



PAKISTAN AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

PAIDAR NEWSLETTER

Volume VI
June - October 2025



info@pakistan-africa.com

www.pakistan-africa.com



“PROMOTING PAKISTAN-AFRICA RELATIONS THROUGH REVIVAL OF THE BANDUNG SPIRIT OF AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY”

ISSI - PAIDAR hosts event to Commemorate Morocco's 'Enthronement Day'



Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), organized an event to commemorate Morocco's 'Enthronement Day'. **President PAIDAR, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** was the Chief Guest of the ceremony. He highlighted the historical context of Pakistan-Morocco relations, recalling Pakistan's support for Morocco during its struggle against colonial rule. He shared how prominent Moroccan leader Ahmed Balafrej was granted Pakistani passport and how Pakistan's then Foreign Minister, Sir Zafarullah Khan, facilitated him to present Morocco's case at the United Nations. He also noted Morocco's rich civilizational heritage, referring to the world's oldest University in Fez and the legendary 14th-century traveler Ibn Battuta. Mr. Mushahid Hussain Sayed commended the warmth and affection of the Moroccan people and underscored the importance of close collaboration between Pakistan and Morocco to further reinforce the enduring bonds between the two peoples.

ISSI - PAIDAR Celebrates Nelson Mandela International Day



Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Pakistan Africa Institute for Development and Research (PAIDAR), organized an event to commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day. **President PAIDAR, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed** said that as a Pakistani, he has often been struck by the similarities between Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Nelson Mandela and added that the latter was a strong supporter of self-determination for the people of Palestine and Kashmir. He praised Mandela's ability to connect with the grassroots, speaking the language of the masses, and highlighted his generosity and deep commitment to friendships. He stressed that the greatness of Mandela must be recognised, describing him as a shared heritage and a global role model for peace and reconciliation. Underscoring the role of education as a vital bridge between cultures and continents, he proposed renaming one of Pakistan's Universities in Mandela's honour and inviting students from the Global South.

Roundtable on Pakistan Africa Connectivity – Engage Africa Policy of Pakistan by COPAIR and Pakistan In the World



Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, President PAIDAR graced the event as Keynote Speaker. In his concluding remarks, recalled his lifetime memories cherishing his visits to different capitals and meetings with leaders of African countries including Nelson Mandela, Ahmad bin Bela and others. He expressed his pleasure at the presence of maximum representation of Africa in the roundtable as A for Algeria to Z for Zimbabwe. He said, Africa is a land of opportunities and Pakistan has historical relations with this continent. He mentioned the role of Africa for the development of the global south. He expressed his full confidence that Pakistan and Africa cooperation will be taken to new heights soon.

Business Africa Trade Forum hosted by RCCI and MoFA (Africa Division)



President PAIDAR hosted a luncheon in honor of H.E. Dr. Jemal Beker Abdulla, Ambassador of Ethiopia, to celebrate the successful completion of his tenure in Pakistan.



Celebrating African Ties: Pakistan's Renewed Diplomatic Momentum with Egypt, Somalia, Rwanda, and Morocco

“In 1978, a civil war erupted in the Horn of Africa, a quiet but powerful gesture emerged from Islamabad. Military aid was sent to a struggling Somalia — not as an act of geopolitics, but as a symbol of solidarity. Decades later, that same spirit echoes in the halls of diplomacy, where national anthems of distant African states now reverberate across the marble floors of Pakistan's top policy institute.”



Muskan Moazzam
Research Associate, ISSI
muskanmoazzam7@gmail.com

This anecdote- a blood cemented friendship and a tradition of historic empathy- was the conceptual framework of a recent series of high level diplomatic interactions organised by the Centre of Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and the Pakistan Africa Institute of Development and Research (PAIDAR). Every celebration, whether it was the Revolution Day in Egypt, Independence in Somalia, Liberation Day in Rwanda, or Throne Day in Morocco, was a mixture of celebration and reflection, a reaffirmation of collective memory and a strategic reflection. Central to this dynamism was Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, President of PAIDAR, who became one of the main advocates of revived South-South diplomacy, urgently pleading the case of a visionary and forward-looking Pakistan-Africa relationship based on mutual respect, historical solidarity and developmental synergy. **Egypt's Revolution Day: A Testament to Civilizational Bonds** The Revolution Day of Egypt was marked by a solemn gathering, which gathered senior diplomats, scholars, and representatives of the government. Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, facilitated the proceedings and the remarks were made by Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General ISSI; Dr. Ihab Abdelhamid Hassan, the Egyptian Ambassador in Pakistan; Ambassador Aamir Shouket, the Pakistani envoy to Egypt; and Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI.

The Chief Guest, Senator Mushahid Hussain, described Egypt as a unique civilizational state with a heritage of 5,000 years and post World War II achievements, most notably the 1952 revolution, the nationalization of the Suez Canal in 1956 and the Ramadan War in 1973, that are the envy of the world. He pointed out the historic role played by Pakistan in the reinstatement of full membership of Egypt in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1984 and the early post-independence visit of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to Cairo, which underlines the strong bilateral relationship.

Ambassador Sohail Mahmood placed the revolutionary legacy of Egypt in the modern context of the country as a central player in the Arab and African world, with multilateral collaboration in the United Nations, the D-8, NAM, and the OIC. Ambassador Hamid Asghar Khan who is the Additional Secretary of Africa in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs encouraged Pakistan to learn lessons of Egypt in its Vision 2030 particularly in the development of tourism and youth mobilization, which are areas that have a lot of potential to be collaborated.

Somalia's Independence Day: Blood-Cemented Solidarity The festivities in Pakistan reached their peak with the Independence Day of Somalia, when the flags of Mogadishu and Islamabad were displayed together as a sign of decades of firm friendship. The event, which was emotionally charged, reminded the Pakistani peacekeepers who were martyred in Mogadishu, the friendship between the country and Somalia in the Ogaden War, and the long-standing people-to-people relationship that was built during the circumstances of hardship. Senator Mushahid Hussain spoke to the audience, highlighting the legacy that the two states have inherited and suggesting that the embassy of Pakistan in Mogadishu be reopened. He emphasized that the simultaneous non- permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council provides an unmatched chance to advance common agendas in peacebuilding, youth education, and counterterrorism.



On 1 July 1960, the day when Somalia combined its British and Italian colonies into one republic, Ambassador Sohail Mahmood gave a thoughtful speech. He pointed out the long historical background of Pakistan Somalia relations and the importance of Pakistani led UN peacekeeping missions and the role of NADRA in the creation of national identification system in Somalia. Ambassador Hamid Asghar explained Somalia strategic maritime location and urged the negotiation of Preferential Trade Agreements, joint venture in pharmaceuticals, ports and agriculture, and increased academic and diplomatic collaboration. Mr. Yasin Mire Mohamud, the Deputy Head of the Somalia Mission in Pakistan, described the joint election to the Security Council as a common milestone and thanked Pakistan to its ongoing support, such as a US\$14 million grant to identify infrastructure and wider scholarship opportunities to Somali students. **Rwanda and Morocco: Consolidating the Broader African Partnership** Pakistan bilateral policy interest in Africa was far more than the more publicly debated relations with Egypt and Somalia. Relations with Rwanda and Morocco were also of great importance to the African vision of the nation. Rwanda Liberation Day was a celebration of a nation that has become a symbol of post-conflict change. In this occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain highlighted the leadership of Rwanda in digital innovation, gender empowerment and inclusive governance. He emphasized the potential of Rwanda as a healthcare, textile and technological innovation partner and encouraged the development of academic partnerships and student exchange between Rwandan and Pakistani universities. The Morocco Throne Day celebrations, in their turn, put a mutual Islamic civilizational heritage and centuries-old diplomatic roots into the foreground. Senator Mushahid commended the unconditional support of Morocco to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue and stability and development of the country under King Mohammed VI. Ambassador Sohail Mahmood talked of greater cooperation in renewable energy, the halal food industries, agriculture and tourism and praised Morocco as a bridge between Africa, the Arab world and Europe. The 'Engage Africa' Policy in Action Taken together, these interactions are not just a matter of diplomatic protocol, but they put the Pakistani policy of engaging Africa into practice. The strategic political drive is provided by leadership of Senator Mushahid Hussain, whereas ISSI, CAMEA, MoFA, and PAIDAR are decisive implementers. Pakistan is therefore transforming itself into an active and appreciated partner of Africa. In addition, these exchanges are an indication of a new diplomatic grammar in which the past empathy is integrated with the future collaboration. The usual issues of climate resilience, youth unemployment, water security, and post- conflict rebuilding are perceived through the lens of shared problem-solving, as opposed to the limited dependency or aid. Pakistan scholarship programs, experience in ID systems, peacekeeping experience, and willingness to engage in South-South cooperation make it a partner and a peer at the same time.

Conclusion: The Dawn of a Strategic South-South Compact

Egypt, Somalia, Rwanda and Morocco share their national days on 23 July, 31 July, 6 August and 7 August respectively. In both the instances, the Government of Pakistan has sent its representatives to attend official functions in these African capitals. The gestures are not just symbolic; they are a calculated step to reaffirm Islamabad on its commitment to the continent and centrality of Africa in the foreign policy planning of Pakistan. The project is based on the historic good faith of Pakistan-Africa relations, but it also marks a shift in the nature of Pakistan engagement, which has been episodic and limited to occasional shows of solidarity, to a more continuous diplomacy, win-win investment, and a policy model that is based on human-centred development. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed is the leader in this initiative, with his portfolio responsibilities in the federal government and his outstanding academic credentials making him a central figure in the formulation and execution of Pakistan strategic approach to Africa. The intellectual and practical resources to support the long-term commitment of Pakistan are available through the supporting institutions, including the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Pakistan-Africa Investment and Development Authority (PAIDAR). Pakistan is struggling with changing external geopolitical demands and the current reorientation towards Africa is not only aimed at strengthening the existing relationships but also to establish new ones. When done with sincerity and a long-term commitment to mutual benefits and common visions, this shift can become one of the milestones in the history of Pakistan foreign policy.



Pakistan-Africa Relations

- Pakistan's links with Africa predate the creation of the country in 1947 as the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited Egypt in 1946 which laid the foundation of building this common bond;
- Pakistan has the honour of strongly supporting the freedom struggles of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco in the 1950s, even providing Pakistani diplomatic passports to their leaders during the anti-colonial struggle;
- Pakistan supported the struggle for independence of Libya and Eritrea at the United Nations and provided military, diplomatic and political support to the liberation movements of ANC in South Africa, ZANU-PF in Zimbabwe and SWAPO in Namibia;
- Pakistan was at the forefront of opposing the racist apartheid regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia; Pakistan helped in military training, administrative capacity building, plus providing scholarships to students, technical expertise in areas of education and law to the newly independent African states.
- Pakistan has 60 year track record of the Pakistan Army serving Africa through participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations.
- Pakistani people have always had an affinity with struggles of people of Africa. In 1950, there was a huge solidarity demonstration in Lahore & one of the most famous poems of Pakistani popular poet, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, is 'Come Back Africa'.

Aims of PAIDAR

- **Rejuvenate** the historical bonds of solidarity between Pakistan and Africa which were cemented during Pakistan's support to freedom movements in Africa.
- **Restore** Pakistan's foreign policy priority orientation and involvement in Africa given common interests and centrality of Africa to the resurgence of the Global South in 21st century;
- **Revive** Pakistan-Africa relations through people-to-people exchanges and business-to-business connectivity.

Pakistan's efforts in Africa

- Pakistan played a pivotal role in supporting the liberation movements of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Eritrea during their anti-colonial struggles, offering **diplomatic passports** and backing at the United Nations. Pakistan has consistently extended
- **humanitarian aid** to African countries during times of crisis, providing relief assistance, medical aid, and disaster response support. Pakistan staunchly **opposed apartheid regimes** in South Africa and Rhodesia, providing military, diplomatic, and political support to movements like the ANC, ZANU-PF, and SWAPO. With a 60-year track record, the Pakistan Army has been instrumental in serving Africa
- through participation in **UN Peacekeeping Operations**, contributing to regional stability and conflict resolution. Pakistan actively contributed to the **development of newly independent** African states, offering military training,
- administrative capacity building, scholarships, and technical expertise in crucial areas such as health, education, and law. Pakistan has supported **healthcare initiatives** in Africa, including medical missions, training programs for healthcare professionals, and assistance in
- combating diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and Ebola.



Brief Profile of President PAIDAR

Mushahid Hussain Sayed has long experience and interest in Africa from his student days. As a student, he founded the Pakistan Youth Committee on Afro-Asian Solidarity.

While in the United States, he studied Africa among his principal areas of academic interest in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where his Academic Adviser, Dr. Chester Crocker, a leading American expert on Africa, later went on to serve as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in the administration of President Ronald Reagan. As a journalist, he covered the war in Western Sahara & interviewed Yasser Arafat in Tunisia as well as Sudan's Sadiq al-Mahdi in London.



As Minister for Information, Culture and Tourism, he had the honour to serve as Minister-in-Waiting for President Nelson Mandela during his visit to Pakistan in May 1999.

He also had the privilege of interacting with President Julius Nyerere, when he visited Pakistan in 1989 as Chairman of the South Commission.

He served as Leader of Pakistan's Parliamentary Delegation to Nigeria in 2021 as well as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly at

Luanda, Angola in October 2023.

He was elected Vice President of the IPU Committee

on

Human Rights of Parliamentarians, during the IPU Conference in Kigali, Rwanda in October 2022 where

he

focused on issues of democracy and Human Rights in Africa. He also served as Convenor of Pakistan-

Nigeria

Parliamentary Friendship Group in the Senate during 2021-2024.

He is the first Pakistani to be invited to a BRICS



With grandson of Nelson Mandela at Tehran International Conference on Palestine



With President of Angola, Mr. João Lourenço

