

ภาคผนวก ฉ**PAKISTAN - AFGHANISTAN JOINT STATEMENT****27 December 2007**

At the invitation of H.E. Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H.E. Hamid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan paid an official visit to Islamabad from 26-27 December, 2007.

During the visit, the two Presidents and their respective delegations held exchange of views over a range of subjects. Their talks mostly focused on the common threat of terrorism and extremism, bilateral cooperation and regional and global issues of mutual interest.

President Hamid Karzai congratulated President Pervez Musharraf on his re-election and taking oath of office as the President of Pakistan for the second term. President Pervez Musharraf thanked President Hamid Karzai for his special gesture of visiting Pakistan at this important juncture of its history.

The two leaders agreed that terrorism, extremism and the phenomenon of Talibanization posed a common threat to both Afghanistan and Pakistan .

They reaffirmed their commitment to intensify cooperation and coordination between the two countries in countering terrorism, extremism and the phenomenon of Talibanization, bilaterally and within the framework of international coalition against terrorism.

They expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the first round of Joint Peace Jirga held in Afghanistan and resolved to continue this process so that its desired objectives could be achieved.

Both leaders expressed their resolve to further consolidate, expand and deepen cooperation in all the fields.

They emphasized the need for further strengthening of economic ties and boosting bilateral trade in order to realize its full potential. Similarly they agreed to identify new areas of collaboration in the Afghanistan reconstruction field.

President Hamid Karzai appreciated Pakistan 's offer to host the third meeting of Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan , that is scheduled to be held in Islamabad in the last week of March 2008. He also informed that Afghanistan would avail one thousand scholarships offered by Pakistan .

Other engagements of President Hamid Karzai during his stay in Islamabad included attending a state banquet hosted by Pervez Musharraf and a meeting followed by lunch with the Prime Minister Mohammadmian Soomro.

In the meeting with the Prime Minister bilateral trade, transit trade including Pakistan 's transit trade with Central Asia via Afghanistan , increasing communication links including establishment of rail links and countering of terrorism figured prominently. They also emphasized the need for greater international support for countering drug trafficking and breaking its nexus with terrorism.

President Hamid Karzai also held very useful meeting with leading figures of Pakistani businesses and investors. In his address he invited them to invest in Afghanistan for the mutual benefit of both the countries and assured them that the government and private sector of Afghanistan will be forthcoming in responding to their desire to increase trade with Afghanistan .

President Hamid Karzai expressed thanks for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation during their stay in Islamabad and extended a cordial invitation to President Pervez Musharraf to visit Afghanistan . President Pervez Musharraf accepted the invitation with thanks. The dates for his visit to Afghanistan will be finalized through diplomatic channel.