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Peacebuilding in South Asia: Challenges and solutions

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The Nation

Zainab Ahmed (<https://nation.com.pk/blogger/zainab-ahmed>)

11:04 AM | March 08, 2016

(<https://nation.com.pk/blogger/zainab-ahmed>)

Peacebuilding is the practice of developing policies that consolidate peace and restore order through political, economic, and social reforms via newly strengthened governmental institutions. Peacebuilding represents a step forward from bilateral security arrangements and can be a regional security framework. The United Nations' *An Agenda for Peace* in 1992 was a second generation effort to build peace. This

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concept has transformed into contemporary peacebuilding, which includes an inclusive conceptualization of civil and military architecture, and **the agenda has shifted its focus regionally rather than being solely state-centric.**

Peacebuilding depends on the security, economic, and political dynamics of the region where it is being carried out. Challenges to global governance are immense and from a range of varying threats. State security and peace are threatened by non-representative regimes, foreign interventions, internal ethnic conflicts, natural resource disputes, deteriorating governance structures, and direct and indirect threats from non-state actors. Elements of this are present in South Asia ([https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia](https://nation.com.pk/tag/South%20Asia)), which is a diverse region with distinct conflicts and politico-economic subtleties. The region has a unique strategic significance—it connects Central Asia, East Asia, and the Middle East, and is close to the Indian Ocean—but is plagued by an amalgamation of traditional and non-traditional security threats, which it cannot deal with.

Pakistan reports 633 coronavirus in one day (<https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/coronavirus-kills-4-pakistanis-infects-633-in-one-day>).

One such immense challenge is South Asia ([https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia](https://nation.com.pk/tag/South%20Asia)) being home to **one-third of the global population**. Large sections of this population are **impoverished, due to lack of adequate health, education, water, sewerage, and transportation facilities**. Natural disasters are another challenge for the weak structural and institutional framework. This lack of access to basic facilities increases the probability of conflict. Thus, these nations are more vulnerable to cross-border terrorism, as well as ethnic and sectarian conflicts.

Extremism—not just associated with a single religious ideology but many—is a huge impediment to security in the region. It is perhaps the quest for security in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and now in Bhutan and Sri Lanka, which produces extremist retreat to religious fundamentals. **In Pakistan, consolidation of Taliban in search of security became the basis of social extremism**. The resurgence **of Hindutva in India** is also an endeavor to search for the lost cultural and national identity, giving superior right of rule in India to Hindus. This ideology declares Muslims and Christians to be foreigners.

Dozens of Israeli settlers storm Al-Aqsa complex (<https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/dozens-of-israeli-settlers-storm-al-aqsa-complex>).

Strained India-Pakistan relations since Partition, two nuclear-armed states, challenge the security apparatus of the region. The peace process between India and Pakistan has had encouraging moments but is continually derailed by acts of terrorism.

Traditional rivalry between both states has taken new heights with nuclearization.

Military competition between India and Pakistan, nuclearization, terrorism, and Afghan security attract most of the debate in academia. However, human rights violations are a graver threat. Gross systematic violation of human rights, religious extremism, ethnic conflicts, intra-state conflicts, and poverty are the source of the vast majority of threats to peace and security in the region.

However, with sustained peacebuilding, the focus can shift from traditional security centrism to non-traditional grave threats which provide ground to terrorism and extremism to flourish. Peacebuilding can reduce threat perceptions. And regional peacebuilding could ensure a sustained peace environment—multilateral approaches provide a better chance to retain peace, as the stakes of all states are embedded in that peace structure.

UK Health Secretary says Britain at 'tipping point' (<https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/uk-health-secretary-says-britain-at-tipping-point>).

Intellectual impoverishment is also a major obstacle in addressing the more challenging threats of the region. The region's intelligentsia is unable to move forward and develop a narrative to deal with fresh challenges. The fundamental factor of regional problems lies in weak state structure. As South Asia (<https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia>) is part of the Third World much of the region did not get ample time to evolve into mature state units. This short time did not allow for enough opportunity to South Asian nations to incubate themselves fully, to become socially and economically coherent states. Thus, social and cultural contradictions inherently challenge state cohesion and consolidation. Peacebuilding may provide ample opportunity to share institutional frameworks among states of the region. The resolution and maintenance of peace through such sustainable frameworks may open avenues for long term cooperation.

Research on [South Asia](https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia) (<https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia>) has been more focused on traditional security threats. Peacebuilding in [South Asia](https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia) (<https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia>) is a continuous and unfinished agenda, since the points of focus are military campaigns, terrorism, nuclearization, and insurgencies. The root causes of these threats are ignored. Poverty, class differences, extremism, ethnic conflicts, disputes over natural resources, and flailing basic human rights, and flailing

state structures are fundamental loop holes. Without addressing these challenges, peacebuilding in [South Asia](https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia) (<https://nation.com.pk/tag/South Asia>) will continue to be a dream.

[UN welcomes, Turkey opposes Libyan PM's decision to step down](https://nation.com.pk/20-Sep-2020/un-welcomes-turkey-opposes-libyan-pm-s-decision-to-step-down)
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31,079,041

Total Deaths

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Totals



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The Nation

Volume 111, 1147 MONDAY, September 21, 2020

ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE

Opposition demands PM's resignation, announces protests

!Pakistan Democratic Movement formed to send govt packing | 26-point resolution calls for new elections, reduction in prices of commodities, transparent elections in Gil | Joint rallies to be held in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore in October, November | Long March towards Islamabad in January



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Opposition leader and President PML-Q Shehbaz, Vice President PML-Q Mahamud Azeem, JUI-F Chief Muzammil Haneef and National Awami Party's Shabir Ahmad attending an All Parties Conference.

Ministers, advisors react strongly to speeches in APC

!Sheba Farooq demands state institutions to take notice of Nawaz

US Senators demand designation of India as 'Country of concern'

NEW ZEALAND REPORTER ISLAMABAD

The opposition parties of the PML-N Conference on Sunday launched Pakistan Movement a movement against the federal government and demanded immediate resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Speaking at a joint news conference after the APC, Pakistan People's Party Chief Minister Shuja Khanzada, Pakistan Muslim League (Q) President Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) leader and Minister for Health and Welfare Farhat Ishtiaq said that the opposition could no longer live under Sharif's rule.

Speaking out the 30-point resolution passed by the APC, Shuja Khanzada said the PML-N had been deceived in joining the government. The alliance

movement is an organized and coordinated movement to oust Sharif and start of a countrywide protest campaign which will be participated by teachers, students, farmers, laborers, students and newly educated general public.

Anything to the opposition parties against Sharif will be held in Karachi, Swat, Peshawar and Lahore in the next few days and Islamabad. Water will be turned off in Islamabad. The alliance will be held in Islamabad. The alliance will be held in Islamabad. The alliance will be held in Islamabad.

NEW ZEALAND REPORTER ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Special Address on Sunday evening started by the opposition parties in the All Parties Conference held in a hall in Islamabad.

Speaking for the opposition and demanding Sharif's resignation, Shuja Khanzada said that the opposition parties will be holding a 30-point resolution in all provinces (APCs), which had passed similar resolutions during the general election 2013 campaign.

Talking to a press conference, he said, "Nawaz Sharif should be asked to step down."

Live-telecast of Sharif's speech incident of media freedom: Farooq

Live-telecast of Sharif's speech incident of media freedom: Farooq

Live-telecast of Sharif's speech incident of media freedom: Farooq

...of the speech inappropriate, illogical / SA Resheed says all corrupts, criminals gathered in APC

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LAHORE: PML-N supports challenge to speech of prime minister Sharif in a hall of Parliament House. Photo by Mahesh Bhatt

Zardari pledges 'real democracy'

Shehbaz Sharif terms federal govt a failure

NEW ZEALAND REPORTER ISLAMABAD

By opposition parties today evening session started in the All Parties Conference (APC) which had passed similar resolutions during the general election 2013 campaign.

Talking to a press conference, he said, "Nawaz Sharif should be asked to step down."

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Nawaz's confrontational speech stuns party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD

The PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif's speech appeared to have stunned his party members with whom it appeared the contents of the speech were not previously rehearsed.

The speech was delivered from Lahore and was heard by the two days by Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday. Party members reported that the speech was a brilliant speech that indicated that the thinking of the leader of PML-N (Nawaz Sharif) had not been prepared well. The timing of the speech seems to have been well thought out.

There were no signs of resignation that the government is not PML-N or any of the other party participants of the APC. Government members reported that the speech, which was delivered in the party, was well-received and the timing of the party gives the timing of the speech.

PM allowed live-telecast of Nawaz Sharif's speech



NEW ZEALAND REPORTER ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Special Address on Sunday evening started by the opposition parties in the All Parties Conference (APC) which had passed similar resolutions during the general election 2013 campaign.

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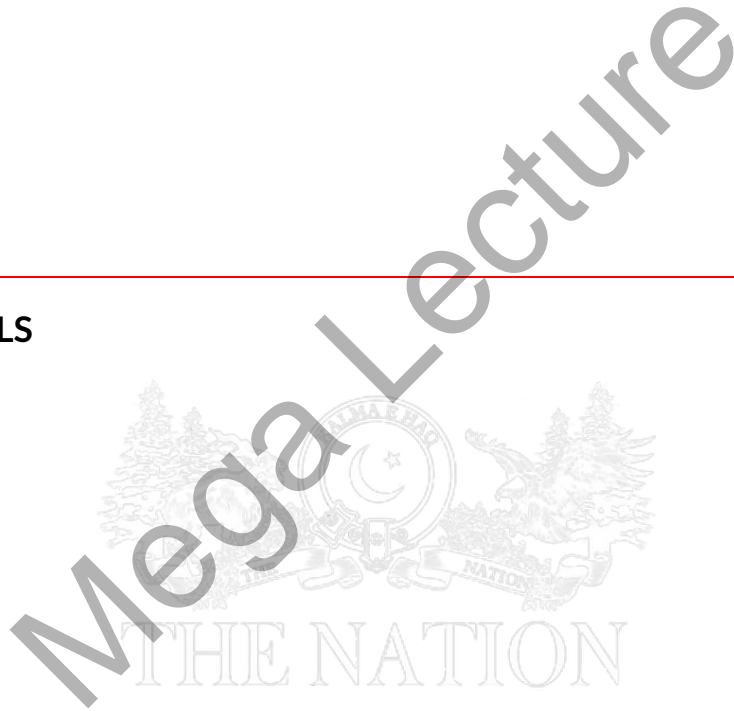
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APCs will neither stop accountability nor provide NRO: Shahbaz Gill

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