



RIAC-SVI Webinar

Russia-Pakistan Cooperation: Regional Interests and Global Context

Working language: English

March 29, 2021

10:00-10:30 Welcoming remarks

Speakers (7-10 minutes each):

Andrey KORTUNOV, Director General, Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)

Zafar Iqbal CHEEMA, President & Executive Director, Strategic Vision Institute

Shafqat ALI KHAN, H.E. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Russian Federation

10:30-11:20 Session One

Russia and Pakistan: Towards Mutually Beneficial Partnership

Moderator: Ruslan MAMEDOV, Program Manager, RIAC

Speakers: 7-10 minutes input, followed by discussion, Q & A

Zeeshan HAYAT, Senior Research Associate, SVI

Vyacheslav BELOKRENITSKY, Head, Center for the Study of the Near and Middle East, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Professor; RIAC expert

Tariq Osman HYDER, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (ret.), Former Diplomat

Andrey PAVLOV, Professor, Department of Theory and History of International Relations, Saint Petersburg State University

Discussion points:

1. Current state of Russia-Pakistan relations in the context of the changing international dynamics. What are the foundations and drivers of bilateral ties?
2. Russia and Pakistan in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Convergence of Russian and Pakistani interests in Afghanistan and Central Asia. Prospects for regional security architecture and cross-regional economic, energy and infrastructure projects.
3. Russia, Pakistan and connectivity in Asia. The role of Russia and Pakistan in the global economic projects with regional implications (the Belt and Road Initiative, the Eurasian Economic Union, etc.). Main areas of bilateral economic cooperation (energy, military-technical, etc.).

11:20-11:30 Break

11:30-12:50 Session Two: Russia and Pakistan in the Middle East: Approaches to Security in the Gulf

Moderator: Qazi KHALIL ULLAH, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (ret.), Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the Russian Federation

Speakers: 7-10 minutes input, followed by discussion, Q & A

Vasily KUZNETSOV, Head, Center for Arab and Islamic Studies, Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Science, RIAC Member

Arif KAMAL, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (ret.), Former Diplomat and Former Director, ISSRA, NDU

Julia ROKNIFARD, Assistant Professor, University of Nottingham (Malaysia); Consultant, PIR Center; RIAC expert

Ahyousha KHAN, Senior Research Associate, SVI

Discussion points:

1. What are the prospects for a new regional security architecture? Non-exclusiveness in the Persian Gulf: is it possible to achieve?
2. How to prevent tensions in the Gulf? Iran and Saudi Arabia: How to find a common ground and work positively together? What could be Moscow's and Islamabad's role in managing risks in the region?
3. What could be included into the time-phased plan for multilateral confidence-building measures in the Persian Gulf zone?
4. The future of Iran nuclear program and Biden administration? The view from Moscow and Islamabad

12:50-13:00 Closing Remarks