

# Strategic Vision of Pakistan's Foreign Policy by



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# OUTLINE

**Parameters of formulating Pakistan's Foreign Policy.**

**Articulating the Strategic Vision.**

**Implementing the Strategic Vision.**



# PARAMETERS

Two important parameters, within which a country's foreign policy has to be formulated, are:

- (a) Rapidly changing global and Regional Environment.
- (b) The Domestic Environment with a clear identification of strengths and weaknesses.



# GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

Unipolar world dominated by USA after the end of the cold war has been gradually replaced by a Multipolar system, with USA and China as two important poles.

US pre-eminence likely to persist, despite the emergence of China, as the second largest economy in the world; US using “Asia Pivot” Policy to co-opt a large number of countries, stretching from Japan to India, to contain China.

Emergence of strong Russia-China axis, following renewed tensions in Europe and the impositions of sanctions against Russia in the wake of the Ukrainian Crisis.

Russia and China are now working actively to develop Eurasia through cooperation and connectivity.





# GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

(cont'd)

Apart from regional organization like SCO, Russia and china have also set up new institutions like BRICS Bank. China has established Asia Infrastructure Bank and the Silk Road Fund. These institutions aimed at balancing the influence of Western dominated institutions like the IMF, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Turmoil in the Middle East is becoming more serious, accentuating the sectarian divide and intensifying the threat of violent extremism through new terrorist organizations like Daesh.

Iran nuclear deal: The recent rapprochement between 5+1 countries and Iran could re-integrate Iran into the global economy but also intensify rivalries and tensions in the Gulf Region.

Very slow economic recovery in the US and even slower recovery in Europe after the 2008-09 financial crisis, is shifting the center of gravity to Asia.



# REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

**Within this global environment, Pakistan's regional environment has also witnessed some important developments:**

**The phenomenal rise of China and its close relations with Pakistan, combined with growing Russian interest in improved ties with South Asia, have opened the prospects that finally Pakistan geo-strategic location can be converted from a liability into an asset.**

**This positive factor is partly counter balanced by India's ambitions to become a major regional player, with Western support.**

**Victory of BJP in 2014 Election with Mr. Narendra Modi as Prime Minister has led to greater Indian belligerence along the LoC and Working Boundary and continuing reluctance to resume the dialogue process.**



# REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT

(cont'd)

Formation of a national unity government in Afghanistan in September 2014, has brought about a significant improvement in Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan. But the intensification of hostilities, in different parts of Afghanistan, following the withdrawal of ISAF forces and the conflicting interests of major and regional powers has recently created strains in this relationship.

Afghanistan's state-building and security challenges remained unaddressed as USA and 48 member International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) with 130,000 troops was not able to defeat or overpower the Afghan Taliban by 2014 when the strength of ISAF was reduced to 12000.





# THE DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT

**Pakistan domestic security challenges have a very strong relationship with Pakistan's foreign policy.**

**Pakistan decision in the 1980s to get deeply involved in the Western strategy, to counter the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, led to many serious long term consequences:**

**Evolution of Taliban.**

**Post – 9-11 “Pakistani Taliban.**





# DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT

(cont'd)

**The spate of terrorist attacks and suicide blasts in Pakistan have killed over 60,000 people in the past 14 years and caused economic losses of over \$ 100 billion and also caused serious damage to the investment environment.**

**Sectarian, ethnic or sub-nationalists, militant activities, specially to Karachi and Balochistan.**

**Chronic poverty, unemployment and different forms of deprivations accelerate challenges to internal security.**



# STRATEGIC VISION --

**Safeguard Pakistan's internal security and eliminate the growing menace of extremism, intolerance and violence from the society through concerted political and military strategies and a policy of non-interference in the affairs of other countries.**

- **The three important elements of this strategy were**
  - (a) **Karachi operation started with help of Rangers (Sept 2013)**
  - (b) **Operation Zarb-e-Azb launched in June 2014, and**
  - (c) **Comprehensive National Action Plan, formulated in December 2014 with the political consensus of all political parties.**
  
- **The heroic efforts and sacrifices of our armed forces in Zarb-e-Azb supplemented by other measures, like intelligence based operations around all major urban centres, Madrassah reforms and conviction of terrorists through military courts.**



# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

(cont'd)

**Economic revival and sustainable development, the center piece of our foreign policy.**

**A persistent low rate of growth, an average of less than 3 percent over the past six years from 2006 to 2012, has not only increased our dependence on others but has also increased poverty and unemployment. That is why, the Prime Minister has repeatedly emphasized that ‘external influence flows from internal strength’. The Government has accordingly set out to pursuing vigorously the priorities of: expanding investment and trade (not aid); and actively resolving the energy crisis.**



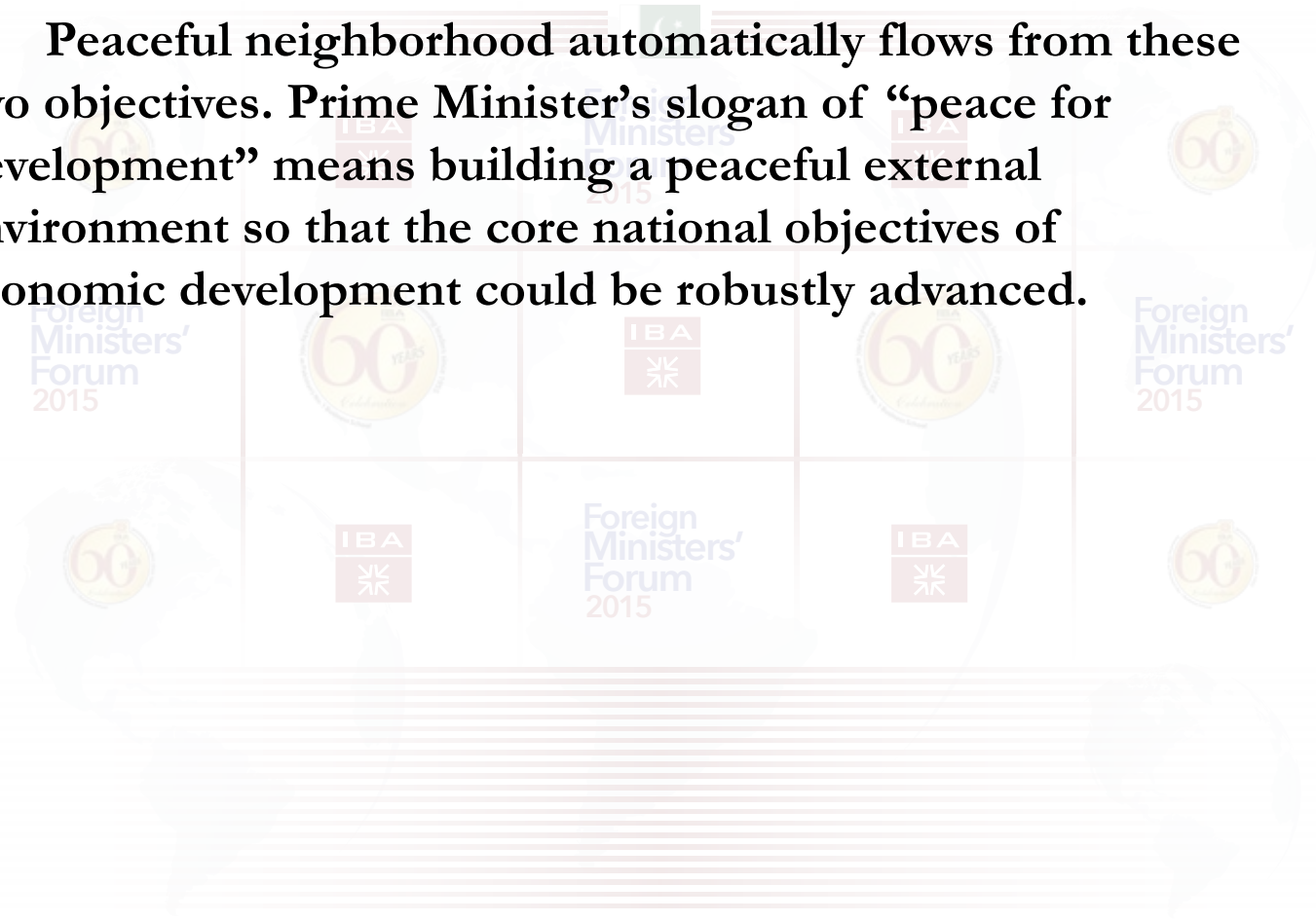


# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

(cont'd)

## Peaceful neighbourhood

Peaceful neighborhood automatically flows from these two objectives. Prime Minister's slogan of “peace for development” means building a peaceful external environment so that the core national objectives of economic development could be robustly advanced.





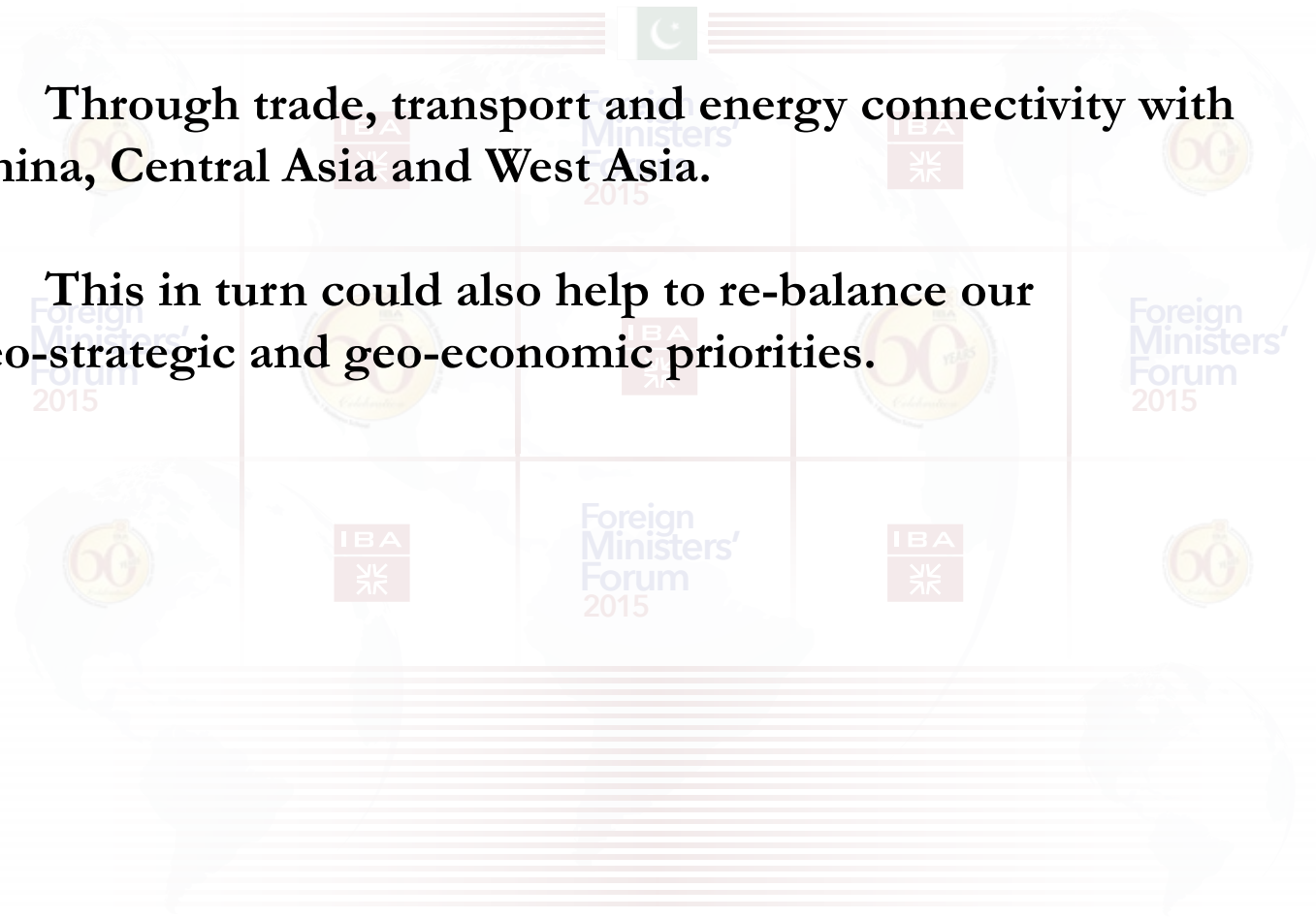
# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

(cont'd)

**Turn Pakistan's geo-strategic location from a liability into an asset**

**Through trade, transport and energy connectivity with China, Central Asia and West Asia.**

**This in turn could also help to re-balance our geo-strategic and geo-economic priorities.**





# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

**Ground realities of Pakistan are rapidly changing for the better, with decisive and comprehensive action to combat violence, terrorism and extremism in Pakistan.**

**The improvement in the security situation has led to visible signs of economic revival and higher investment.**

**This has improved the prospects of implementing the Strategic Vision that I just articulated.**





# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

China

**Pakistan relations with China have always been excellent but in the past few years they have crossed new thresholds.**

**China has steadily increased its investment in Pakistan. In 2014, China's direct investment in Pakistan was more than US\$ 2.1 billion, while the cumulative figure of China's investment over the years is about US\$ 15 billion.**

**President Xi Jinping paid a historic visit to Pakistan on 20-21 April 2015. The highlight of the visit was signing of 51 Agreements worth US\$ 46 billion, for our energy and infrastructure projects: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).**



# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

China (cont'd)

**The CPEC is not just a road. It is a network of ideas, initiatives and projects entails greater connectivity and trade linkages between Pakistan and China through a network of roads, rails, fiber optic cable, energy pipelines, and special economic zones. Early implementation of CPEC would transform Pakistan's economy and dove-tail perfectly with China's strategy of developing its inland and western regions.**

**China has also been instrumental in initiating the process of our full membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).**



# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

Afghanistan

**Afghanistan is an important neighbor of Pakistan.**

**The two countries share abiding ties of faith, culture, language, values and shared history. Building close cooperative relations with Afghanistan is a high priority in Pakistan's foreign policy and a vital component of the vision of a "peaceful neighbourhood".**

**Accordingly, Pakistan's efforts continue for forging a friendly and good-neighbourly relationship with Afghanistan on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.**





# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

Afghanistan (cont'd)

The key principles of Pakistan's policy include non-interference and no favorites. Despite challenges, Pakistan remains firmly committed to taking forward the process of constructive engagement with Afghanistan.

The two countries are also working on a range of bilateral and regional projects related to road, rail, energy and connectivity.

In the regional context, the two countries are working to promote energy projects like CASA 1000 and TAPI gas pipeline.



# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

Afghanistan (cont'd)

Despite financial constraints, Pakistan has committed bilateral assistance of US \$ 500 million to Afghanistan in infrastructure, health, education and capacity building projects. Many of these projects have been successfully completed, while others are underway.

Pakistan is host to about 3 million Afghan refugees.

Pakistan is providing 3,000 fully-funded scholarship to Afghan students. More than 7,000 Afghan students are getting higher education under other arrangements. About 30,000 Afghan having graduated from Pakistan's professional colleges, universities and other educational institutions are making a valuable contribution to Afghanistan's national development.



# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

India

**The only negative development of the past two years has been Pakistan's relations with India.**

**Composite Dialogue suspended since 26/11 attack in Mumbai**

**The unresolved issue of Jammu and Kashmir has remained the greatest challenge.**

**India uses the twin-force of 'coercion' and constitutionalism' to control Jammu and Kashmir.**

**We have seen Pakistani flag being flown in Indian Occupied Kashmir. It is our duty to try to give the people of Kashmir all the diplomatic and moral support, so that their voice for self determination is heard in the world.**

**As of now our relations can be best describes as one step ahead and two steps backward and it seems very unlikely that we can break this impasse in the near future.**





# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION --

India (cont'd)

## Strategic Stability in South Asia

Maintaining Strategic Stability in South Asia -- another dimension of Pakistan-India relations

Imbalance in the conventional field is increasing due to much higher military spending by India.

Indian efforts to mainstream into global non-proliferation regime, with the active cooperation by the US and West and the US policy of Asia Pivot projecting India as counterweight to China.

Pakistan is also, in response intensifying its efforts to mainstream into global non-proliferation regime (Nuclear Suppliers' Group Membership)

Continue the efficient use of UN/multilateral system to combat India, e.g. highlight Ceasefire Violations on LOC to UNSC.



# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION -- USA & EU

**Pakistan relations with USA have recovered from the crisis ridden phase of 2010-11 and are become more stable and positive.**

**Pakistan relations with most European countries are warm and cordial as reflected to the grant of GSP plus in 2014.**

Foreign  
Ministers'  
Forum  
2015



Foreign  
Ministers'  
Forum  
2015



Foreign  
Ministers'  
Forum  
2015





# IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC VISION -- UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM/GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

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US pre-eminence likely to persist, despite the emergence of China, as the second largest economy in the world; US using “Asia Pivot” Policy to co-opt a large number of countries, stretching from Japan to India, to contain China.

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# Future Priorities

**Focus on education, advance technology and IT.**

**Vigorously build CPEC.**

**Focus on relations with China, Afghanistan and Iran.**

**We have to continue to strive for dialogue process with India, without preconditions and with full national dignity.**

**Since relations with India see no improvement and no progress on outstanding issues, like Kashmir, we have to maintain strategic balance in South Asia with respect to our nuclear/missile development and pursue military modernization.**

**At the same time, we are putting our house in order. We have to focus on governance, economic growth and anti corruption measures. The improvement in law and order situation will attract FDI, improve our economic situation and overcome energy crisis.**



# CONCLUSION

**Diplomacy is the first line of defense. Foreign policy of a country is an integral part of its national security policy. Both foreign policy and national security policy, in the ultimate analysis, are critical pillars of national interest.**

**Foreign policy is also an expression of a nation's moral principles, its ideals and its core values.**

**The scope and limits of country foreign policy are defined by a variety of factors. These include size of the state, resources, its location, the stage of its development, and the state of its domestic affairs, its economic and military potential, its culture and traditions.**

**Conversely, foreign policy is an important instrument of realizing national objectives and priorities.**