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Editorial

Dear Readers,

May Allah SWT bless us all with a safe, prosperous and happier 2022, aameen.

Enormous thanks to Allah SWT, the Master of the Whole Universe and the Creator of All; the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) continued its progress as an internationally recognized seat of parliamentary learning that offers legislative, research, capacity building and outreach services to Members of Parliament & parliamentary institutions. As per vision of the PIPS Board of Governors, the year 2021-22 saw the Institute entering into MoUs of Cooperation in field of Parliamentary Services with the Parliament of Djibouti, the Arab Parliament and the King Prajadipokh Institute (KPI) Thailand.

As a new initiative, PIPS also held three week-long orientations on Working of Legislatures and Responsibilities of Government Functionaries for 75 newly recruited officers of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Last but not the least, PIPS-GIZ Consortium commenced a three-year Project of European Union (EU) to support Parliamentary Institutions in Pakistan.

This Issue of the PIPS Parliamentary Research Digest includes analytical articles on Exploring the Innovation, Urgency of Effective, Swift Climate Change Action and Russia and Taliban-led Afghanistan. We also take the opportunity of sharing excerpts of invaluable comments recorded by the PIPS Research & Legislation Services Client Satisfaction System (PRLCSS) to commemorate decade of PIPS full-fledge activities in its new campus (2012-2022). Please do not hesitate to send your feedback or contact for any of our services at research@pips.gov.pk

Muhammad Rashid Mafzool Zaka
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PIPS Capacity Building & Development Wing hosts EU- GIZ Project and Team PIPS brainstorming meeting for commencement of joint activities, January 14, 2022

ANALYSIS

Exploring Innovation and Urgency of Effective Climate Change Action

Muhammad Hanif Khan

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1. Introduction

The human influence is the main cause of warming the atmosphere, ocean and land. As a result there has been an increasingly widespread and rapid change in the atmosphere, ocean, the cryosphere (the frozen water part of the Earth) and biosphere (a global ecosystem composed of living organisms). The unprecedented and interdependent crises of climate change and biodiversity loss pose an existential threat to nature, people, prosperity and security. It has also been acknowledged that some of the key drivers of global biodiversity loss and climate change are the same as those, which increase the risk of zoonoses (infectious disease that is transmitted between species from animals to humans) that can lead to pandemics.¹

Since around 17th Century, considerable increases have been observed in well-mixed greenhouse gases (GHG) concentrations caused by human activities such as the carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Since the year 1850 (1850-1900 century is often described as the pre-industrial era.) In 2011–2020, the Global Surface Temperature was 1.09 [0.95 to 1.20] °C higher than 1850–1900, larger increases were reported over land (1.59 [1.34 to 1.83] °C) as compared to the ocean (0.88 [0.68 to 1.01] °C). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report 2021 (“IPCC report 2021”), a body of scientists’ meeting called by the United Nations, found that some devastating impacts of global warming were unavoidable. But there is still a short window to stop things from getting even worse. The IPCC Report 2021 observes that the human influence is likely the main driver of an increase in global surface temperature, the global retreat of glaciers and the decrease in Arctic sea ice. Moreover, human influence was also reported to be the main driver of the increase in the global mean sea level, and such intervention is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. In the IPCC Report 2021 the evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heat waves, heavy precipitation, agricultural and ecological droughts, reduction in Arctic sea ice and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence, has strengthened. To keep climate change below dangerous levels, the international community agrees that rise of the average global temperature must be limited to not more than 2°C with an aim to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial temperatures, recognizing that the avoided climate impacts are greater at 1.5°C than 2°C. This will require meaningful action by all countries, especially by all the major emitting economies, in execution of continuous improvement in climate and environmental action to arrange a pathway that keeps 1.5°C within reach and achieve net zero emissions (in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere) as soon as possible by 2050, duly favored in the IPCC Report.²

¹ G7 UK 2021, *G7 Climate and Environment Ministers’ Communiqué, Joint Commitments*, 21 May 2021, <https://www.g7uk.org/g7-climate-and-environment-ministers-communique/>

² Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis: Summary for Policy makers*, August 07, 2021, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

2. Limiting Future Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

It is imperative that urgent and concrete action is taken to move towards global sustainability, further mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as stop and alter biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. Climate change and the health of the natural environment are fundamentally linked and we must ensure that the actions we take maximize the opportunities to solve these crises in parallel. In doing so, the governments must transform their economies to promote sustainable development, deliver decent green jobs and build resilience. It is equally important to intensify the clean energy transition, improve resource efficiency, including the reduction of food loss and waste and promote a circular economic approach, transition to sustainable supply chains and mainstream nature including biodiversity and climate into economic decision-making. Every country must bend its pathways to keep a limit of 1.5°C temperature rise and keeping such ambitions consistent with the aim of achieving net zero emissions as soon as possible. Such challenges require urgent and ambitious attention and can only be dealt at global levels. However, individual countries must reaffirm their commitment towards international cooperation and multilateralism, by working collectively in its implementation domestically. We must recognize the important role of research and systematic observation that provide useful information and further guidance of actions towards limiting climate change. Therefore it is important to ensure best available scientific research on the changing environment.³ Furthermore, it is crucial to adopt nature-based solutions in order to mitigate climate change and thereby contributing to various Sustainable Development Goals, such as improve air quality, water quality and availability, soil health, storm and flood protection, disaster risk reduction, and alleviating and preventing land degradation. These nature-based solutions do not replace the necessity for urgent de-carbonization and reduction of emissions, but are important and required alongside these efforts.

Moreover, it is observed that reducing emissions of methane, which comes mainly from (1) leaks and other releases from coal, oil and gas infrastructure; (2) landfill and other waste; and (3) livestock and other agriculture practices, will play a far more vital role in warding off the worst effects of climate change. Methane is considered an extremely potent greenhouse gas, it is also relatively short-lived, lasting just a decade or so in the atmosphere before breaking down unlike the Carbon dioxide which is a main greenhouse gas that lasts for hundreds of years in the atmosphere. Therefore, the scientists believe that cutting new methane emissions today, and starting to reduce methane concentrations in the atmosphere, could more quickly help the world meet its midcentury targets for fighting global warming. It is equally important to reduce the carbon emissions, which make the bulk of our greenhouse gas, and would take until the second half of the century to see the climate effects.⁴ Cutting down on carbon dioxide emissions will require sweeping changes to virtually every sector replacing the world's gasoline cars with electric ones, for example, and shuttering almost all of its coal-fired power plants. The governments across the globe are focusing on limiting one of the world's biggest source of pollution, gasoline-powered cars, and are moving towards an electric mode of transportation vehicles.⁵

In order to regulate earth's climate and biodiversity it is important to recognize the critical role of oceans and seas, home to almost 80% of all life on earth. The ocean and seas absorb over 90 percent

³ G7 UK 2021, G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Communiqué.

⁴ Hiroko Tabuchi, "Halting the vast releases of methane is critical for climate, UN Says", *The New York Times*, April 24, 2021.

⁵ Natalie Proulx, "Explore 7 Climate Change Solutions", *The New York Times*, November 02, 2021.

of all excess heat earth generates and between 20-30% of all anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. Moreover, a clean and healthy ocean is essential to the livelihoods of more than three billion people on earth. Equally the world's forests provide habitat for most of the species of animals, plants and microorganisms, protecting us from climate change impacts, improving our adaptability and resilience, and acting as key carbon sinks with tropical forests capturing and storing up to 1.8 Gt CO₂ from the atmosphere every year. We must recognize that deforestation and forest degradation are a significant cause of climate change. Therefore we must commit to urgent action to conserve, protect and restore natural ecosystems including forests and habitat connectivity, and promote sustainable forest management. Scientists agree that nature conservation and reversing biodiversity loss is a crucial way to slow climate change. These two topics of climate change and biodiversity collapse are deeply intertwined. They are also inextricably tied to human well-being. But global policies usually target one or the other, leading to unintended consequences. The world must tackle the biodiversity crisis, and raise alarms about extinctions and ecosystem collapse. We must do best for protecting and restoring the nature and safeguarding biodiversity which will help limit warming, improve human well-being and even find protection from the consequences of climate change like intensifying flooding and storm. There are five major drivers of biodiversity losses setting about from human activity identified as: (1) changes in land and sea use, (2) exploitation of organisms directly, (3) change in climate, (4) pollution, and (5) invasive alien species (that are species whose introduction and/or spread outside their natural past or present distribution threatens biological diversity).⁶

3. Importance of transitioning to a Meaningful Climate Change Action

We must recognize that a meaningful transition to net zero economy will be possible only by developing skilled workforce needed to deliver the same. It is equally important to build skills and knowledge in the transitioning labour sector, thereby developing new labour markets for decent and quality green jobs and also investing in leading clean and sustainable industries and technologies. Besides creating and building skills and training we must plan ahead for longer term skills that will be required for a net zero economy. Such planning will support the workers in high carbon sectors and thus help them in implementing improved sustainable practices and green technologies. It will also help us in creating new green jobs besides creating a diverse workforce, in a gender responsive way. It is important to ensure diversity and gender equality which will prove pivotal to the global energy sector's recovery efforts and help build a more inclusive and equitable energy future. A meaningful transition to a net zero global economy will be required from a consorted international collaboration. Moreover, it is important to work closely with city, state and regional governments with the vital support from national governments, in order to achieve a meaningful transition. The local governments and sub-national actors, including businesses, workers, communities and civil society, are vital for bringing action on high-emitting sectors and finding solutions that control emissions while protecting equitable and inclusive development for citizens and communities.

4. Need of Energy Efficiency and Innovative Technologies to Reduce Emissions

Energy efficiency plays significant role in reducing emissions, economic growth, sustainable development and creating jobs. In order to achieve energy efficiency we must resolve our efforts towards improved construction, industry and transport. The governments must stress to speed up

⁶ G7 UK 2021, G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Communiqué.

on the importance of fortifying and synchronizing international collaboration in developing policy frameworks for the existing and new businesses and ensuring adequate investment in energy efficient infrastructure in all sectors.

4.1. Renewable energy sources: It is important to affirm and accelerate the fundamental role of renewable energy sources, considered as one of the major drivers of economic growth, jobs and rising source of affordable energy. Scientists agree that to avoid catastrophic effects of climate change, countries must immediately move away from dirty energy sources like coal, oil and gas; and instead turn to renewable energy sources like wind, solar or nuclear power. The global goal on energy, SDG-7, also encompasses three key targets of renewable energy; it requires us to: (1) ensure affordable, reliable and universal access to modern energy services; (2) increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; and (3) double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. The developing and developed countries must welcome the increasing growth, reducing cost and increasing value of renewable energy technologies. It is equally important to stress on the need for its integration in the existing systems. We must support the development and deployment of renewable energy, particularly for the developing nations where energy shortages can also mitigated through supportive policies, regulatory frameworks and supporting the private sector. Equally, it is import to step up the progress that is urgently required in support of renewable heating and cooling development and deployment.⁷

4.2. Heating and Cooling development and deployment: One of the most compelling and effective solutions to climate change is by adding improved efficiency in the refrigeration or air-conditioning and phasing out of fluorinated gases used for cooling. It was mandated in the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol 1987, which was designed to close the hole in the Ozone layer by banning Ozone-depleting coolants called Chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs. Manufacturers found a substitute in Hydro fluorocarbons, or HFCs, and while HFCs didn't degrade the Ozone layer, scientists soon discovered that they acted as worrisome warming agents. Hence, in October 2016 an amendment was brought to Montreal Protocol to phase out HFCs⁸, which the scientists believed will avoid an estimated half degree Celsius of warming by 2100. It can also be looked in a way that most environment researchers observe that cooling has a direct relationship with the building of coal fired plants to meet peak electricity demand. If more air-conditioners are humming in more homes and offices, then more capacity will be required to meet the demand. It is, therefore, imperative to start such processes in order to protect the Ozone layer and ensure consumers access to technologies worldwide that contribute to health, safety and energy efficiency. Energy efficiency would simply require better and informed regulatory policies on manufacturing standards and labeling. The countries driving the bulk of

⁷ Dolf Gielen *et al*, "The role of renewable energy in the global energy transformation", *Energy Strategy Reviews* Volume No. 24, April 2019, Pages 38-50.

⁸ United States Environmental Protection Agency, "Recent International Developments under the Montreal Protocol", accessed on 21-Jan-2022, available at <https://www.epa.gov/ozone-layer-protection/recent-international-developments-under-montreal-protocol#:~:text=On%20October%2015%2C%202016%2C%20with,over%20the%20next%2030%20years.>

demand for air-conditioning include China, Brazil, India, and Indonesia. These countries have adopted energy efficiency improvement policies like labels and incentive programs. But improvements to China's policies could have sweeping gains, because it is the key exporter to countries primarily in Southeast Asia, where demand is growing. India's Ministry of Power is working to develop a program for bulk purchases of superefficient air-conditioners, which may include refrigerant alternatives to HFCs.⁹

- 4.3. Eliminate Coal Power generation:** Coal power generation is one of the biggest cause of temperature rise, globally. Therefore, it is important to scale up efforts in bringing new technologies and policies that can help accelerate the transitioning from coal power generation without reducing the capacity it generates.
- 4.4. Food loss and waste emitting GHGs:** Food loss and waste produces around 8% of global GHGs. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Food Waste Index Report 2021 records 931 million tonnes of food waste generated globally in 2019 by way of retail, food service and households, which represents 17% of food available for consumption. We must acknowledge the importance of reducing food loss and waste so as to improve food security, particularly in the most vulnerable communities, mitigating climate change and land degradation and protecting biodiversity.¹⁰
- 4.5. Adopt effective ways towards efficient and clean use of innovative technologies:** It is equally important to use innovative technologies in sensible ways that protects the ecosystem of the area where they are used at. For example, once it was hoped that biofuels will be a best alternative for world energy until realizing that they lead to deforestation and increased food prices. Another kind of bioenergy, wood pellets, is currently booming in the southeastern United States, despite concerns about pollution and biodiversity loss. Similarly, solar farms, for example, eat up wildlife habitat, a particular concern for places with threatened species. But, critically, they generate clean energy. Scientists recently highlighted ways to mitigate the damage to biodiversity, for example by grazing livestock around them, improving carbon soil stocks and avoiding intact habitat. Pollinator gardens on solar farms can help nurture insects and birds. While wind farms can hurt migrating birds, the scientists note that modern turbines cause much less damage.¹¹ Moreover, the IPCC also reiterates the significance of food and nourishment to our growing population but it emphasize in doing so in a way that minimizes agriculture's carbon foot print. The Scientists observed that the food production system accounts for somewhere between a quarter and a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. But if agriculture is done right, experts say, it can be less of a climate change problem and more of a climate change solution.¹²

⁹ Lisa Friedman, "If You Fix This, You Fix a Big Piece of the Climate Puzzle," *The New York Times*, July 13, 2017.

¹⁰ G7 UK 2021, G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Communiqué.

¹¹ Cartin Eithorn, "Our Response to Climate Change Is Missing Something Big, Scientists Say," *The New York Times*, October 7, 2021.

¹² Somini Sengupta, "Earth's Food Supply Is Under Threat. These Fixes Would Go a Long Way," *The New York Times*, August 9, 2021.

- 4.6. Promote efficient transport and mobility:** It is importance to reduce GHG emissions from the transport sector in order to help achieve net zero emissions in accordance with IPCC aim. This will require increasing the pace of de-carbonization globally in the road transport sector during 2020s and 2030s, in order to be consistent with the goals defined in the Paris Agreement. Countries must support zero emission transitioning period in the transport sector through effective monitoring, regulation and collaboration with other countries for the deployment of zero emission vehicles for passengers and freight, including sharing ways to assist developing countries in making the transition. We must also recognize the urgent need for effective ways to reduce emissions from the aviation and maritime sectors.¹³
- 4.7. Incentivize private sector investment:** It is important to incentivize investments from the private sector that will help in accelerated innovations in the market. Moreover, it is equally important to complement and support the existing private sector players that have taken the initiatives. The governments must create unique platforms locally and also at international level, that will be used for everyone to share their experiences, help in rising the ambition and cooperation for clean energy and innovation, discussing effective policies, regulations, and market requirements. Such platforms can also be helpful in attracting investments.
- 4.8. Decarbonizing hard-to-abate industrial sectors such as iron and steel, cement, chemicals, and petrochemicals:** It is important to amplify early action in de-carbonizing hard-to-abate industrial sectors such as iron and steel, cement, chemicals, and petrochemicals, in order to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, across the entire economy. In order to achieve this we must generate funding and accentuate innovative technologie, including the use of hydrogen, electrification, sustainable biomass, CCUS technologies (that can capture and make effective use of the high concentrations of CO₂ emitted by industrial activities) and synthetic fuels (including ammonia and fuels made from hydrogen).¹⁴
- 4.9. Low carbon hydrogen and renewable sources important to net zero emissions:** We must recognize the significance of low carbon hydrogen and renewable sources. Governments must increase efforts to commercialize hydrogen use extracted from low carbon and renewable sources. This will help in introducing a hydrogen market creating new jobs in the energy sector.¹⁵
- 4.10. Use of technologies that extract CO₂ from air:** Eliminating emissions alone may not be enough to avoid some of the worst effects of climate change, so some companies are investing in technology that sucks carbon dioxide out of the air. One of such examples is a Swiss Company which is operating a device named Orca, the world's biggest commercial

¹³ Proulx, "7 Climate Change Solutions,"

¹⁴ Ministry of Economy and Trade, Government of Japan, "Japan's Roadmap to 'Beyond-Zero' Carbon", What is CCUS Technology?, accessed on 21-Jan-2022, available at https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/energy_environment/global_warming/roadmap/innovation/ccus.html#:~:text=Carbon%20Capture%2C%20Usage%20and%20Storage,challenge%20of%20global%20climate%20change.

¹⁵ G7 UK 2021, G7 Climate and Environment Ministers' Communiqué.

Direct Air Capture device (DAC), in Iceland that sucks CO₂ from the air and shoots it into the ground, where it turns into rock. Orca can extract 4000 metric tons of CO₂ each year, and is financed by numerous private individuals and firms including Stripe, Swiss Re, Audi and Microsoft. One downside is that Orca's output equals just three seconds of humanity's annual CO₂ emissions, which are closer to 40 billion metric tons, but it has at least shown the concept of scrubbing the air clean and putting carbon back underground. It is important that such technologies are supported across by all the stakeholders in the society including the governments. Such technologies would indeed prove to be a successful contributor, as the IPCC Report admonishes, in setting out the need for reaching net zero emissions by 2050 if global warming was to be kept to 1.5 degrees.¹⁶

5. Conclusion

A healthy and natural environment is crucial for human health, wellbeing and prosperity globally and forms a basis for sustainable development. Despite of international agreements for the preservation, and restoration of biodiversity we see a negative trend in the ecosystem and biodiversity is worsening. Nations must affirm a strong determination to stop and reverse such losses and take urgent action. Pakistan is fifth country in the world to adopt legislation on climate change i.e. the Climate Change Act 2017. This law was enacted to ensure the fulfillment of obligations by Pakistan, under international conventions relating to climate change. The Act set up Pakistan Climate Change Council, primarily responsible for implementing the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris agreement, make and monitor climate change policies. Moreover, the Pakistan Climate Change Authority under the Act is responsible to implement government policies related to climate change and assist provinces through mutual consultations. The Pakistan Climate Change Fund under the Act provides a financial base by which the Pakistan Climate Change Authority is functioning. It is important to have a system that is reliable in order to make monitoring and enforcement effective. Governments must concentrate on introducing innovative technologies and modern techniques. Pakistan being a developing country has a majority of medium and small sized industrial enterprises, most of which have unsatisfactory knowledge, industrial competence and scarce financial resources needed to solve their environmental issues. Moreover, it is important that besides having laws on air, noise and solid waste pollution, we must also devise rules and regulations concerning odour, radiation, vibration and municipal solid waste management.

¹⁶ Peter Wilson, "Is Carbon Capture Here?" *The New York Times*, October 31, 2021.

OPINION

Russia and the Taliban led Afghanistan**Fakiha Mehmood**

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Abstract

August 15, 2021, marking the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is a momentous juncture in the history of regional geopolitics. The country often termed as the graveyard of empires has successfully buried the influence of yet another superpower supported in its efforts by a plethora of technologically advanced countries. The US/NATO withdrawal has opened up new vistas of opportunity for regional actors to gain influence in the country experiencing power transition both internally as well as externally. Successor to the former Soviet Union, the Russian Federation extends influence into the Afghan territory through its neighboring Central Asian states as well as by engaging with regional countries. The immediate Russian policy in post-withdrawal scenario was a repeated call for dialogue among contesting parties vying to get hold onto reins of power in Kabul primarily the Taliban and opposition groups. This paper analyses the role of Russia in post US/NATO withdrawal Afghanistan which is guided by various factors including its relationship with the Taliban as well as the triangular engagement with regional countries like Russia-Pakistan-Afghanistan, Russia-China-Afghanistan, as well as the role of the western countries foremost the United States. The paper also takes note of the Russian diplomacy on the Afghan issue involving actors and processes with the region and beyond and concludes that the US/NATO withdrawal and the subsequent Taliban takeover of Afghanistan has created both challenges and opportunities for Russia in this region.

1. Introduction

Successor to the former Soviet Union, the Russian Federation holds the position of a global power by virtue of various factors, for example it is one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, occupies world's largest territory, expands influence into Europe, Asia, Arctic as well as the Pacific. It retains nuclear weapons and ranks among the world's top military spenders and arms exporters. Russia is the world's sixth (6th) largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity and is a front-runner in the global oil natural gas industry.¹

Russia lost shared border with Afghanistan in 1989 after ten years of armed struggle by the Soviet Union to establish communist rule in that country. August 15, 2021, marking the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan is a momentous juncture in the history of regional geopolitics. The country often termed as the graveyard of empires has successfully buried the influence of yet another superpower supported in its efforts by a plethora of technologically advanced countries. The US/NATO withdrawal has opened up new vistas of opportunity for regional actors to gain influence in the country experiencing power transition both internally as well as externally.

The immediate Russian policy in post-withdrawal scenario was a repeated call for dialogue among contesting parties vying to get hold onto reins of power in Kabul primarily the Taliban and opposition groups. Russian strategists had much earlier calculated the inability of US/NATO led military forces to keep control of Afghan territory. Consequently, policy makers in Moscow

¹ Andrew S. Bowen and Cory Welt, "Russia: Foreign Policy and US Relations," *Congressional Research Service Report R46761*, (April 15, 2021).

successfully made significant inroads into Afghanistan by reaching out to multiple power brokers and engaging in international diplomatic forums.² This paper analyzes the role of Russia in post US/NATO withdrawal Afghanistan which is guided by various factors including its relationship with the Taliban as well as the triangular engagement with regional countries like Russia-Pakistan-Afghanistan, Russia-China-Afghanistan, as well as the role of the western countries foremost the United States. The paper also takes note of the Russian diplomacy on the Afghan issue involving actors and processes with the region and beyond.

2. Historical background

Russia has a long history of engagement with Afghanistan, which turned violent in 1979 with the invasion of Soviet Union. Bilateral ties are as old as 1919 when Bolsheviks granted recognition to the then Afghan government. Afghanistan also acted as a buffer zone between the Soviet Union and the British Empire prior to the decolonization of the Indo-Pak sub-continent. Both countries had shared borders till the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1989. The role of US to dislodge USSR from Afghanistan with the help of proxies (including Pakistan among others) in order to check the communist advance around the world is important to keep in view at this juncture when the US/NATO forces have left from Afghanistan after a twenty years of failed war in that same impoverished country.³

The disintegration of Soviet Union resulted in the loss of shared border with Afghanistan as the Central Asian countries gained independence. However, Russia continued its engagement with multiple power brokers inside Afghanistan. It also played significant role in the international diplomatic ventures regarding Afghanistan since 2001. More importantly, Russian policy towards Afghanistan is guided by its desire to secure influence in the Central Asian states. The military base in Tajikistan and cooperation with Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan has enabled Russia to access its former shared border with Afghanistan.⁴

3. Russia and Taliban

Initially, Russia was anti-Taliban. The rise of Taliban in mid-1990s prompted Russian support for the Northern Alliance, and subsequently the US invasion of Afghanistan to topple the Taliban government. The Russian euphoria over US toppling of Taliban government gradually faded as it sensed US intrusions into the Russian sphere of influence, i.e. the Central Asian States bordering the Afghan territory, as well as the diminishing strength of the occupied forces inside Afghanistan and their overt or covert support to the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) which was perceived as a security threat by Moscow.⁵

Since 2014, Russia has sought to maintain close ties with a wide array of political forces and militant groups inside Afghanistan. Prior to the US withdrawal, though Russia had bilateral relations with the Afghan government, in practice Russia considered it a government short of actual powers and being run by powers outside the Afghan territory. Nevertheless, the shift in Russian approach towards the

² Ivan U. Klyszcz, "Russia and the Taliban takeover," *Foundation pour la Recherche Strategique, Recherches & Documents* No. 17, November 2021.

³ Klyszcz, "Russia and the Taliban takeover."

⁴ Klyszcz, "Russia and the Taliban takeover."

⁵ David G. Lewis, "Return to Kabul? Russian policy in Afghanistan," *George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Security Insights* No. 60, (June 2020).

Taliban over the course of two decades is remarkable. The resistance Taliban offered against the Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) in Afghanistan which included a large chunk of Russian fighters as well, provided the impetus for Russian closer engagement with Taliban. Moreover, by mid-2010s it had become increasingly evident that the US mission in Afghanistan had failed and that whatever new dispensation emerges in Afghanistan will certainly include a significant Taliban element.⁶

When Taliban took over the reins of power in Kabul on 15 August 2021, Russia neither resisted nor facilitated the incoming rulers. At the same time, Russia was among few countries that did not close its diplomatic mission in Kabul and maintained contacts with senior Taliban representatives as early as 17 August. Formal recognition has not been extended to the Taliban regime from Moscow, though the joint statement of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan issued on 20 October 2021, attended by Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Taliban representatives recognized Taliban as a “new reality”.

4. Russian diplomatic overtures on Afghanistan situation

While Russia has been a key player in the international diplomatic initiatives since 2001 including the all-important Bonn Conference, it was in 2016 that Russia led the dialogue process on Afghanistan in the backdrop of the US/NATO forces withdrawal. Moscow hosted the Russia, Pakistan and China tri-lateral Summit to discuss the emerging situation in Afghanistan in December 2016. The dialogue framework was later expanded to include various other regional countries to make up the Moscow Format Talks. Alongside the Moscow format, Russia pursued the Afghan agenda in the sidelines of other forums like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). These initiatives gained momentum in November 2018 when besides hosting the participants of Moscow format, Russia held an intra-Afghan dialogue including Taliban. Though the process did not produced immediate results, it increased the diplomatic clout of the Taliban faction which was pursuing negotiations with the US at the same time.⁷

The next round of intra-Afghan talks led by Russia took place in February 2019, which was attended by influential figures both from the Afghan government as well as the Taliban. The participants came up with a joint communiqué agreeing to the general contours of future peace settlement and a complete withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. Further rounds of intra-Afghan dialogue continued in 2019. Taliban representatives were received in the Russian capital simultaneously at the time when US-Taliban talks were suspended signaling variety of options available to Taliban for its international diplomacy. However, Russia welcomed the resumption of Taliban-US talks as well as the Doha Peace Deal finalized in February 2020.⁸

Most recently, the Moscow format talks were held in October 2021 following the Taliban takeover of Kabul. The participants included regional countries like China, Pakistan, Iran and India besides the Central Asian countries excluding Tajikistan as well as a high-level delegation of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The joint statement emphasized the respect for territorial sovereignty and integrity

⁶ David G. Lewis and Anisheh Bassiri Tabrizi, “Regional powers and post-NATO Afghanistan,” *NATO Defense College Research Paper* No. 20, (June 2021).

⁷ Lewis, “Return to Kabul? Russian policy in Afghanistan.”

⁸ Lewis, “Return to Kabul? Russian policy in Afghanistan.”

of Afghanistan and a commitment to get rid of terrorism and narcotics emanating from this country. While refraining from granting official recognition to the Islamic Emirate, the statement accepted the “new reality” that is Taliban government. It also encouraged the Taliban leadership to include all major political strata in the government and ensure respect for women and children rights in their country. The statement commended the Taliban assurances that Afghan territory will not be used against any other country. Most importantly, all sides took note of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and resolved to “launch a collective initiative to convene a broad-based international donor conference under the auspices of the United Nations” Alongside the other P-5 states, Russia also attended the 17th extraordinary session of the OIC, held in Islamabad on the behest of Saudi Arabia on 17-19 December 2021. Moreover, Russia is all set to host the Troika Plus (including China, Pakistan, Russia and the US) meeting on Afghanistan in January 2022.⁹

5. The Pakistan factor in Russia-Taliban rapprochement

During the decade following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Pakistan-Russia relations remained lukewarm. In terms of the Afghan factor in the bilateral relations, the recognition of Taliban government by Pakistan was a major irritant which defined the overall Russian policy contours towards Pakistan. Bilateral relations began developing again after the US invasion of Afghanistan at the beginning of the 21st century when Pakistan took a U-turn in its policy towards the Taliban and joined the US led global war on terrorism.¹⁰

Though Russia had been supporting Pakistan since 2011 in projects like Karachi Steel Mill, Heavy Mechanical Complex, electric power plants in Guddu and Muzaffargarh, as well as coal project in Thar, the momentum for closer ties began in June 2014 when Russia relieved Pakistan of the arms embargo institutionalized even prior to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Pakistan-Russia signed bilateral defense cooperation agreement in November 2014 at a time when US and NATO forces began withdrawal of combat forces from Afghanistan. Two years later, Russia facilitated Pakistan's full membership of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Pakistan provided Russia access to warm waters through the Gwadar Port. Bilateral ties further strengthened with Pakistan's acquisition of Russia military hardware including Mi-35M attack helicopters and Klimov RD-93 engines in 2015. Moreover, both countries successfully conducted joint naval exercises, termed as the “Arabian Monsoon,” as well as counter terrorism military drills named “DRUZBA.”¹¹

Experts are of the opinion that Pakistan played instrumental role in building Russia's ties with the new Taliban regime in Kabul. As Russian policy shifted from pro US/NATO in Afghanistan in 2001/02 to the seeking inroads into the Taliban faction, Pakistan provided a useful platform to seek this policy as an effort for regional peaceful co-existence. Analysts believe that threat of ISKP, compelled Russia even further to seek a counter force in Taliban. Given its suspicions of US and its allies to exploit the ISIS in Afghanistan against the Russian security interests, Taliban seemed an obvious choice for Russian strategists to address these security concerns.¹² Russian overtures towards Pakistan are determined by several factors, most important among them remain relations

⁹ Najibullah Lalzoy, “Moscow to host Troika Plus on Afghanistan,” *The Khaama Press News Agency*, 30 December 2021, <https://www.khaama.com/moscow-to-host-troika-plus-on-afghanistan-98787665/>.

¹⁰ Muhammad Taimur Fahad Khan, “Pakistan's foreign policy towards Russia,” *Strategic Studies* 39, no. 3 (Autumn 2019): 89-104.

¹¹ Khan, “Pakistan's foreign policy towards Russia,” 89-104.

¹² Ekaterina Stepanova, “Russia's Afghan policy in the regional and Russia-west contexts,” *Russie.NEI.Reports*, No. 23, May 2018.

with US and India. Russia has enjoyed close bilateral ties with India since the cold war when theoretically India joined the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to reject its alignment with any of the cold war adversary, i.e. either US or former USSR, but in practical terms India benefitted significantly from defense cooperation with Soviet Union. Since the signing of Indo-US defense deal in 2008, Russian ties with India have seen a downward trajectory. The Indian tilt towards the US has created fissures in the historical Russia-India ties culminating into the growing Russian-Pakistani ties over the past few years.¹³ However, the situation in Afghanistan in the post-withdrawal scenario is a serious challenge for India, a country which had made significant investments in Afghanistan during the previous government and it has only recently began approaching Taliban for any serious negotiations. Moreover, the historical Pakistan-Taliban ties offer Pakistani policy makers immense opportunities in the new dispensation in Afghanistan. India has been doing its best to fill this void. Evidence to this is the fact that parallel to the 17th extraordinary session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers hosted by Pakistan on 18-19 December 2021 (which was attended by 70 delegations from across the world including, 20 Foreign Ministers and 10 Deputy Foreign Ministers of OIC members states as well as representatives of P-5 countries), India hosted the 3rd Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Central Asia-India dialogue. The Foreign Ministers of Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan attended the meeting held in the Indian capital.¹⁴

6. Russia and the US in Afghanistan

At the outset it is worth noting that the US-Russia relations are multifaceted that depend upon the policies of both countries over multitude of issues like weapons' proliferation, war in Syria, Libya and Ukraine etc. The Afghan issue is only one element of this complex relationship. Russia initially welcomed the US invasion of Afghanistan due to its anti-Taliban policy. Subsequently, it needed security cooperation with the Afghan National Army backed by the US/NATO forces in order to deal with the threats emerging from Afghanistan. Russia provided logistical support to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan through the Northern Distribution Network (NDN). In order to address the pressing issue of narcotics, Russia and US in collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime trained the counter-narcotics officers in the region. Though unsuccessful, both countries also negotiated cooperation in the area of missile defense.¹⁵ However, as the circumstances revealed that the US/NATO combat mission has been failing miserably, US looked towards Russia to help it get out of the Afghan quagmire.

Russian approach towards the US presence in Afghanistan is at times paradoxical. On the one hand Russia perceives threat to its security from the US/NATO presence in the region and welcomes their forces' withdrawal. On the other hand, Russia is concerned about the power vacuum created with the foreign forces' withdrawal which may create problems for Russia due to the threats emerging from within the Afghanistan. Faced with this paradox, Russia criticized the western forces for the devastation caused in Afghanistan and called for taking the responsibility for this carnage. At the same time, Russia has made extensive contacts within Afghanistan as well as with the regional states in order to ensure its interests in the post-withdrawal scenario.

¹³ Khan, "Pakistan's foreign policy towards Russia," 89-104.

¹⁴ Kazinform, "3rd meeting of the Central Asia-India dialogue takes place," 20 December 2021, https://www.inform.kz/en/3rd-meeting-of-foreign-ministers-of-central-asia-india-dialogue-takes-place_a3875954

¹⁵ Bowen and Welt, "Russia: Foreign Policy and US Relations."

The issues of terrorism and narcotics dominate the agenda for dialogue between the US and Russia in Afghanistan. Some analysts are of the opinion that the threat of ISKP emanating from the Afghan territory with a sizeable number of Russian Muslim recruits continues to haunt policy makers in Moscow. The alleged US support to ISKP for destabilizing Russia or its interests in the Central Asian countries has remained a major irritant in the bilateral relations in the recent context. Moreover, Russia has often criticized the United States for doing not enough to halt illegal narcotics trade, or even it being involved in supporting the elements involved in narcotics smuggling.¹⁶ Most recently, the establishment of US military bases in the region in the post US/NATO withdrawal scenario has also come up in the dialogue on Afghanistan. However, no regional country including Russia has committed the US in this regard.¹⁷

7. Russia-China-Afghanistan triangular relationship

Unlike other regional states or those outside this region, China's policy towards Taliban has remained conciliatory since 1999s. Though in line with the policy of other states, China has so far shied away from granting official recognition to the Islamic Emirate yet China has extensive diplomatic outreach with the Taliban authorities. The desire to jointly address the issue of terrorism and work for sustainable economic development in the region compels the two sides to engage with each other. The Taliban signaling to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has further enhanced the hopes for peace and development in the region. Taliban authorities have also taken concrete steps with regard to Uygur militants operating in the northeastern Afghanistan. As compared with Russia, which focuses more on the security aspect in the region, Chinese advances are more economic. However, this perception was dented more recently when China signed the agreement with Tajikistan to station its military base in the country that already hosts a Russian military base since past several years.

Broadly speaking, Russia and China have overlapping interests in the region with regard to Afghanistan. In other words, the chances of tri-lateral cooperation are much higher than any need for conflict. With the exception of the move to establish military base in Tajikistan, China has not demonstrated the intention to develop large scale military infrastructure in Afghanistan or the wider Central Asia which may be a cause of concern for Moscow. Even the military base in Tajikistan has not invited any criticism from Russia. As compared to Russia, China is more willing to invest in the financial sector of Afghanistan. Also China has hinted at creating a place for Afghanistan in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).¹⁸

8. Conclusion

The US/NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan has created both challenges as well as opportunities for Russia in its close neighborhood. In its role as a challenger to the US hegemonic designs in this region, Russia welcomes the US exit and criticizes the US for causing unnecessary destruction in an already impoverished country. Russia initially opposed the Taliban when it came to power in Kabul in mid-1990s, subsequently Moscow supported the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. However, within few years, Russian strategists had sensed the in-built resilience of Taliban to resist foreign

¹⁶ Lewis and Tabrizi, "Regional powers and post-NATO Afghanistan."

¹⁷ Manoj Joshi, "Moscow hosts Taliban: India is straddling both US & Russia camps on Afghanistan," Observer Research Foundation, 22 October 2021, <https://www.orfonline.org/research/moscow-hosts-taliban/>.

¹⁸ Klyszcz, "Russia and the Taliban takeover."

occupation as well as the inability of US led NATO coalition to stay on Afghan territory even by extensive financial support to the Afghan government and Afghan National Army. Russia had started reaching out to Taliban much earlier. The result of this engagement was that when the Taliban took over the reins of power in August 2021, Russia was in a much consolidated position to ensure its diplomatic presence in Kabul and get involved with the new leadership at a time when other countries were leaving the Afghan capital. Russian pro-active role in the international diplomacy on Afghanistan has enabled the policy makers in Moscow to create an important place in the ongoing multilateral process to deliberate on the future of Afghanistan. Given its clout among the Central Asian states especially Tajikistan that has bitter relations with the Taliban, Russia can play an instrumental role in furthering the agenda of peace and stability in Afghanistan and the wider region.

By virtue of its close ties with Taliban, Pakistan enjoys important place in Russian approach towards Taliban led Afghanistan. However, Pakistan-Russia relations have largely been guided by forces external to this bilateral relation, most importantly the India factor. In fact, some observers see Russia getting closer to Pakistan due to the fractures created in historic Russia-India ties because of increasing Indian strategic ties with the United States. The post US/NATO withdrawal Afghanistan has put Pakistan in a much better strategic position as compared to India. The policy makers in Delhi are trying hard to overcome these challenges.

Russia-US relations are multifaceted, and Afghanistan is only one factor in the broader relationship. The US exit from Afghanistan has placed Russia in a state of paradox. Though it openly criticizes the US for its failure in this country, it also seeks to overcome the power vacuum due to the foreign forces withdrawal. Russian advances towards the Taliban were primarily driven with the desire to overcome the challenges emerging out of this power vacuum. Russia and China are on the path to more cooperate rather than diverge on the Afghan issue. China has been in good terms with Taliban even prior to the Russian engagement with this faction. A peaceful Afghanistan led by Taliban that offers significant opportunities for trade, connectivity and investment as well as denies terrorist activities is certainly welcome in Beijing, though it keeps its diplomatic decisions in line with the rest of the international community.

FACTSHEET ON KASHMIR

Compiled PIPS (Strategic Studies and IR desk)

Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) (January 1989 – November 2021)



Total Killings - 95,917

7,215



**CUSTODIAL
KILLINGS**

163,984



**CIVILIAN
ARRESTED**

110,440



**STRUCTURES
ARSONED/
DESTROYED**

22,939

**WOMEN
WIDOED**

107,855

**CHILDREN
ORPHANED**

11,246

**WOMEN GANG
RAPED/
MOLESTED****Civilian to military ratio**

IIOJK is a heavily militarized zone where civilian to security personnel ratio is around 7:1.

Enforced Disappearances/ Mass Graves

Since 1989, almost 8,000 to 10,000 cases of enforced disappearances have been reported. Some reports identify 8652 mass graves in 8 districts of the occupied territories.

There are more than 3000 half widows, a term used for Kashmiri women whose husbands have disappeared. These women are called “half widows” because they have no idea whether their husbands are dead or alive.



Use of Pellet Guns

Indian forces are maiming, blinding and killing people in Kashmir as they continue to defy international norms by using pellet guns as a means of crowd control, since 2014, Indian forces have killed 140 people, blinded 1,253 and seriously injured over 15,500 people by pellet shots.



Since 5th August 2019, 13000 innocent young people have been disappeared including 144 children even as young as 09 years old.



India has issued more than 4.2 million illegal domicile certificates in the occupied territories since promulgation of laws meant to change demography in the region.



In October 2021, the number of killings in IIOJK was thirty-four including twelve custodial killings, 1540 Kashmiris were arrested and six houses were destroyed.



More than 20 Kashmiri youth killed during first three weeks of November 2021.


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Commemorating 10 years of PIPS services in New Campus (2012-22)**Excerpts gathered by PIPS Research and Legislation Client Satisfaction System (PRLCSS) - 2016-2021****Review & Feedback By PIPS Board of Governors**

2021	13 December, 2021: PIPS has always taken great strides in bringing the most pressing issues to the forefront and involving various stakeholders so that Parliamentarians can make informed decisions. Such roundtables have always been beneficial to us as legislators in terms of not only understanding issues in depth but also debating them in the house.	Honorable Ms. Wajiha Qamar, Parliamentary Secretary for Federal Education/ Member PIPS BoG
	30 August 2021: Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, President PIPS BoG/ Chairman Senate of Pakistan said that PIPS assisted in preparation of IPC Constitution and numerous researched-documents and reports. IPC has signed an agreement with IPU for collaboration. The President Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron visited Pakistan and signed that agreement. He informed that he sent a team of IPC to witness the general elections in United Kingdom. A report of those elections was prepared and sent to many countries which was well appreciated. Some other countries are willing to invite IPC to witness their elections.	Honorable Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan
2019	PIPS has a strong research Team	Honorable Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan/President PIPS BoG
	Research taught and practiced at PIPS never seen before	Honorable MNA, Ms. Nafeesa Khattak shared students' impressions after PIPS session in Board of Governors Meeting
2018	13 February 2018: He congratulated the PIPS leadership and entire team for their untiring efforts as a bridge between people of Pakistan and the Parliament.	Honorable Senator Farhatullah Babar
	10 May 2018: She recognized that PIPS had proved itself in a very short span of time and everyone had realized of its efficacy viz-a-viz legislative, research and capacity building services. She thanked PIPS BoG for providing a common platform where everybody across all parliamentary parties come together to deliberate on most relevant challenges faced by the country.	Honorable Senator Nuzhat Sadiq
-do-	10 May 2018: She apprised that as she was elected in 2013, it was a dream come true to find PIPS that proved its worth in a big way especially in conduct of legislative business by holding thematic seminars and providing researches.	Honorable Shahida Akhtar Ali, MNA
2017	08 February 2017: The then President PIPS BoG Sardar Ayaz Sadiq expressed his satisfaction that PIPS has supported and closely monitored the progress of the Parliamentary Studies Program and 17 universities have offered Parliamentary Studies as an elective course in social science and law degrees	Honorable Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan/ President PIPS BoG

	08 February 2017: She apprised the BoG that it has articulated KPI led legislative, research, training and outreach services that has helped PIPS team to make a paradigm shift in their output.	Honorable MNA, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, State Minister for Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage
Review By Honorable Members of Parliament and Dignitaries		
2021	19 March 2021: PIPS has grown as a remarkable Institute that has played an outstanding role in enhancing MPs' understanding of various social issues. It frequently highlights some of the key societal issues requiring legislative attention.	Honorable Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, MNA
	16 June 2021: The PIPS Budget and Economy analysis in the MPs orientation is both comprehensive and backed with appropriate data to enable us in our budget debate on floor of the House.	Honorable Nawabzada Waseem Khan Badozai, MPA, Punjab Assembly
	16 June 2021 (Lahore: PIPS Budget Orientation for MPs): PIPS Economy and Budget desk has provided us in depth knowledge of various sectoral situation e.g. education, health, water and sanitation that will enable us to emphasize on human security in our province. We recommend that PIPS organize a week-long national orientation on economic concepts in Islamabad.	Honorable Ms. Sadia Sohail Rana, MPA Punjab Assembly,
	16 June 2021: PIPS research and legislative services are very relevant and a great help to MPs in making informed debate and decisions in the Assembly.	Honorable Seemabia Tahir, MPA Punjab Assembly
	16 June 2021: No one else has provided a more comprehensive budget analysis to Members than Team PIPS. We are looking forward to a week-long orientation by the PIPS Research Wing.	Honorable Abdur Rauf Mughal, MPA Punjab Assembly
	Letter of Appreciation dated 21 June 2021: "I am writing to extend my sincere appreciation to you on your active participation in the '2nd General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO),' hosted by National Assembly of Pakistan... I congratulate you for your commitment and service to this Secretariat and look forward to your continued contributions in future as well."	Mr. Tahir Hussain, Secretary National Assembly of Pakistan
	25 June 2021: Syed Shamooun Hashmi, Additional Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat, stated that the Secretary National Assembly has appreciated the support provided by the Institute in the PAECO International Conference 2021. He said that the Institute handled a full session of the conference and provided support in preparation of necessary documents for the conference.	Syed Shamooun Hashmi, Additional Secretary, National Assembly of Pakistan speaking on behalf of National Assembly Secretariat in PIPS BoG meeting dated 25 June, 2021
	WPC KPK Meeting with PIPS and CPDI, Islamabad, dated 16 September 2021: PIPS is doing a commendable job as the Institute's parliamentary research services have served us in last decade like a value-adding parliamentary university; we look forward PIPS support to the KPK's Women Caucus in providing research and drafting bills as well as capacity building that will go a long way in our enhanced effectiveness and efficiency. PIPS is an asset of the Parliament.	Honorable Mr. Mahmud Jan, Deputy Speaker KP Assembly and Patron Women Caucus

	WPC KPK Meeting with PIPS and CPDI, Islamabad, dated 16 September 2021: PIPS professional and timely support is undoubtedly a huge support to MPs as I recall my tenure as an MNA, where research and legislative services by the Team PIPS enabled me to become one of the most contributing MNA during 2013-2018.	Honorable Ms. Naeema Kishwar, MPA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly
2020	On 3 January 2020, Hon. Minister for Narcotics control, Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi, held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan and informed him about a new initiative by his Ministry with the assistance of PIPS, entitled: The Drug Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Regulation Bill, 2019. In this regard, the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan posted a tweet on his official twitter account.	Honorable Minister for Narcotics control, Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi
	 <p>18,672 likes</p> <p>وزیراعظم عمران خان اور وزیر انسداد منشیات شہریار خان افریدی کی پرائم منسٹر آفس میں ملاقات۔ شہریار خان افریدی نے وزارتی امور اور مختلف اقدامات کے حوالے سے وزیراعظم کو بریفنگ دی۔</p> <p>شہریار خان افریدی نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو Zindagi App پر بریفنگ دی۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان اگلے ماہ 6 جنوری کو Zindagi App کا افتتاح کریں گے۔</p> <p>کے ذریعے جو کہ منشیات کے حوالے سے والدین، Zindagi App استادہ کا بچوں میں منشیات کے رجحان سے آگاہی اور روک تھام کے حوالے سے آگاہ رکھا جائے گا۔</p> <p>شہریار خان افریدی نے وزیراعظم کو Rehabilitation Regulatory Authority Bill پر بریفنگ دی۔ واضح رہے کہ پاکستان میں اس سے پہلے کوئی ایسا قانون موجود نہیں تھا۔</p>	
	Honorable Uzma Kardar, MPA during a workshop on Rules of Procedures for the Chairs of the Standing Committees of Punjab on 07 February 2020 informed the audience that legislative drafting is a highly technical field and that its experts are difficult to find in Pakistan. The main objective of the National and Provincial Assemblies is legislation and that PIPS is the right place for the legislative team to provide Parliamentarians with diligent assistance. Thank you very much PIPS Team for the wonderful and active support on technical subject of Annual Budget. I found it very professional and committed to entertain my queries and questions.	Honorable Uzma Kardar, MPA, Provincial Assembly of Punjab
	22 June 2020: I am grateful to the PIPS Budget Desk for their unwavering support on budget, which enabled me to contribute effectively during the Budget Session through active participation and speech.	Honorable MNA Ch. Faqir Ahmed
	Thanks PIPS Team for excellent and timely support during the	Honorable MPA, Khyber

	Budget Session. The way you translated my required budget areas into Urdu for better understanding and Assembly speech is highly appreciable.	Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Tufail Anjum
	14 June 2020: Thank you for sharing such excellent research briefs. The manner in which the timely analysis was received from the PIPS Team demonstrates the professional and committed values of the PIPS Team, which greatly aided us in providing comments for our assembly briefing.	Honorable MPA, Balochistan, Mr. Sana Ullah Baloch
	22 June 2020: Thanks for providing good budget analysis but a bit late try to do early next time as Senate has nearly concluded the report to National Assembly	Hon. Senator Saleem Mandviwalla
	14 June 2020: Thanks PIPS Team for providing very productive analysis on Budget	Hon. MPA, Sindh, Mr. Shahzad Qureshi
	25 June 2020: Thank you so much, PIPS Budget Desk, for preparing and delivering a wonderful Budget Analysis in such a short period of time, as well as organizing a webinar on such short notice at our request. I would like to thank the PIPS Team on behalf of the Balochistan Assembly for their wonderful and unwavering support.	Hon. Sardar Babar Khan, Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly
	26 June 2020: Thanks PIPS Team for being always actively available to support us in House business. Especially, I highly appreciate and acknowledge the wonderful support on Budget.	Hon. MNA Saad Waseem
	Office of the Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC through letter on 26 October 2020: Gratitude upon sharing the PIPS publications for research and technical support to Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor; Hon Chairman has greatly appreciated your research services and desires to look forward to you for such indispensable support in future.	Office of the Honorable Sher Ali Arbab, Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC
	Comments in meeting at the Ministry of Narcotics on PIPS drafted bill, 05 November 2020: Drug Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Regulation Bill, 2020 is a very good piece of drafting. It covers all the aspects and will fulfill needs of international standards.	Annette Dale-Perera, Consultant for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization
	11 November 2020: Well done Team PIPS for their timely and quality technical assistance in legislative, comparative research and drafting a bill on an imperative matter of national importance.	Honorable MNA, Ali Nawaz Awan
	Feedback on 12 November, 2020 via email: Thank you for the research, which I am considering to push forward for the possible legislation, will be in contact for research especially on economic issues... We consider services extended by PIPS as extremely valuable ... Your professional conduct and expertise are highly commended.	Honorable Senator Zeeshan Khanzada
2019	My sincere gratitude for sharing copy of Parliamentary Research Digest. This valuable research digest will be kept in the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan (LJCP) Secretariat Library for research purpose.	Raja Muhammad Faisal, Deputy Secretary, Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan
	01 March 2019: Letter of Appreciation: It gives me immense pleasure to convey my profound gratitude and appreciation for the good work done by you and your team that undertook a	Mr. Zafarullah Khan, Former ED, PIPS

	comprehensive research project; "Parliament @ 70."... while acknowledging the contributions made by the Research and Legislation Wing under your leadership I am confident that you will continue the excellent work and earn many more honors for the Institute.	
	31 July 2019: It was a wonderful experience to visit PIPS where a great deal of work is done to improve democracy. Add value to the parliamentary system. Thank you for this opportunity.	J. K. Ananda Kumarasiri Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Sri Lanka
	25 Nov 2019: PIPS publications and sessions provide quality analysis for MPs which is invaluable for our day to day work at the Assembly.	Honorable Sidra Imran, MPA, Sindh Assembly
	09 December 2019: Whenever there is a legal issue for which a solution is required, PIPS team is there to provide most viable solutions.	Honorable Minister for Narcotics Control, Mr. Shehryar Khan Afridi
2018	27 Feb 2018: Thank you very much for your hospitality and great ideas. Very impressed with the work you are doing and look forward to working with you in the area of migration.	Sedef Dearing, Regional Country Head, WFD
	April 2018: Great academic and research contribution	VC Uni. of Punjab
	April 2018: Legislative support by PIPS is amazing	Honorable Senator Sehar Kamran
	Found PIPS Research papers much relevant as compared to NDU and others	Honorable MNA Jaffer Iqbal on an international conference on security and anti-terrorism)
	10 April 2018: PIPS legislative and research support means so much to me	Honorable MNA Shehryar Afridi and now State Minister for Interior, at Constitution day April 10, 2018
	Research Digest raising absorbing issues	I.A Rehman, former Chairperson HRCP in The Dawn Newspaper
	October 2018: PIPS is passionate about Parliamentary work in the country; it is indeed great support through its research, legislative and capacity building initiatives	Honorable Senator Shahzad Waseem
	October 2018: PIPS is passionate about Parliamentary work in the country; it is indeed great support through its research, legislative and capacity building initiatives	Honorable Senator Shahzad Waseem
	The institute has provided me a great deal of assistance in field of legislation. The legislative team of PIPS helped me in drafting several Bills, out of which four were passed by the Senate and three of those became Acts of Parliament.	Honorable Senator Karim Khawaja
	November 2018: PIPS Providing so many research services and contributing so many books in short span great achievement	Secretary General King Prajadhipok's Institute, Thailand, Prof Woothisarn Tenchai at 20 th anniversary conference

2017	PIPS' Parliament@ 70 research initiative absorbing	Mr. Waller, Head Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, visit to PIPS
	27-28 July 2017: Thank you for your warm hospitality and very informative knowledge. PIPS is very excellent organization. I really appreciate how you work for parliamentary excellence. Thank you very much	Ms. Thawilwadee Bureekel, Director Research, King Prajadhipok's Institute, Thailand
	All-encompassing and well written papers	The then National Security Adviser Mr. Lt Gen retd. Nasir Janjua on PIPS thematic paper for Speakers Conference
	PIPS budget analysis services for MPs and programs on Youth engagement with Parliament are remarkable initiatives	Honorable MNA Ms. Shahida Akhter Ali
	All PIPS publications are thorough and very relevant to any parliamentary institution or House	Honorable Speakers Balochistan Ms Raheela Durrani, MPA, and GBLA, Hon Mr Nashad, MLA, during National SDGs Moot
	December 2017: Narrative of Peace and Tolerance well written	Honorable Senator Nisar Memon
2016	Very comprehensive technical research report on Population; the report has covered all the aspects required by me.	Honorable Malik Muhammad Uzair Khan, MNA, May 2016
	March 2016: PIPS is on top of it vis-a-vis setting and implementing best parliamentary research practices	Mr. Rob Clement, Former Director Research UK House of Commons, March 2016 in Jordan, Amman
	19 Sep 2016: Amazing facilities and wonderful work to strengthen the work of parliament and make democracy better in Pakistan. Congratulation and please keep up the great work!	Mr. Willson Lee
	16 Nov 2016: Thank you for the opportunity to visit PIPS and to congratulate about the high performance achieved by PIPS for the noble cause of democracy and rule of law.	Mr. Oum Sarith, Secretary General, Senate of Cambodia



Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS) Week-Long Orientation Courses on Working of Legislatures & Responsibilities of Government Functionaries for three batches of newly recruited Officers of the Election Commission of Pakistan, August 23-September 10, 2021



Group Photo of PIPS Week-Long Orientation Course on Working of Legislatures & Responsibilities of Government Functionaries for Newly Recruited Officers of the Election Commission of Pakistan, (Batch 2), August-September, 2021



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