT's perspective at the Forum, Ms. Aasiya Riaz, Joint Director PILDAT, said that establishment of an effective Local Government system suffered inordinate delay at the hands of outgoing Governments and Assemblies between 2008-2013. The LG laws now passed by 4 provinces, largely as a result of pressure by the Supreme Court, provide a milestone just by providing for elected political ownership at the local level. However, broadly, the 4 laws are limited in scope and excessively deferential to Provincial Governments. All 4 laws largely do not provide any meaningful devolution of financial, political and administrative powers. Provinces enjoy arbitrary powers through discretionary removal of elected Local Government representatives; have arbitrary powers of inspection, leave affairs of District Councils to bureaucracy while they also have the powers to exclude areas from Local Government jurisdiction. Sharing recommendations for reform, she said that direct elections to all offices of Local Governments with necessary political process should

be provided for in the Local Government system. Delimitation for LG should be undertaken by an independent body and municipal functions should be devolved to lowest tiers of LG system. Local Councils should be fiscally empowered and composition of Local Government Commissions should be balanced. Political parties elected in 2013 General Election, have largely failed to uphold their electoral pledges regarding Local Governments. Local Governments are the critical 3rd tier of Governance especially for a country the size of Pakistan. In order to effectively govern Pakistan, new and effective Local Government system, in line with Constitutional and International obligations is essential and that it enjoys political ownership. Unless political, administrative and fiscal autonomy is given to Local Government systems across the country, Parliament and Provincial Assemblies will be unable to effectively discharge their functions of representation, legislation and oversight.

Senator Mohsin Leghari said that as an ardent supporter of effective LG system, he believes that a periodicity and time-frame of Local Government system should be Constitutionally set. He shared a constitutional amendment he has moved in the Senate to provide for a time limit of 45 days of Local Government election across Pakistan within holding of General Election.

Members of Parliament, citizens, media representatives and analysts joined the Roundtable.

Youth

Youth Parliament Pakistan Selects Batch of 2014

On June 04, 2014, the Secretariat of Youth Parliament Pakistan completed the multi tiered process to select 60 members for the year 2014. Based on the population criteria adopted by the National Assembly of Pakistan, these members have been selected from all 4 provinces of Pakistan, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and in addition, from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

PILDAT had invited Expressions of Interest from Pakistani youth aged between 18-29 years in 2014.

With an overwhelming response, this year, the Youth Parliament Pakistan received 28% more Expressions of Interest (EOI) than received for 5 previous Youth Parliaments between the year 2007 - 2013.

The shortlisted candidates were interviewed in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad by the members of the Youth Parliament Steering Committee.

The selected Members of Youth Parliament Pakistan receive training in the legislative processes and challenged to engage in critical thinking on policy issues confronting Pakistan in order to develop their leadership potential.

6th Youth Parliament Pakistan Meets for its Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan 2014, took place from June 23-27, 2014.

Facilitated by PILDAT, the Youth Parliament Pakistan is patterned after the National Assembly of Pakistan. Its membership is drawn from young Pakistanis aged between 18-29 years from Balochistan, KP, Punjab, Sindh, Gilgit-Baltistan, AJK and FATA.



Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jogezeai as Speaker of the Youth Parliament Pakistan



Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq addressing the Youth Parliament

Following an orientation for new members, the Youth Parliament session officially began with oath-taking of the members. While Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jogezeai, former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, has graciously agreed to chair the Youth Parliament Pakistan as its Speaker, election to the office of the Youth Deputy Speaker will be held during the first session. The agenda of first session also includes ascertainment of the Member who commands the confidence of the majority of the Members as Youth Prime Minister. The Opposition benches will also choose a Youth Leader of the Opposition. Standing Committees of the Youth Parliament Pakistan will also be elected during the first session, along with the Committee Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretaries.

An Orientation session was held for Members of the 6th Youth Parliament in which they were briefed on their roles and responsibilities. Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, President PILDAT, shared with MYPs the key changes in the YPP model centred around strengthening the role of YPP Standing Committees. MYPs were shown a roadmap enunciating the rules and guidelines for the committee reports with explaining the nature of the committees with tentative deadlines for entire parliamentary year 2014.

Discrepancy between Accumulated Revenue and Government's Expenditure is one of the Reasons of Failure of meeting the Fiscal Targets of Successive Governments: Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, Management Consultant with Ministry of Finance

Budget deficit due to discrepancy between accumulated revenue and Government's expenditure is one of the reasons of failure of meeting the set fiscal targets of successive Governments, said Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, on June 25, the third day of the inaugural session of the 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan.

Mr. Nohman Ishtiaq, Management Consultant with the Ministry of Finance, gave Members of the Youth

Parliament Pakistan an informative presentation regarding budget and its aspects like budget in brief, annual budget statement and estimates of the foreign investment. He shed light on the role of Parliament in budget scrutiny and accountability of elected Governments in overseeing performance and commitment in achieving the targets outlined in the budget.

He stated that due to article 84 of the Constitution, Government is the sole entity in determining the direction of budget which makes the budget less immune to public scrutiny hence giving Government a free hand.

In the penultimate section of his presentation, Mr. Ishtiaq briefly analyzed the Federal Budget 2014-2015 presented by the incumbent Government of Pakistan and shared facts and figures about the current percentage of the GDP, Annual Investment Rate, Annual Revenue Accumulation and the prospects of a steady rise of national GDP. Identifying the causes of a shallow economy of Pakistan, he maintained that the primary reason which international agencies and financial institutions have identified about the failure of Pakistan to meet the fiscal targets and budgetary goals stem out of corruption, mismanagement of resources and bad governance only to be followed by poor security and law and order situation of the country.

Following the adjournment of the plenary session, the MYPs held political party meetings. The Blue party after a general and subsequent runoff election selected Mr. Aqeel Ahmed (YP14-KP02) as the leader of the blue party while Mr. Muhammad Shahzar Illahi (YP56-SINDH09) emerged as the leader of the green party. Ms. Filza Marri (YP52-SINDH05) from the Blue party after general and runoff election was elected as Blue party contender for the post of Deputy Speaker Youth Parliament.

Youth Parliament an ideal Forum to understand and accept ethnicities, language and cultures of all Pakistanis

Youth Parliament provides an ideal forum to learn and accept that there exist different prisms, ethnicities, language and cultures in Pakistan. It is a tremendous privilege to represent fellow citizens and this privilege should not be maligned. These views were shared by Speakers at the launching ceremony of PILDAT's 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan (YPP) on June 26, 2014.

The 60 young selected candidates from across the country were welcomed by Honourable Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, MNA, Federal Minister of Commerce,



Secretariat of the Youth Parliament Pakistan

H.E. Mr. Jesper Moller Sorensen, Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Patron Youth Parliament Pakistan and former Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan, Mr. Wazir Ahmed Jomezai, Former Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, MNA, Mr. Murad Saeed, MNA, among others.

As a model Parliament for young people, the Youth Parliament Pakistan is patterned after the National Assembly of Pakistan. The Government of Denmark has through its development assistance been supporting PILDAT's Youth Parliament Program since 2010 with the aim to promote democracy in Pakistan, especially among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Honourable Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, MNA, Federal Minister of Commerce, thanked the consistent support of the illustrious Standing Committee of Youth Parliament in making successful what he termed as the "tremendous endeavor of the Youth Parliament Pakistan." He especially thanked the Danish Ambassador the support and contribution of the Danish Government for the Youth Parliament initiative. Mr. Khan said that illiteracy on democracy is lacking worse than general illiteracy and PILDAT, through the Youth Parliament, as with other initiatives, is contributing to removing this illiteracy.

Democracy is an understanding with the citizens to take them along towards greater public good. He said that the first lesson that he learnt in Parliament was that there exist other perspectives and prisms on Pakistan other than those coming from Punjab. He hoped that this lesson will be learnt by MYPs as well that there exist different prisms of looking at this country that we call home. The mere tolerance of other ethnicities, language and cultures is not democracy but accepting these as legitimate is the first lesson of democracy. He said that in democracy and governance, taking everyone along is the first challenge. He said that Parliament, at its foundation is a contest of ideas. It is a

tremendous privilege to represent fellow citizens and to sit at a table where decisions are made. This privilege should not be maligned. He also said that in public service, good intentions alone are not sufficient. A consistent effort is required both in reforms and in taking people along. He also said that fruits of democracy never automatically fall in your lap; democracy requires sustained and tireless effort. He also quoted Amartya Sen by saying that it is incorrect to think that a country does not deem to be fit for democracy, it has to be made fit through democracy. Pakistan's present and future prosperity is tied to the sustainability of representative democracy.

Addressing the young leaders, Danish Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Jesper Moller Sorensen, said that the YPP aimed to provide the young members with numerous opportunities to understand, to engage in and also to question the process of democracy. Ambassador Sorensen stated that "Democracy starts when we learn to listen to others and give space to opinions which may differ from ours. And this is more important than ever, as the global economy is connecting us more than ever."

In his remarks, Ambassador Sorensen talked about the youth as the driver of change. "The future is always somewhat uncertain – but what is certain to me is that it will be the young people of Pakistan who determine

what the future will be", he said.

He also encouraged the young parliamentarians to get the most out of the program to the benefit of their country. "I am strongly convinced that you cannot talk about democracy or civil empowerment without engaging the youth. This program is therefore a great opportunity for you to learn about civic responsibility, team work, tolerance and respect for other people's opinion."

Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Patron of Youth Parliament Pakistan and former Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, thanked the Danish Embassy for providing support to continue an important initiative such as Youth Parliament aimed at Pakistani youth's leadership skills.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Shaza Fatima Khawaja, MNA, said welcomed the PILDAT initiative of Youth Parliament and said that the young members must make the most of this experience as such an opportunity was not available to MNAs like her before entering politics. She advised youth that youth must strive to achieve integrity in public life. She also said that Parliament and politics though are much maligned terms in Pakistan, these are the best mediums for public service.

Mr. Murad Saeed, MNA, congratulated the young



Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan and Federal Minister of Commerce at the inauguration ceremony of 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan

members on their selection and advised them to use the opportunity of learning and leadership skills to the fullest.

Ms. Malika Bukhari, Advocate, appreciated PILDAT's contribution towards Pakistani youth's development and advised young members to focus on the critical review of both existing policies and legislation in order to improve the lives of the citizens.

Youth Cabinet 2014 takes Oath; Youth Parliament Standing Committees Develop Plans of Action for the Parliamentary Year

The concluding day of the first session of the 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan (2014) saw Youth Prime Minister announcing the Youth Cabinet. The Cabinet includes Ms. Sakina Gulab (YP19-KP07) Youth Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Mr. Asmatullah Asmi (YP04-BALUCHISTAN02) Youth Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Syed Muhammad Abdullah (YP07-FATA01) Youth Minister for transport, Mr. Muhammad Furqan Khan (YP55-SINDH08) Youth Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning, Mr. Ajab Khan (YP05-BALUCHISTAN03) Youth Minister for Energy and, Mr. Jahanzeb Baloch (YP03-BALUCHISTAN03), Youth Minister for National Security. The Youth Cabinet was sworn in by Youth Deputy Speaker Ms. Filza Marri (YP52 - SINDH05).

The Leader of the opposition announced Shadow Cabinet. The following shadow portfolios were allotted to the members; Syed Muhammad Modassar (YP60-SINDH12), Youth Shadow Minister for National Security, Mr. Junaid Iqbal (YP33-PUNJAB14), Youth Shadow Minister for Energy, Ms. Samiya Mujtaba (YP42-PUNJAB23) Youth Shadow Minister for Education & Youth Affairs, Mr. Saffi Hassam (YP41-PUNJAB22) Youth Shadow Minister for Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning and Mr. Ali Shan Khan (YP13-KP01) Youth Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Following the short plenary session, the Standing Committees met and selected their Committee Chairs. As per the election results, Ms. Anum, Tariq Khan (YP27-PUNJAB08) was elected as Chairperson Committee on Energy, Mr. Mizghan Mehboob Kirmani (YP54-SINDH07) Chairperson Standing Committee on Education and Youth Affairs, Ms. Maria Malik (YP35-PUNJAB16), Chairperson Standing committee on Transport, Mr. Daniyal Alvi (YP50-SINDH03) Chairperson Standing Committee Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Sohaib Saeed (YP02-AJK 02) elected as Chairperson Standing committee on Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning. Thereafter, the

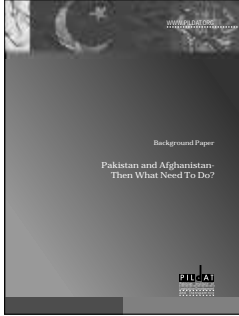
Committee members discussed their options for policy review and planned their activities for the parliamentary year.

The Standing Committees of 6th Youth Parliament Pakistan (2014) are tasked with developing policy reviews and present those to the Parliament, Government of Pakistan and media.

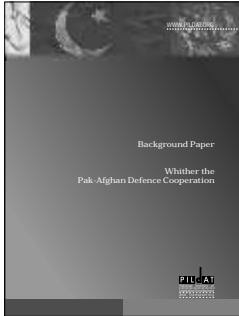


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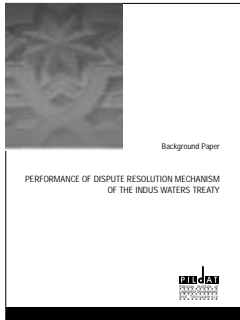
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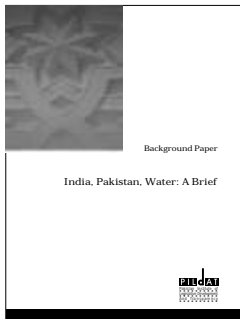
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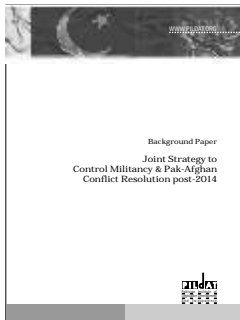
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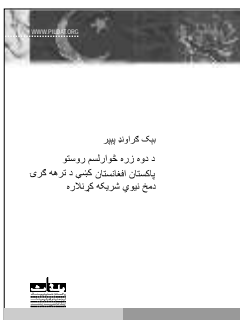
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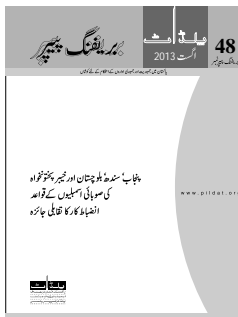


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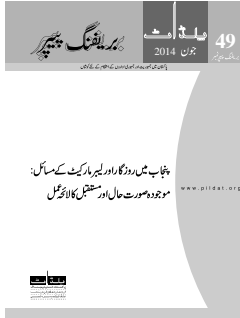
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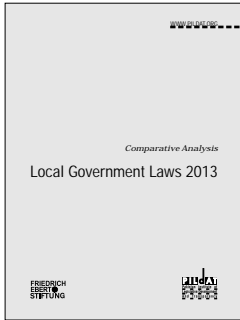


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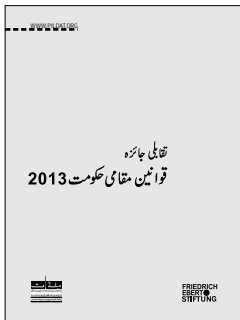


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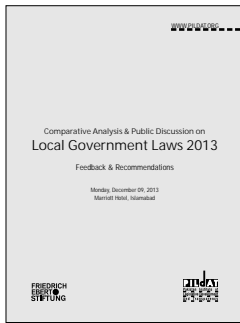
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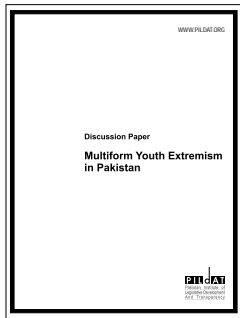


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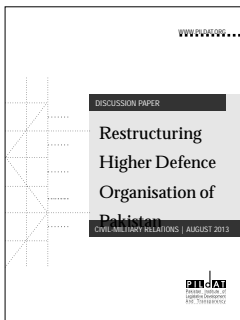


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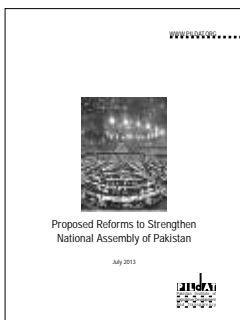
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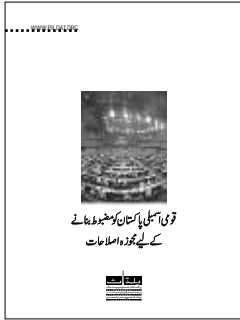
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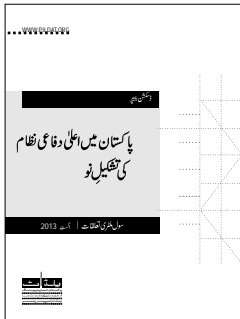
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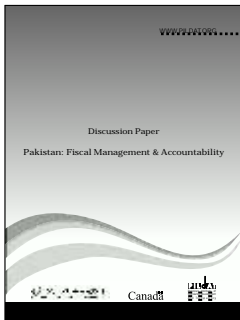
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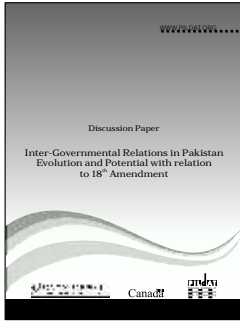
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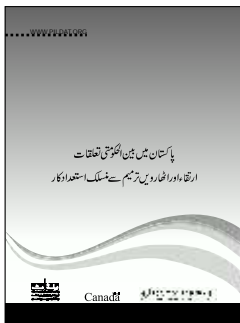
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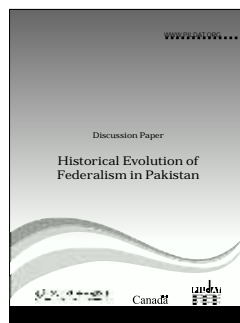
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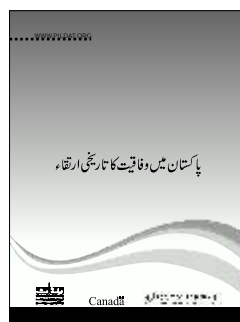
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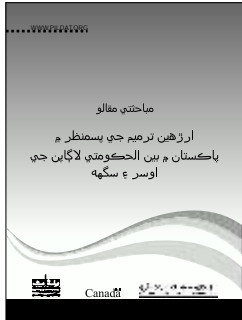
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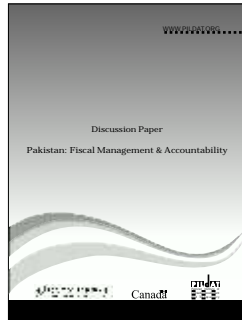
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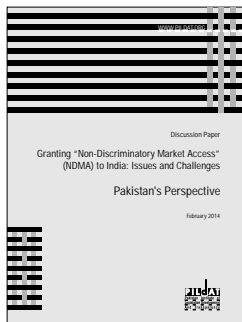
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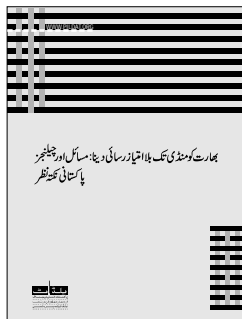
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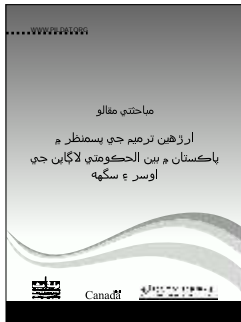
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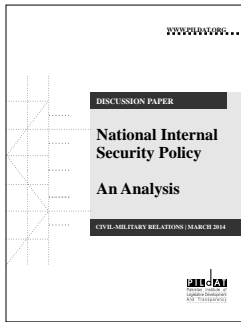
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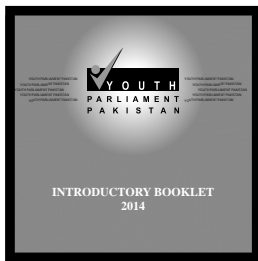


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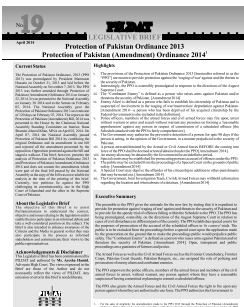
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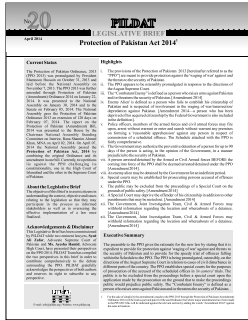
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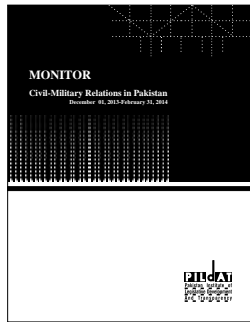
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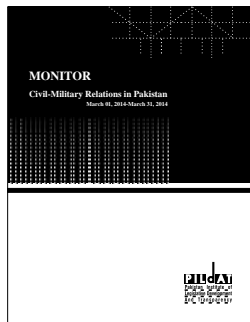


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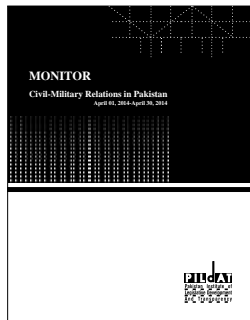




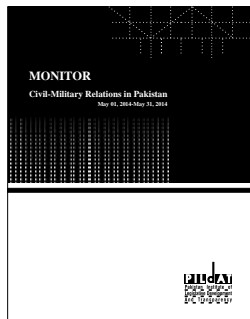
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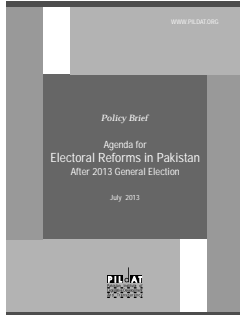


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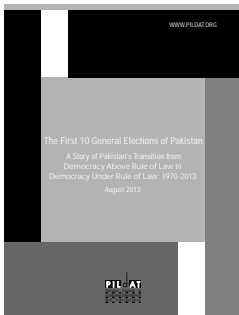


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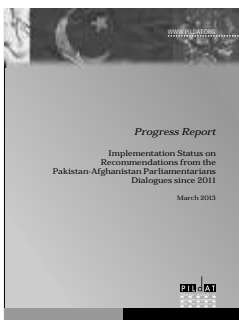


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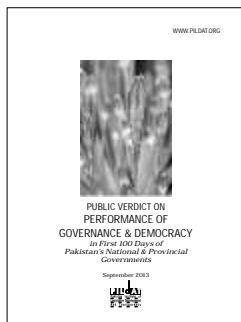
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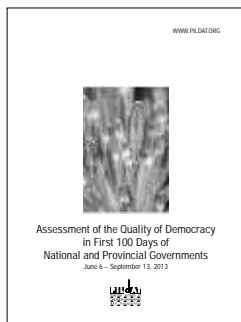
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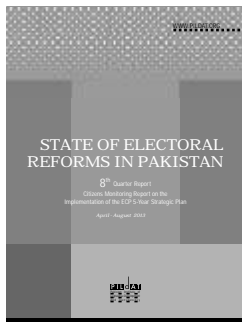
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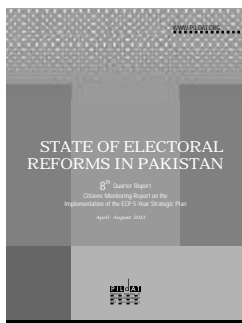
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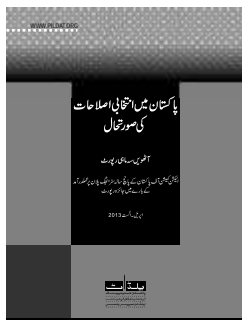
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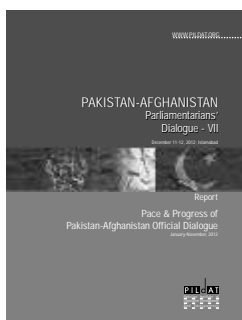
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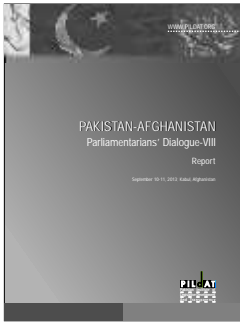
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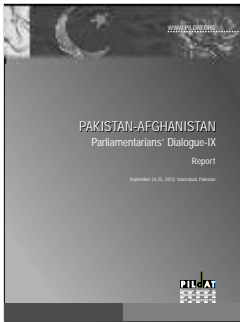
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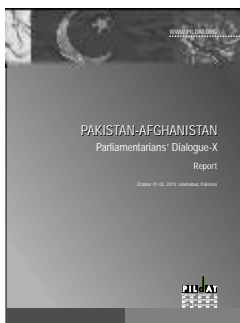
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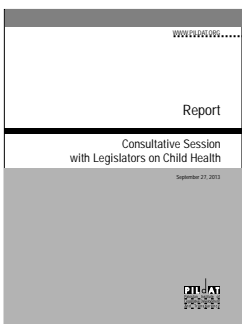
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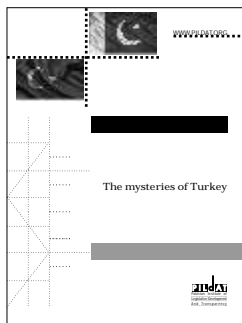
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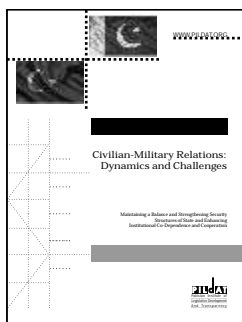
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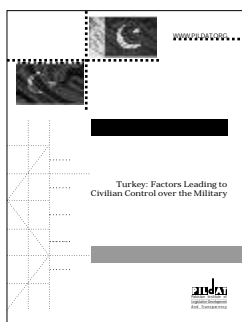
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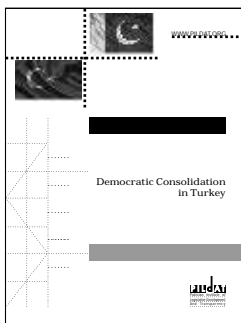
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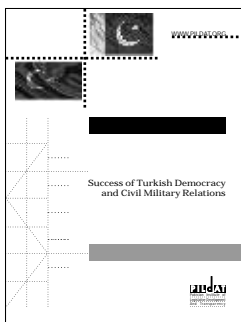
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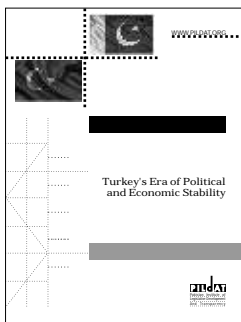
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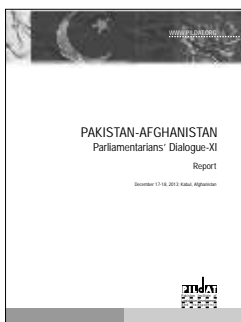
Democratic Consolidation in Turkey, English, December 2013



Success of Turkish Democracy and Civil-Military Relations, English, December 2013



Turkey's Era of Political and Economic Stability, English, December 2013



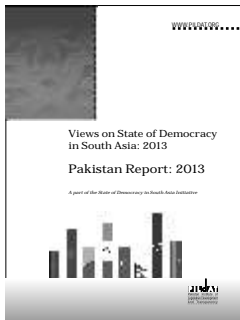
Pakistan-Afghanistan Parliamentarians Dialogue-XI: December 17-18, 2013 Kabul, Afghanistan, English, February 2014



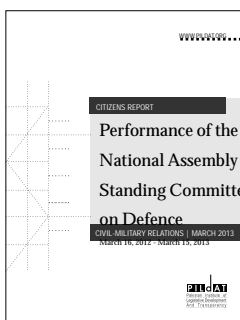
Pakistan O Afghanistan Yaz Dameen Daur Muzakrat Azai Parliaman December 17-18, 2013 Kabul, Afghanistan, Darri, February 2014



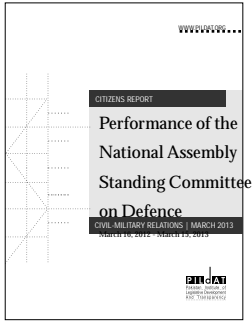
Pakistan Da Afghanistan Parlimani Khabray Athray Yolasam Bahss December 17-18, 2013 Kabul, Afghanistan, Pashto, February 2014



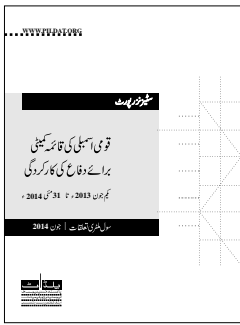
Views on State of Democracy in South Asia: 2013 Pakistan Report: 2013: *A Part of the State of Democracy in South Asia Initiative*, English, February 2014



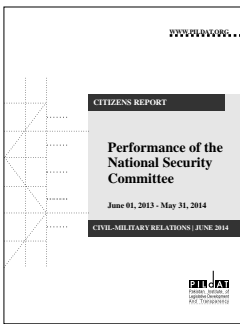
Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, English, February 2014



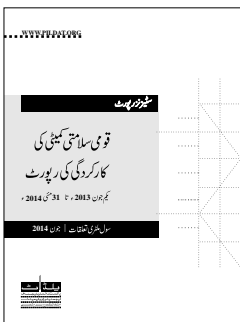
Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, English, February 2014



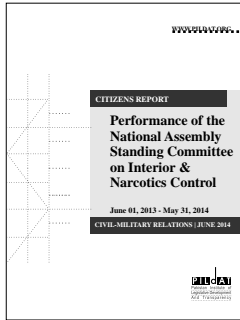
Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Defence: June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, Urdu, June 2014



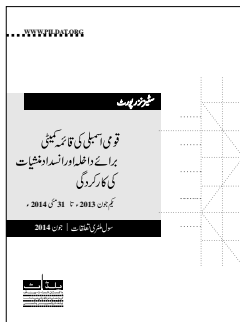
Performance of the National Security Committee: June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, English, June 2014



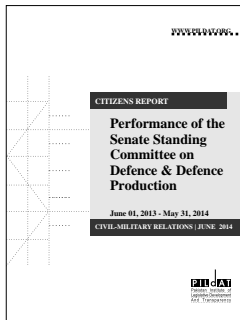
Performance of the National Security Committee: June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, Urdu, June 2014



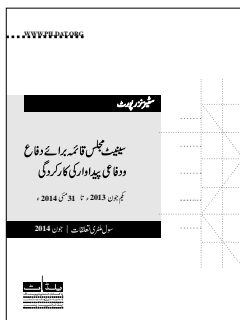
Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior & Narcotics Control: June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, English, June 2014



Performance of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior & Narcotics Control: June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, Urdu, June 2014



Performance of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence & Defence Production June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, English, June 2014



Performance of the Senate Standing Committee on Defence & Defence Production June 01, 2013 - May 31, 2014, Urdu, June 2014



Auditors Report and Financial Statements

Deloitte.

M. Yousuf Adil Saleem & Co.

Chartered Accountants

24-D Rashid Plaza 1st Floor Jinnah Avenue
Blue Area Islamabad Pakistan

Ph: +92 (0) 51-2272636-8

Fax: +92 (0) 51-2274136

www.myascodeloitte.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency ("the Society") which comprise of the balance sheet as at June 30, 2014 and the related income and expenditure account, statement of cash flows and statement of changes in accumulated fund for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan, and for such internal control as the Board of Directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the approved auditing standards as applicable in Pakistan. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from any material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making these risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency as at June 30, 2014 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan.


Chartered Accountants
Audit Engagement Partner: Mohammad SaleemDate: 01 DEC 2014
Islamabad


Member of

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT JUNE 30, 2014

	Note	2014 -----(Rupees)-----	2013
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and equipment	5	41,589,418	36,491,553
Intangible assets	6	226,251	70,985
		41,815,669	36,562,538
CURRENT ASSETS			
Loans and advances	7	11,948,295	4,070,795
Deposit and short term prepayments	8	2,565,122	1,069,040
Receivable from donors	11	-	2,386,855
Advance tax		7,497,264	-
Cash and bank balances	9	69,626,911	59,635,918
		91,637,592	67,162,608
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accrued expenses and other payables	10	4,659,171	797,915
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		86,978,421	66,364,693
		128,794,090	102,927,231
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Deferred grants	11	18,539,831	-
NET ASSETS			
		110,254,259	102,927,231
REPRESENTED BY			
Accumulated fund		110,254,259	102,927,231
		110,254,259	102,927,231
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS			
	12		

The annexed notes from 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.


Secretary General


Chairman

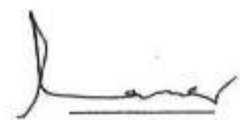
PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

	(Rupees)
Balance as at June 30, 2012	89,975,009
Surplus for the year	12,952,222
Balance as at June 30, 2013	<u>102,927,231</u>
Balance as at July 1, 2013	102,927,231
Surplus for the year	7,327,028
Balance as at June 30, 2014	<u>110,254,259</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

M. Y. Khan


 Secretary General

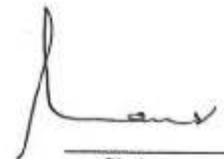

 Chairman

PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

Note	2014	2013
	----- (Rupees) -----	
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus for the year	7,327,028	12,952,222
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	2,955,394	2,099,889
Amortization of intangible	133,602	344,796
Loss/(gain) on disposal of property and equipment	2,176	(560,755)
Finance costs	128,881	59,853
	<u>3,220,053</u>	<u>1,943,783</u>
Cash generated from operations before working capital changes	10,547,081	14,896,005
Working capital changes		
(Increase)/decrease in loans and advances	(7,877,500)	(3,872,795)
(Increase)/decrease in deposits and short term prepayments	(1,496,082)	103,003
Decrease/(increase) in receivables from donors	2,386,855	(2,386,855)
Increase/(decrease) in accrued expenses and other payables	3,861,256	486,931
	<u>(3,125,471)</u>	<u>(5,669,716)</u>
Cash generated from operations	7,421,610	9,226,289
Finance costs paid	(128,881)	(59,853)
Income tax paid	(7,497,264)	-
Net cash from operating activities	<u>(204,535)</u>	<u>9,166,436</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Additions to property and equipment	(6,391,782)	(5,933,941)
Capital work in progress	(1,694,553)	-
Addition to intangible asset	(288,868)	-
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	30,900	1,578,000
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(8,344,303)</u>	<u>(4,355,941)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Increase/(decrease) in deferred grant	18,539,831	(16,229,776)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>18,539,831</u>	<u>(16,229,776)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	9,990,993	(11,419,281)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	59,635,918	67,549,498
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>9</u> <u>69,626,911</u>	<u>59,635,918</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.


Secretary General


Chairman

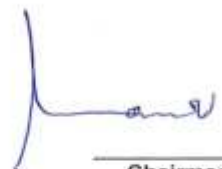
PAKISTAN INSTITUTE OF LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014

	Note	2014	2013
----- (Rupees) -----			
Income	13	172,294,286	135,855,234
Expenditure			
Workshop and seminar expenses	14	103,213,444	73,025,566
Operational support service and administrative expenses	15	61,624,933	49,817,593
Finance costs	16	128,881	59,853
		164,967,258	122,903,012
Surplus for the year		7,327,028	12,952,222

The annexed notes from 1 to 19 form an integral part of these financial statements.

M. Yousuf


 Secretary General


 Chairman



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