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## Pakistan & Turkmenistan

enjoyed fraternal ties rooted in common culture & history



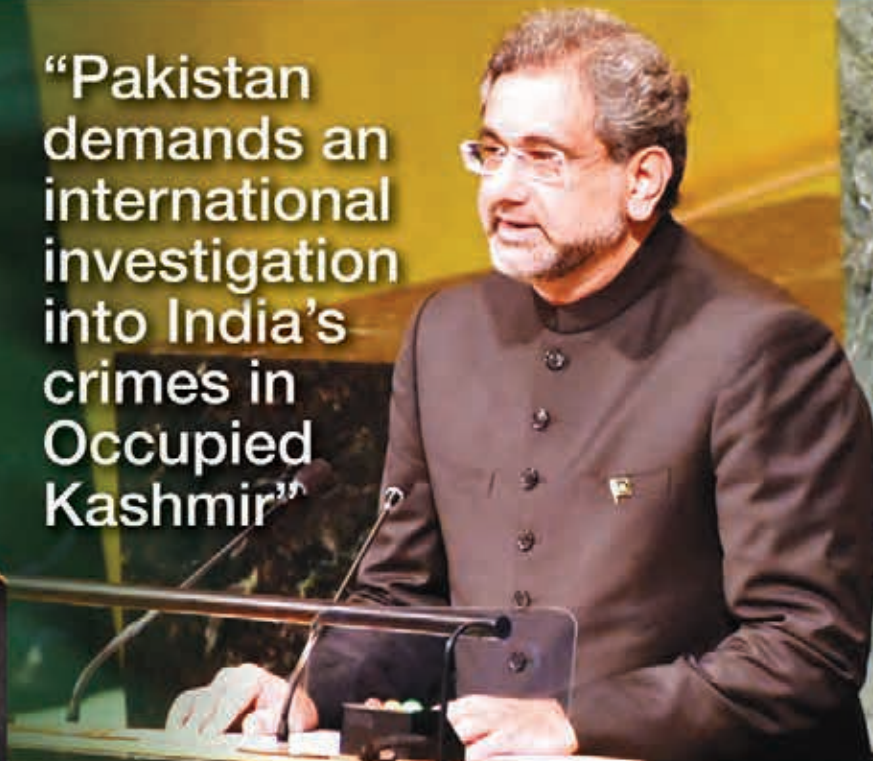
President of Pakistan H.E. Mamnoon Hussain with The president of Turkmenistan H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov



**87<sup>th</sup> National Day**  
of the Royal Kingdom of  
**Saudi Arabia**

**King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**  
Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

"Pakistan demands an international investigation into India's crimes in Occupied Kashmir"



**H.E. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi,**  
PM of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,  
The 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly





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# 87<sup>th</sup> *National Day* of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



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Ambassador Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia



H.E. Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud  
Crown Prince of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**Wali Jan**

Managing Director  
0312-5087929 / 0343-5423677

Office # 3, 3rd Floor, Satellite Shopping Center, Satellite Town 6th Road Rwp.

Tel: +92-51-4429087, Fax: +92-51-4429088, Email: [gilgitbaltistan786@yahoo.com](mailto:gilgitbaltistan786@yahoo.com), Web: [www.gboec.com](http://www.gboec.com)



H.E. Ghassan bin Ahmad Al-Malki  
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H.E. Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud  
Crown Prince of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## *Cordial Congratulations*

on 87th National Day  
Anniversary Ceremony of the  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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H.E. Naveed Ullah Ahmad Al-Murayri  
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan



H.E. Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud  
Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia

# Cordial Congratulations

on 87th National Day  
Anniversary Ceremony  
of the Kingdom of  
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## Lasifa International

B-218, Esha Plaza, Near KFC, Chandni Chowk, Satellite Town, Rawalpindi  
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# Cordial Congratulations

on 87th National Day Anniversary Ceremony  
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Haji Saleem Iqbal  
Chief Executive  
Cell: +92 300 9638162

Address : First Floor Mazari Center, Piran Ghaib Road, Chowk Kumharan Wala, Multan, Pakistan  
Tel : +92 61 67 82207, 8, 9, 10, Email: hajisaleem.iqbal@gmail.com, ceo@yumnahgoc.com

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## Special Supplement on 87th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Special Feature Report by

**Mian Fazal Elahi**  
CEO/Editor/Publisher  
"Diplomatic Focus"



Group Chairman/CEO: Mian Fazal Elahi  
Chief Editor: Mian Akhtar Hussain  
Patron in Chief: Mr. Zia-ur-Rahman Zabeeh  
Editor/Publisher: Mian Fazal Elahi  
Managing Director: Shahzada Khurram  
Executive Editor: Muhammad Bilal Zafar  
Editor in Chief UK/EU Edition: Mian Assadullah  
Justin Plaza 3, 341London Road, Mit  
cham, Surrey-CR4 4BE  
Editor Germany, EU Edition: Mian Mubeen Akhtar  
Chairman Advisory Board: Mr. Kanwar Muhammad Tariq  
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Web Developer: Liaqat Ali  
Chief Photographer: Sheikh Muhammad Arif  
Ramzan Mughal  
Country Director: Fazal Hussain 004540521485  
Copenhagen Denmark: Email: fazal1955@hotmail.com  
Javed Iqbal Butt: Bureau Chief Australia, Newzealand

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### Resident Editors

Eng. Moshin Ali 1st Floor Office No 50 Gulf Plaza Madina  
Street P.O B ox 65454 Jeddah 21556  
Cell: +966-506389895

### Bureau Office

Qaisar Masood Muhammad Athar  
Northern Virginia Georgia  
Israr Masood M. Jamil Rathore  
Sydney Australia Bureau Chief Jeddah KSA  
Shahid Akbar Toor Cell: +966-502583608  
Vehari

### Printer

Roohani Art Press, Chughtai Plaza, Fazal-e-Haq Road,  
Blue Area Islamabad.

### Publisher

Mian Fazal Elahi, House No 263-C, Street 87, Sector E-11/2 Islamabad.  
Tel: +92-51-2163092, 2163070, News Room: +92-51-2163029  
Mobile: +92-345-5565552, +92-322-5565552  
Email: mianfazalelahi@gmail.com, diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com  
www.diplomaticfocus.org  
Karachi Office: Mobile: +92-321-5558221

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Mian Fazal Elahi

Many events have unfolded in the country in the last year and a half, one of the most prominent being Saudi Vision 2030. There have also been new rules and regulations concerning aspects of government and public matters. The “Vision for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” is a positive transformation of Saudi Arabia, the Saudi economy, and the country’s social structure. This requires to invest in all resources in order to diversify the economy, unleash the capabilities of promising economic sectors and privatize some government services opening Saudi Arabia further for business will boost productivity and smooth journey to become one of the largest economies in the world.

Saudi Arabia has always been an advocate of stability, peace and fraternity between the brotherly countries, seeking cooperation with friends around the world. It has always attached great importance to international legitimacy and commitment to UN principles that call for cooperation between the countries and avoiding meddling in the affairs of other countries.

Efforts of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to serve Muslims and unite them worldwide to face challenges wisely and justly are appreciated.

Words are not enough to describe Saudi-Pakistan relationship. The depth of this relationship is expressed by profound feelings of love, friendliness and enthusiasm to lead it to new skylines and vistas.

The 87th National Day is recalling anniversary when late King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud declared the unification of what he named the “Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” on the 19th of the month of Jumada I of 1351 AH (September 23, 1932 AD). The Kingdom’s unification was achieved after 32 years of struggle during which late King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud laid the strongest foundations to build such a great state, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, based on the Holy Quran, adhering to the teachings of Prophet Mohammed - peace be upon him.

We, on the behalf of Pakistani nation congratulations from the core of our hearts to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince His Royal Highness Mohammed bin Salman and to people of KSA.

Long live KSA and Pakistan!

### Important Announcement

It has been announced for the general information that Mr. Mian Assad Ullah has been appointed as Editor In Chief of the Monthly “Diplomatic Focus” for the UK/EU Edition. He is entitled to participate official /non-officials diplomatic engagements, events, national days, social evenings/gatherings, press conferences/interviews and can be contacted for all kinds of stuff including articles, supplements and advertisements etc). It is requested to all Diplomatic missions and government high officials of UK, please contact with Mr. Mian Assad Ullah on His mailing address, 4 Ipswich Road, SW17 9RH, London. Cell number:+44-7961005954/ 2087694850, Email: uk.diplomaticfocus@gmail.com, assadmian1@gmail.com

Mian Assad ullah

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**DIPLOMATIC FOCUS**

daily 12 O'CLOCK NEWS

DAILY KUTUB KHANNA JOURNAL



# Pakistan and Kazakhstan to execute energy, defence projects

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

Pakistan and Kazakhstan agreed to execute joint projects in the fields of defence, energy and communication to widen bilateral cooperation.

The agreement was reached during a one-to-one meeting between President Mamnoon Hussain and Kazakh Prime Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev.

The President congratulated the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan on the successful hosting of the Expo-2017 and expressed hope that the first OIC Summit on Science and Technology would lead to promotion of science and technology in the Muslim world. The President thanked the Government of Kazakhstan for its support to Pakistan for obtaining full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Mr Hussain, who was accompanied by Pakistan's Ambassador to Kazakhstan Abdul

Salik Khan, thanked the Kazakh government for a warm welcome and hospitality. He was of the opinion that bilateral ties should be turned into a multiple partnership and called for enhancing trade and relaxation in visa policy.

President Hussain thanked the Kazakh government for adopting a just stance on the issue of membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Besides underscoring the need for enhancing defence ties, the president also offered that Pakistan could assist in imparting certain skills to the Kazakh people.

He said Pakistan desired enhancing bilateral engagements in the fields of oil and gas and Pakistani firms could invest in the sectors in Kazakhstan. During the discussion, the two leaders expressed their desire to transform bilateral relations from current level to a multi-dimensional strategic partnership by laying special emphasis on expanding relations in trade, investment, energy and connectivity.

They agreed to benefit from the existing complementarities in agricultural and scientific research, banking, IT, engineering and services. Highlighting the importance of connectivity between the two countries, the President stressed that economic and trade relations cannot take off without addressing fundamental problems relating to connectivity. Prospects for taking benefits from opportunities arising from regional projects were also discussed.

The Prime Minister of Kazakhstan appreciated the role of the President of Pakistan as the Chair of the COMSTECH. Both agreed to work together to make joint efforts for success of the Muslim Ummah.

Both leaders also emphasized on enhancing mutually cooperative bilateral relations between the two countries.

He also called for establishing air and road links between the two countries to enhance the trade volume.







President Mamnoon Hussain shaking hand with the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev in Astana.







President Mamnoon Hussain in a meeting with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov here at Presidential Palace in Ashgabat.

## Pakistan & Turkmenistan enjoyed fraternal ties rooted in common culture & history: President Mamnoon Hussain

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

On the invitation of the Turkmen president, President of Pakistan H.E. Mamnoon Hussain visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan to attend the opening ceremony of the V-Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games.

The government of Turkmenistan hosted V-Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat. Pakistan represented by a 130 member strong contingent participating in nine events at the games.

On the sidelines of the event, President Mamnoon met the President H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The president of Turkmenistan welcomed the Mamnoon, Pakistan's delegation and appreciated Pakistan's participation in the event.

Mamnoon congratulated the Turkmen president for the successful holding of the martial arts event. He also thanked him for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation. President Mamnoon Hussain termed the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) gas



President Mamnoon Hussain breaks the Traditional loaf of bread presented by children clad in sports gear upon his arrival at Ashgabat International Airport.



President Mamnoon Hussain being seen off by Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Dadebay Amangeldiyev after concluding three day official at Ashgabat International Airport.

pipeline project "an important trade and transit corridor" stressed its timely implementation for the region's benefit.

President Mamnoon said TAPI project had huge prospects to include road, electricity transmission and fiber optic lines as well as establishment of economic zones.

He welcomed Turkmenistan's offer to export 1,000 megawatt of electricity to Pakistan

through Afghanistan and emphasized that the experts of both countries should diligently work towards materializing this project. He also mentioned that Pakistan was ready to negotiate with International Finance Corporation (IFC) to seek financial support for feasibility study and investment in this regard.

He stressed cooperation between Pakistan and Turkmenistan in the fields of trade, energy, agriculture, education, science and technology,





The President Mamnoon said the current year marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Turkmenistan and expressed satisfaction that both sides had been engaged in celebrating this event at various levels.

infrastructure and transportation and urged mutual support of two countries for each other at regional and international fora.

In view of immense opportunities in exploration and production of oil and gas sector, the President said the state-owned companies in both countries could negotiate the possibility of joint ventures.

President Mamnoon mentioned that Pakistan had also formally declared joining of the Ashgabat Agreement (Central Asia-Middle East corridor) and the Lapis Lazuli Corridor.

The President said Pakistan and Turkmenistan enjoyed fraternal ties rooted in common culture and history, which were further strengthened by shared goals of peace, prosperity and progress of the two countries and the region as a whole.

He said Pakistan was committed to comprehensively upgrading bilateral cooperation across all areas of common interest.

The President said the current year marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Turkmenistan and expressed satisfaction that both sides had been engaged in celebrating this event at various levels.

President Mamnoon wished the Turkmen President success in hosting the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in his country and apprised him of Pakistan's 130-member sports contingent also participating in the games in various disciplines.

The President said bilateral trade did not



President Mamnoon Hussain being welcomed by President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov upon his arrival at Presidential Palace in Ashgabat.

commensurate with the political goodwill that existed between the two countries and stressed a relaxed visa regime for promotion of economic relations.

He said both countries possessed rich experience in agriculture, agro-based industry

including wheat, rice, textile and food processing and could mutually benefit from each other's expertise.

The President suggested that the two countries could explore possibilities of joint ventures in the fields of construction, petrochemicals, information technology, automobile-related precision parts, cutlery and surgical sectors.

The need for cooperation in defence, medical universities and pharmaceutical companies also came under discussion.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov welcomed President Mamnoon for visiting his country and expressed confidence that frequent high-level exchanges between Pakistan and Turkmenistan would encourage bilateral trade and economic relations for the benefit of their peoples. State Minister for Petroleum Jam Kamal and senior officials were present.

The government of Turkmenistan hosted V-Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games at Ashgabat. Pakistan represented by a 130 member strong contingent participating in nine events at the games.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with visiting heads of State/Government on the sidelines of 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.







## OIC Summit on Science, Technologies kicks off in Astana President Mamnoon calls for unity in Muslim world at OIC summit in Astana

The Muslim world had failed to pay attention to the education sector: President Mamnoon Hussain

By Mian Fazal Elahi, Monitoring Desk

The first summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Science and Technology held in Astana, Kazakhstan. President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev opened the summit held under the title 'Science, Technology, Innovation and Modernisation in the Islamic World'.

President Mamnoon Hussain, in his first-ever visit to Kazakhstan, urged the Muslim world to work collectively for the development of science and technology in order to meet the challenges of modern times, Radio Pakistan reported.

President was heading a Pakistani delegation at the two-day Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit on Science and Technology in Astana, the Kazakh capital, where the heads of state and government from around 22 Muslim countries and delegates from around 57 states.

On his arrival at the Astana Nazar-bayev International Airport, the pre-sident and First Lady Begum Mehm-ooda Mamnoon



President Mamnoon Hussain being presented ta bouquet on his arrival in Astana.





President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev welcome President Mamnoon Hussain during the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Astana.

Hussain were warmly received by Kazakh Minister for Defence and Aerospace Industry Beibit Atamkulov and Astana's Deputy Mayor Amanshaye Yermek.

Pakistan's ambassador to Kazakhstan and senior officials of the embassy were also present.

A traditionally attired girl presented a bouquet to the president which followed the salute by guards.

The president was participating as the chairman of the OIC Standing Committee on Science and Technology, according to a Foreign Office (FO) handout.

The president is one of eight leaders of the Muslim world to deliver their statements at the inaugural session of the summit.

At the summit, Hussain emphasised the need for leaders of the Muslim world to improve agricultural production and develop the agricultural technology sector.

He was of the view that it would be possible to focus on higher education and research in emerging areas of science and technology once there is a solid foundation of educated, skilled and healthy manpower.

President Mamnoon Hussain regretted that the



President Mamnoon Hussain being received by Minister for Defence of Kazakhstan Beibit Atamkulov upon his arrival at Nursultan Nazarbayev International Airport Astana.





President Mamnoon in a meeting with President of Bosnia Bakir Izetegovic on the sidelines of First OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Astana.

Muslim world had failed to pay attention to the education sector for the past several centuries and highlighted the need for the Muslim bloc to be self-sufficient in the political and socio-economic sectors.

He stressed the need for unity among the Muslim world, terming it imperative for development, prosperity and a safe future for the new generation. During his four-day stay in Astana, Hussain is to hold a range of bilateral meetings with several heads of state, he added,

and also attended an informal meeting of OIC leaders on the situation of the Rohingya Muslim minority.

The occasion “will provide opportunities to review bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest”, the handout said.

In addition to it, the approval of the Astana Declaration, action plan of the OIC for Science, Technology and Innovation 2026 were also

discussed. During the meeting, the OIC Programme of Action for Science, Technology and Innovation was adopted by the participating ministers in preparation for its adoption in the summit.

The programme included cooperation between Member States in the fields of Higher Education and Science Technology, food and water security, information, technology and energy management, as well as a number of other scientific fields related to environment and climate.



President Mamnoon Hussain in a group photo with the Heads of State/Government during the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Astana





## Mamnoon, Erdogan call for recognition of Pakistan's anti-terror efforts

**Afghan issue could not be resolved without Pakistan: Erdogan**

By Mian Fazal Elahi

President Mamnoon Hussain and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Afghan issue could not be resolved without Pakistan.

Both the leaders expressed these views in a meeting in Astana to attend the first summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on science and technology, says a Foreign office statement issued in Islamabad.

The Presidents unanimously believed that Afghan issue could not be resolved without Pakistan, calling for recognition of country's efforts for peace and against terrorism.

Prominent cabinet members of the Turkish president were also present during the meeting.

President Mamnoon said Pakistan had taken extraordinary steps for regional peace and security and had faced the biggest loss in its fight against terrorism.

President Erdogan lauded Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices for regional stability and reiterated his support to Pakistan saying that services of the Pakistan's government and the people against terrorism were historical.

President Mamnoon said Pakistan felt pride over its time-tested friendship with Turkey.

Turkish president thanked the people and the Government of Pakistan for extending support to their Turkish brethren at the time of an abortive attempt of military coup. Both the leaders also supported the coordinated actions against all forms of terrorism.

They also exchanged views on the issue of Afghanistan believing that solution lied in Pakistan's anti-terror efforts.

During the meeting, both the leaders also discussed the issue of Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar and resolved to raise it at every platform in the world.

President Mamnoon Hussain and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan also discussed the issue of Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar and resolved to raise it at every platform in the world.

The Turkish President appreciated Pakistan for wholeheartedly supporting the first OIC Summit on Science and Technology in Astana and hoped that the Summit would be an important milestone in promoting science and technology in the Muslim Ummah. He praised Pakistan's key contributions as the Chair of the COMSTECH.



President Mamnoon Hussain shaking hand with the Turkish President Erdogan on the sidelines of First Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Science and Technology in Astana.

**President Mamnoon said Pakistan felt pride over its time-tested friendship with Turkey.**



## Statement

# H.E. Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, The 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

### BISMILLAH-IR-RAHMAN-IR-RAHEEM

Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to convey the deepest sympathies of the people and government of Pakistan to the people of Mexico affected by the recent earthquake and also to all those affected by storms Irma and Maria.

Let me first congratulate Mr. Miroslav Lajcak on his election as the President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly. I am confident that his long experience in public service and international relations will be an asset in successfully guiding this august Assembly to address the imposing challenges of security, development and governance that confront the world today.

Mr. President,

For over 70 years – despite the Cold War, the nuclear arms race and scores of regional

conflicts – our world was able to avoid a global conflagration. This can be ascribed in large

measure to the adherence by most States to the prohibition of the use or threat of use of



PRIME MINISTER SHAHID KHAQAN ABBASI DELIVERS STATEMENT AT THE OIC CONTACT GROUP ON THE ROHINGYA MUSLIM MINORITY IN UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK.

force except under the authority of the UN Charter.

Unfortunately, the principles of the UN Charter have been progressively eroded in the new millennium. In recent years some countries have displayed a growing proclivity to resort to unilateral force and intervention against other States. Coercion and threats have emerged again as the main currency in the management of inter-state disputes and differences.

Renewed East-West tensions may engulf Europe in another Cold War. Peace and prosperity in Asia is threatened by emerging big power friction and rising tensions in South, East and West Asia.

The Middle East is wracked by war and violence – in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and elsewhere. Although Daesh appears to have been weakened in Iraq and Syria, terrorist violence has spread and intensified across the Middle East and Africa



and other parts of the world.

There is no end in sight to the tragedy of Palestine. Israel's prolonged occupation and expansion of illegal settlements may lead to renewed and wider violence in the Holy Land.

The legitimate struggle for self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir continues to be brutally suppressed by India's occupation forces.

Rising racism and religious hatred – manifested in xenophobia and Islamophobia – is erecting physical walls and psychological barriers between nations and peoples even as our world becomes increasingly interdependent.

The ethnic cleansing of Rohingyas is not just an affront to all norms of humanity but also challenges our collective conscience.

While the pillars of world order are being eroded, the imperative of international cooperation – to address poverty, disease, climate change, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and forced displacement – is intensifying.

Today, more than ever, we need the United Nations to provide the parameters, processes and platforms for global cooperation that is essential to address the wide ranging challenges to peace, security, and development.

Pakistan welcomes the efforts launched by Secretary General Antonio Guterres to revitalize the United Nations' capabilities in Peace and Security, Development and Management.

We are also committed to reform that transforms the Security Council into a more representative, democratic and accountable body rather than an expanded club of the powerful and the privileged.

Mr. President,

Pakistan celebrated the 70th anniversary of its independence last month. This month marks the 70th anniversary of Pakistan's membership of the United Nations.

Pakistan's commitment to the principles of the United Nations is evident from the long record of its constructive role in the initiatives and contributions that have shaped the decisions and discourse at this world body on decolonization, development, trade, international law, human rights, refugees, peacekeeping, security, disarmament and the United Nations' budget and management.

Pakistan has consistently been one of the world's top troop contributors to UN peacekeeping. We will remain on the frontlines of peacekeeping and continue to offer professional and well-trained personnel to the United Nations, despite our own security challenges.

Mr. President,

Our adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter flows from the declaration of our Founding Father, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah who said: "Our foreign



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at the UN Headquarters in New York.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets President of Iran Mr. Hasan Rouhani on the sidelines of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly in New York.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi calls on Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, the President of Sri Lanka on the sidelines of 72nd General Assembly Session at New York.



policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all nations of the world”.

Unfortunately, from day one of its creation, Pakistan has faced unrelenting hostility from its eastern neighbor. India refuses to implement the unanimous resolutions of the UN Security Council, which mandate a UN supervised plebiscite to enable the people of Jammu and Kashmir to freely decide their destiny.

Instead India has deployed nearly 700,000 troops in Occupied Kashmir to suppress the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination. This is the most intense foreign military occupation in recent history.

As in the past, today the Kashmiri people are waging a heroic and popular struggle to rid themselves of India's oppressive rule. They come out in the streets daily to call on India to leave Jammu and Kashmir.

India has responded with massive and indiscriminate force to suppress the Kashmiris, shooting indiscriminately at children, women and youth. Hundreds of innocent Kashmiris have been killed or injured. Shotgun pellets have blinded and maimed thousands of Kashmiris including children. These and other brutalities clearly constitute war crimes and violate the Geneva Conventions.

Pakistan demands an international investigation into India's crimes in Occupied Kashmir. We ask that the United Nations Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights send an inquiry Commission to Occupied Kashmir to verify the nature and extent of India's human rights violations, secure the punishment of those responsible, and provide justice and relief to the victims.

Pakistan also urges the international community to call on India to: halt pellet gun attacks and other violence against unarmed demonstrators; stop the use of rape as an instrument of state policy; end media blackouts; rescind its draconian emergency laws; and free all Kashmiri political leaders.

Mr. President,

To divert the world's attention from its brutalities, India frequently violates the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Kashmir. Despite over 600 violations since January this year Pakistan has acted with restraint. But if India does venture across the LoC, or acts upon its doctrine of "limited" war against Pakistan, it will evoke a strong and matching response.

The international community must act decisively to prevent the situation from a dangerous escalation.

Mr. President,

The Kashmir dispute should be resolved justly, peacefully and expeditiously. As India is unwilling to resume the peace process with Pakistan, we call on the Security Council to fulfill



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi calls on Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of Turkey on the sidelines of 72nd UN General Assembly Session at New York.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets US Vice President Michael Richard Pence on the sidelines of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly in New York.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meets king Abdullah-II of Jordan on the sidelines of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly in New York.





Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi exchanging views with British Prime Minister Theresa May at the Commonwealth reception co-hosted by the British Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Malta in New York.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi meeting with Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba on the sidelines of 72nd UN General Assembly Session in New York.

its obligation to secure the implementation of its own resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

To this end, the UN Secretary-General should appoint a Special Envoy on Jammu and Kashmir. His mandate should flow from the longstanding but unimplemented resolutions of the Security Council.

Mr. President,

Let me reiterate, Pakistan remains open to resuming a comprehensive dialogue with India to address all outstanding issues, especially Jammu and Kashmir, and discuss measures to maintain peace and security. This dialogue must be accompanied by an end to India's campaign of subversion and state-sponsored terrorism against Pakistan, including from across our western border.

Mr. President,

Apart from the people of Afghanistan, Pakistan and its people have suffered the most from four decades of foreign intervention and civil wars in Afghanistan. These wars have blighted our country with the flow of extremists and terrorists, guns and drugs as well as an influx of millions of refugees. They have set back our economic development by decades. Even today, Pakistan is host to over 3 million Afghan refugees. No one desires peace in Afghanistan more than Pakistan.

From 16 years of the ongoing war in Afghanistan, it is clear that peace will not be restored by the continuing resort to military force. Neither Kabul and the Coalition, nor the Afghan Taliban, can impose a military solution on each other. The international community – as expressed in several United Nations resolutions – has concluded that peace can be restored in Afghanistan only through a negotiated settlement.

Having suffered and sacrificed so much due to our role in the global counter-terrorism campaign it is especially galling for Pakistan to be blamed for the military or political



Co-Chairman of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in New York.



CEO World Bank Ms. Kristalina Georgieva calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in New York.



Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi speaks at Council on Foreign Relations in New York.



stalemate in Afghanistan. We are not prepared to be anyone's scapegoat. Taliban "safe havens" are located not in Pakistan but in the large tracts of territory controlled by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Yes, cross border attacks do occur. These are mostly conducted by anti-Pakistan terrorists from "safe havens" across the border. To end all cross border attacks we ask the Afghan government and the Coalition to support and complement Pakistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen border controls and monitor all movement across it. What Pakistan is not prepared to do is to fight the Afghan war on Pakistan's soil. Nor can we endorse any failed strategy that will prolong and intensify the suffering of the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan and other regional countries.

Pakistan believes that the urgent and realistic goals in Afghanistan should be: One, concerted action to eliminate the presence in Afghanistan of Daesh, Al-Qaeda and their affiliates, including the TTP and Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, which was recently declared a terrorist organization by the Security Council.

Two, promote negotiations between Kabul and the Afghan Taliban – in the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) or any trilateral format – to evolve a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. These two steps offer the most realistic prospect of restoring peace and stability in Afghanistan and our region.

Mr. President,

Pakistan's counter-terrorism credentials cannot be questioned. After 9/11 it was Pakistani efforts that enabled the decimation of Al-Qaeda. Pakistan's military campaigns have succeeded in clearing our tribal areas of almost all militant groups.

We took the war to the terrorists. We have paid a heavy price. Over 27,000 Pakistanis including 6,500 military and law enforcement personnel have been martyred by terrorists. 50,000 Pakistani nationals have been injured, including 15,000 army personnel, many of whom have lost their limbs.

Mr. President,

We have fought the war against terror with our own resources. Pakistan's economic losses are estimated at over \$120 billion. Yet, we remain committed to fully implementing our National Action Plan against terrorism and extremism. Defeating terrorist violence is vital to realize our overriding priority of rapid economic and social development.

Mr. President,

Terrorism is now a global phenomenon, which must be addressed comprehensively. We see two major gaps in the global counter-terrorism strategy. First, the international community has failed to address the issue of state sponsored terrorism. This is an instrument of choice of



Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum, Mr. Klaus Schwab calls on Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in New York.

the agents of chaos and aspiring hegemons. In several regions, stability will be difficult to restore unless State sponsored terrorism is condemned, prohibited and punished.

Second, to eliminate terrorism, its root causes must be addressed. These are not only poverty and ignorance; terrorism is even more an extreme response to real or perceived political and other grievances, including foreign intervention, oppression and injustice. Unless such root causes are addressed, it will be difficult to counter the twisted narrative of terrorist groups.

Mr. President,

Confronted by a hostile and increasingly militarized neighbor, Pakistan has been obliged to maintain the capability for credible deterrence. My country developed nuclear weapons only when these were introduced in our region by this neighbor. Our strategic assets are vital to deter oft-threatened aggression. They are tightly and effectively controlled, as has been widely acknowledged by experts. The world community would be well served by enabling Pakistan to join global non-proliferation arrangements, such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group on a non-discriminatory basis.

Mr. President,

Climate change poses a new and existential threat to mankind's future. Extreme climate events are multiplying: Their consequences – flooding in Texas, landslides in Nepal and Sierra Leone, devastation in the Caribbean and Puerto Rico, disappearing Himalayan glaciers – are global and indiscriminate. As one of the most vulnerable states to climate change, we believe that it is in our collective interest to pursue and realize the goals of the Paris Agreement and build a new and greener model for growth and development.

Mr. President,

Growth and development remain the primary objectives of the developing countries. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals represent the most ambitious development agenda in history. The development challenge has become even more imposing due to the

combined constraints of climate change, rising protectionism, fraying international cooperation and proliferation of conflicts.

The vision of shared growth – spelt out in Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road initiative – offers a solid path to prosperity and a model of South-South cooperation worthy of emulation.

Mr. President,

Pakistan's economy has recorded a remarkable revival in the past four years. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will further contribute to our economic upsurge. This will expand exponentially as the Pakistan-China partnership extends beyond energy and transportation to many other sectors.

Pakistan's integration into the Eurasian Belt and Road network will provide a firm foundation for Pakistan's rapid economic development. With a youthful population of 207 million people, we are confident that an economic strategy anchored on rising incomes, consumption and production will propel Pakistan towards greater prosperity.

To achieve these priority goals for our people, Pakistan seeks to build peace within our country and security around our borders. We seek good relations with all States on the basis of sovereign equality. We will respond positively to all offers of friendship and cooperation.

Mr. President,

We are poised at a critical inflection point in history. The world order that has prevented a global war for over 70 years is under threat. Yet, revolutionary advances in science and technology, the immense capacity for global investment, production, consumption and trade, especially in the developing countries, and the availability of structures and mechanisms for collective action offer an opportunity, unprecedented in human history, to address the diverse challenges that we face today. It is here, through the United Nations, that the peoples of the world can seize the opportunities to achieve our common vision of a more just, peaceful and prosperous world.

I thank you, Mr. President.



# Envoys conference ends in Islamabad; EVOLVES NEW FOREIGN POLICY NARRATIVE

The aim is to crystallize Pakistan's view on issues of concern to int'l community.

Pakistan is ready to play any role for removing the differences between two brotherly countries Iran and Saudi Arabia

By M.Saeed Yousafzai, Monitoring Desk

**F**oreign Minister Khawaja Asif has said that Pakistan has to determine a new but correct direction in the backdrop of emerging alliances, Radio Pakistan reported.

He was briefing newsmen about deliberations of three-day conference of Pakistani envoys in Islamabad.

Pakistan's relations with India revolve around Kashmir issue: Foreign Minister

The minister said a new foreign policy narrative has been evolved and this would be finalized after input by the National Security Committee and the Parliament.

He said the new narrative is aimed at bridging the gap in the perception of Pakistan and some members of the international community on the issue of fighting terrorism. Khawaja Asif said



that Pakistan is the only country winning the war against terrorism. He said today Karachi, Waziristan, Khyber and Bajaur are peaceful and the situation is constantly improving.

A new foreign policy narrative has been evolved and this would be finalized after input by the National Security Committee and the Parliament: Foreign Minister

The minister said the envoys had in depth discussions on the new policy of the United States for South Asia and Pakistan's relations with neighboring countries, especially India.

He said Pakistan's Ambassador to the United

States briefed the participants on the US policy, which helped crystallize many issues. Similarly, Pakistan's High Commissioner to India also briefed the conference about Pakistan-India relations. He said Kashmir issue will also be highlighted at the UNGA session address by the Prime Minister and on the sideline meetings.

Answering a question, Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that Pakistan's relations with India revolve around Kashmir issue.

To a question, he said that Pakistan is ready to play any role for removing the differences between two brotherly countries Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan is the only country winning the war against terrorism: Foreign Minister



Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif chairing inaugural session of envoys conference Pakistan at Foreign Office, Islamabad.





Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi presenting credentials to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at Ankara.

## President Erdogan reiterated the resolve to further promote Pakistan-Turkey fraternal ties

By Mian Fazal Elahi

The newly-appointed Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkey, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, presented his letter of credence to the President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, at a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace in Ankara. Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi conveyed special greetings of President Mamnoon Hussain and Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. He noted that the people and leadership of Pakistan had deep love and regard for the brotherly Turkish nation and added that it was an honour to be Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey. Accepting the credentials, President Erdogan warmly welcomed Ambassador Syrus Sajjad Qazi and extended best wishes and support in the discharge of his duties as the Ambassador of Pakistan. The President asked the Ambassador to convey his warm greetings and good wishes to the people and leadership of Pakistan. Recalling his recent meeting with President Mamnoon Hussain at Astana on the side-lines of OIC Summit on Science & Technology on 9 September 2017, President Erdogan reiterated the resolve to further promote Pakistan-Turkey fraternal ties.

Ambassador Syrus Qazi stated the relations between Pakistan and Turkey were rooted deep in history and the relationship is continuously growing in the economic, defence, culture and at the people-to-people level. He reaffirmed his resolve to work closely with Turkey to transform the close fraternal ties into a strategic



partnership. A career diplomat, Ambassador Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi, joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1990. Before assuming his duties at Ankara, he was serving as Pakistan's Ambassador to Hungary and was also concurrently accredited to Montenegro. Earlier, he served as Joint Secretary in

the Prime Minister's Office. He has wide experience in the diplomatic service having served in various Pakistan missions abroad including Geneva, New Delhi and Washington as well as at Headquarters in various capacities. Ambassador M. Syrus Sajjad Qazi is married with three children.



**New Dutch Ambassador to Pakistan**  
H.E. Ardi Stoios-braken assumed office to succeed her predecessor H.E. Jeannette Seppen.

The new ambassador looks forward to  
**Further strengthening relations between Pakistan and the Netherlands!**





## Turkish first lady visits Rohingya refugees

‘Turkey wants a lasting solution to the plight of the Rohingyas’

By M.Saeed Yousafzai

**T**urkish First Lady Emine Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu yesterday visited a registered Rohingya refugee camp in Ukhia upazila to learn about the extent of persecution inflicted on the Rohingyas to highlight the crisis.

She said Turkey will do everything possible to help Rohingyas.

“Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan will take up the issue at the UN General Assembly in a bid to bring an immediate resolution to the Rohingya crisis,” she said. On August 31, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called his Bangladeshi counterpart Abdul Hamid and talked about the current state of the Rohingya crisis.





A young boy sits on a concrete pump handle in a village of rubble. In the background, a boy in a blue school uniform walks away, and another boy in green pants walks towards the right. The ground is covered in debris and the buildings are damaged.

# Pakistani FM expresses deep anguish at the ongoing violence against the Rohingya Muslims

Islamabad has urged the world to put pressure on Myanmar, where renewed violence has forced out tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims.

UN says 146,000 have now fled Myanmar violence

The United Nations says some 146,000 people have fled Myanmar into Bangladesh since August 25.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Wednesday that the World Food Programme is appealing for \$11.3 million to support the influx of people and those already living in camps.







By M. Saeed Yousafzai

Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has expressed deep anguish at the ongoing violence against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. He emphasized that the plight of the Rohingya Muslims was a challenge to the conscience of the international community

In this context, the Foreign Minister supported:

- \* OIC's position condemning the renewed violence affecting the Rohingya Muslim minority resulting in thousands fleeing their homes as well as the systematic and organized destruction of their villages and homes.

- \* Call by the OIC-IPHRC for immediate and effective action to bring an end to all human-rights violations against innocent and unarmed Rohingya Muslim population.

- \* The recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission to address the issues of citizenship, freedom of movement, internally displaced persons, unhindered humanitarian and media access, provision of education, health, and other development requirements

as well as urgent and sustained action to prevent violence, maintain peace, foster reconciliation and offer a sense of hope to the Rohingya Muslims. Foreign Minister added that

violence and serious human right violations of the Rohingya Muslims as well as violation of international humanitarian law is deplorable. He also expressed concern over the spread







## UN chief urges Myanmar to end violence as 120,000 Rohingya flee

Military operation pushing 15,000 Muslim ethnic minorities into Bangladesh every day, raising fears of border camp crisis.

The UN announced on Tuesday that the number of Rohingya to have reached Bangladesh in recent days was estimated to be 123,600. Up to 15,000 Rohingya refugees are expected to cross the Naf river into Bangladesh each day this week, joining the tens of thousands already taking shelter in overcrowded camps and makeshift settlements.

of hate speech and incitement to violence, discrimination and prejudice against Muslims and members of national ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. He called for effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such violence, providing security to all and upholding the rights of each individual to live and move without fear and discrimination.

Foreign Minister underscored Pakistan's constant support for oppressed Muslim populations including in Indian occupied Kashmir, Palestine, and the Rohingya Muslims. Pakistan supported the implementation of the Resolution on the situation of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, adopted by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers earlier this year that, inter alia, calls upon OIC member states to alleviate the suffering and hardship of the Rohingya Muslim minority by providing humanitarian assistance in the spirit of Islamic solidarity.

Pakistan is committed to providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya Muslims to alleviate their suffering



# Heydar Aliyev foundation event NISE, H.E. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan in Pakistan distribute prize

A subsequent charity event of Heydar Aliyev Foundation of Azerbaijan was implemented on the occasion of Eid ul-Adha in Pakistan, on the initiative and support of Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation by the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On this occasion, a ceremony was held on at the National Institute of Special Education (NISE), Islamabad that specialized in the education and care for the special children with disabilities. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhary, Minister of State for Capital Administration and Development, Mr. Ali Alizada, Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Mr. Sheikh Azhar Sajjad, Director General for Special Education of Capital Administration and Development Division, Mrs. Nusrat Tahir, director of NISE, Mr. Muhammad Asif Noor, President of the Azerbaijan-Pakistan Youth Forum, media representatives, officials of Azerbaijan Embassy to Pakistan and children residing in the special education centers of Directorate General of Special Education.





# Vietnam's 72nd Independence Anniversary Celebrated in Islamabad

The ambassador of Vietnam H.E. Nguyen Xuan Luu hosted a reception to mark Vietnam's 72nd Independence Anniversary at local hotel in Islamabad. Minister of State for Capital Administration and Development Division Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry was the chief guest of the event. The reception was attended, among others by the diplomats, politicians and members of the business community.











# Turkish Victory Day celebrated

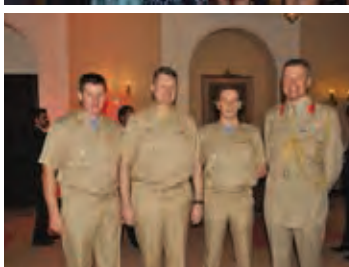
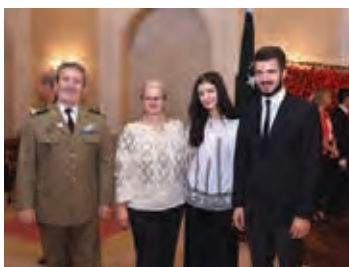


On the occasion of the anniversary of the 95th 'Zafer Bayramı' or Victory Day, the ambassador of Turkey and Mrs Barbur Girgin along with Defence Attache, Group Captain Murat Ikiz hosted a reception at the Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Chairman as well as Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General, Zubair Mehmood Hayat, were the chief guests at the event. Governor Punjab Mr. Muhammad Rafique Rajwana, Governor Baluchistan Muhammad Khan Achakzai, Interior Minister Ahsan Iqbal, National Security Adviser to Prime Minister Gen (R) Nasir Janjua also attended the event as representatives of Government of Pakistan.

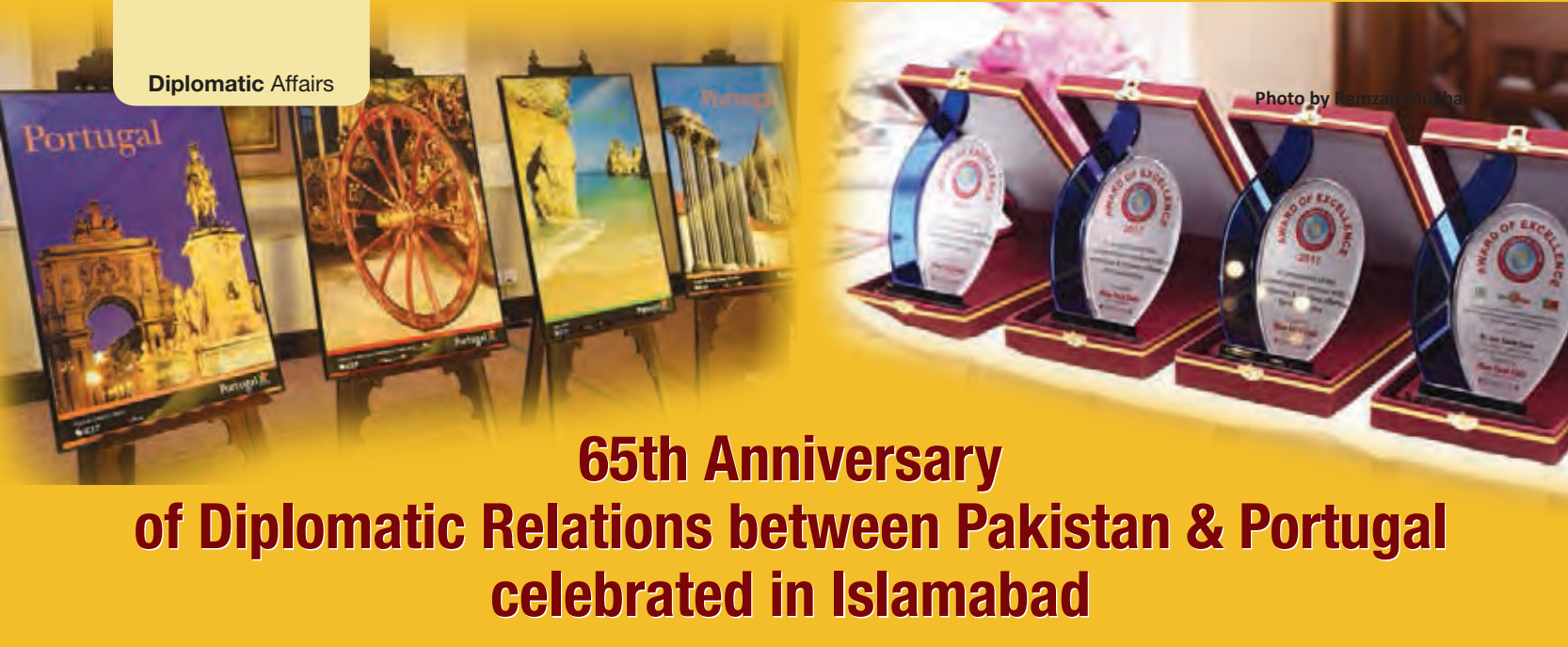


MPA Raja Muhammad Ali, son of Raja Muhammad Zafar Ul haq, attended the reception on behalf of Chief Minister of Punjab Mr. Shahbaz Sharif.









## 65th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan & Portugal celebrated in Islamabad



Portugal and Pakistan enjoy very cordial relations. Both countries are working together to enhance mutual cooperation in variety of sectors including trade and people to people contacts. To mark these friendly relations history, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of Presentation of Credentials by H.E. Antonio Jose Alves Junior the First Portuguese Diplomatic Envoy to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, The Charge d'Affairs En pied of the Republic of Portugal Mr Joao Paulo Sabido Costa in collaboration with Diplomatic Focus/Diplomatic council (DC), a grand reception hosted in Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Mian Fazal Elahi of Diplomatic Focus and Mr. Joao Paulo Sabido Costa were the host of this magnificent ceremony in which a large number of notables from different walks of life participated to express their solidarity and warm feelings for both countries relations. Ambassadors of Brazil, Spain, Cuba, Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine, Tunisia, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and diplomats from Hungary, Czech Republic, South Korea, France and other countries were also present.















#### **Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud;**

14 April 1906 – 25 March 1975) was King of Saudi Arabia from 1964 to 1975. As king, he is credited with rescuing the country's finances and implementing a policy of modernization and reform, while his main foreign policy themes were pan-Islamic nationalism, anti-Communism, and pro-Palestinian nationalism. He successfully stabilized the kingdom's bureaucracy. He came to power on 2 November 1964,[ Faisal said: "I beg of you, brothers, to look upon me as both brother and servant. 'Majesty' is reserved to God alone and 'the throne' is the throne of the Heavens and Earth."



**H.M.H King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia





## King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques



### Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

(1924 – 23 January 2015) was the King of Saudi Arabia and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques from 2005 to his death in 2015. King Abdullah held important political posts throughout most of his adult life. King Abdullah's administration attempted reforms in different fields like scholarship program to send young Saudi men and women to study abroad, a top-to-bottom restructuring of the country's courts, a new investment promotion agency to overhaul the once-convoluted process of starting a business in Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah was, in 2012, named as the most influential Muslim among 500 Muslims for the previous 4 years. In December 2012, Forbes named him as the seventh most powerful figure in its list of the "World's Most Powerful People" for 2012.





Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud  
&  
Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud









# King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud

## Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz was proclaimed the seventh King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 3 Rabi' al Thani 1436H (January 23, 2015), upon the death of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz. King Salman is also Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz was designated Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and appointed Deputy Prime Minister, by King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz on June 18, 2012, upon the death of Crown Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz.

King Salman was born in Riyadh on Dec. 31, 1935, and received his education at the Prince's School in Riyadh. He served as Deputy Governor of Riyadh from March 1954 to April 1955, and Governor of Riyadh from April 1955 to December 1960 and again from February 1963 to Nov. 5, 2011, when he was appointed Minister of Defense.

Since 1956, King Salman has chaired various humanitarian and service committees that provide relief from natural and man-made disasters. For his humanitarian services, he has been awarded many medals and decorations, including awards from Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Morocco, Palestine, the Philippines, Senegal, the

United Nations, Yemen, and the King Abdulaziz Medal - First Class.

He is a recipient of several honorary degrees and academic awards, including an honorary doctorate from the Islamic University of Madinah, the Prince

Salman academic award, and the Kant Medal by the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in appreciation of his contributions to the field of science.

**“My first objective is for our country to be a pioneering and successful global model of excellence, on all fronts, and I will work with you to achieve that”**

**King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques





**His Royal Highness Mohammad bin Salman**  
Crown Prince of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia





# The Great Mosque of Mecca al-Masjid al-Haram

## The largest mosque in the World

**T**he Great Mosque of Mecca al-Masjid al-Harām, is the largest mosque in the World, and surrounds Islam's holiest place, the Kaaba, in the city of Makkah Hijaz, Saudi Arabia. Muslims face in the Qiblah while performing Salat. One of the Five Pillars of Islam requires every Muslim to perform the Hajj, one of the largest annual gatherings of Muslims in the world, at least once in their lifetime if able to do so.

In 2007, the mosque underwent a fourth

extension project which is estimated to last until 2020. It was planned to increase the mosque's capacity to 2 million. In 2016 it was estimated that Great Mosque had cost 100 billion dollars.

Northern expansion of the mosque began in August 2011 and was expected to be completed in one and a half years. The area of the mosque will be expanded from the current 356,000 m<sup>2</sup> (3,830,000 sq ft) to 400,000 m<sup>2</sup> (4,300,000 sq ft). A new gate named after King Abdullah will be built together with two new minarets,

bringing their total to eleven. The cost of the project is \$10.6 billion and after completion the mosque will house over 2.5 million worshipers. The Mataaf (the circumambulation areas around the Kaaba) will also see expansion and all closed spaces will be air conditioned. Expansion Project will cover an area of 456,000 sq. meters will accommodate an additional 1.2 million faithful. Courtyards of the mosque's new expansion can hold more than 250,000 worshipers. In July, 2015, King Salman bin Abdulaziz has launched five projects as part





of the third phase of the expansion of Mecca's Grand Mosque to accommodate more than 1.6 million worshippers.

The work includes the expansion of the building, squares, tunnels, services buildings and a ring road. The expansion of the building covers 1.47 million square metres and includes 78 new gates at ground level surrounding the expanded building. It will create six new floors for praying and adds 680 escalators and 24 elevators for people with special needs and 21,000 toilets and places of ablution.

These construction projects to expand capacity at Mecca's Grand Mosque and other Islamic holy sites will be completed in about three years, enabling Saudi Arabia to accommodate more pilgrims.

Saudi authorities have undertaken enormous mega-projects to accommodate the increasing

influx of people seeking to make the pilgrimage to Mecca, which all Muslims who can afford to are required to do at least once. Saudi Arabia announced plans to increase the number of umrah pilgrims coming from abroad from 6 million in recent years to 15 million by 2020. The kingdom has also set a goal of boosting religious tourism as part of its long-term plan to diversify the economy beyond oil, giving it financial incentive to welcome a greater number of pilgrims. The Jamarat Bridge, where pilgrims throw stones at pillars symbolizing the devil, will handle up to 500,000 pilgrims at a time, or 3 million total over the course of each haj. After the work is finished, the Grand Mosque will have a total capacity of 2.2 million worshippers, up from 600,000 currently. Up to 400,000 people per hour will be able to circumambulate the sacred Kaaba at the center of the mosque.

**After the work is finished, the Grand Mosque will have a total capacity of 2.2 million worshippers, up from 600,000 currently. Up to 400,000 people per hour will be able to circumambulate the sacred Kaaba at the center of the mosque.**





**H.E. Nawaf Saeed Ahmad Al-Malki**

Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia





# Message

The  
**87<sup>th</sup>**  
anniversary for  
the unification  
of the Kingdom  
of Saudi Arabia

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**P**raise be to Allah the Lord of mankind, and Peace be up on the Prophet Mohammad (SAAW)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Today we are celebrating the national day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which is the 87th anniversary for the unification of the Kingdom by the king Abdulaziz bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud. This is the dearest occasion to the heart of each Saudi citizen.

We, in the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad are celebrating this day on the soil of the brotherly Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the country we are connected with through brotherly relationships and true love between the government and people of both countries.

Dear Brothers,

Since its establishment, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always stood by its brothers in all situations, especially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which has greatly suffered the danger of terrorism that has caused human losses and affected its economy badly. The Kingdom is keen for the stability and peace of Pakistan because it will be reflected on the stability and peace of the region.

The Kingdom also is keen for the prosperity of Pakistan economically and strongly supports China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that would -with the grace of Almighty Allah- result into Economic prosperity for Pakistan and the entire region, and the Kingdom assures its keenness to participate in this important project.

However, Pakistan and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia share the ambition toward vision 2030, to achieve its goals by coordinated efforts of both countries in all fields.

Brother & sisters:

As you all know, Islamic Military Alliance for Combating Terrorism which unifies more than 40 states until now is working for combating extremist thoughts and coordinates all efforts to face the terrorist propaganda through coordinated intellectual, media, financial and military initiatives. The efforts of the Alliance are based on values of legitimacy, independence and cooperation. The Alliance is committed to ensure that all its activities are in accordance with international laws and regulations. As perceived from its title, this Alliance is not targeting any specific country.

Finally, I pray to Almighty Allah to save our home Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and All Muslim Countries from every harm.

Long Live Saudi-Pakistan Friendship.





# Saudi Arabia & Pakistan **are** **locked** in a relationship of **brotherhood**

**T**he Saudi-Pakistani relationship is a vast and dynamic web of cooperative linkages, age-old bonds of friendship and undertakings, dating from well before the establishment of diplomatic relations and growing continuously year-on-year. Today, the Kingdom and Pakistan maintain close and robust political, military, economic, security and cultural relations, rarely found in the history of global camaraderie.

Pakistan has been called “Saudi Arabia’s closest Muslim ally”. The relationship with the Saudi Arabia represents the most important bilateral

partnership in the foreign policy of Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have sought to develop extensive strategic, commercial, cultural, religious and political relations since the creation of Pakistan in 1947. Pakistan affirms its relationship with Saudi Arabia as their most “important and bilateral partnership” in the current foreign policy of Pakistan, working and seeking to develop closer bilateral ties with Saudi Arabia, the largest country on the Arabian peninsula and host to the two holiest cities of Islam, Mecca and Medina and the destination of Muslim pilgrims from across the world.

In fact, Saudi Arabia’s long-standing and comprehensive relationship with Pakistan operates at many levels and in many areas, including trade, governance and values, health, education and culture besides politics and security. The two countries also work together extensively at the international level, within the framework of several bilateral, regional and global organizations including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

All these new developments are the result of the frequent political consultations between the leaders and the high-ranking officials of





the two countries, and more so between King Salman and Pakistani the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The leaders of Saudi Arabia command great respect in Pakistan.

A month before August, 2017 Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed his country's support to the Kingdom during his meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The crown prince acknowledged Pakistan's efforts and sacrifices in its fight against terrorism. The Premier expressed hope that fraternal ties between the two countries will further prosper, and underscored the importance Saudi Arabia attaches to a strong and stable Pakistan. They agreed to continue dialogue and cooperation toward their shared goal of peace, security and development in the region and beyond.

In mid of the June, 2017 the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif held a meeting with Saudi King Shah Salman bin Abdul Aziz at the Jeddah Royal Palace. During meeting with King Salman, Premier Sharif expressed the hope that the current impasse in the Gulf would be resolved soon in the best interest of the Muslim Ummah. King Salman also said that the fight against extremism and terrorism was in the interest of all Muslims and the Ummah.

While expressing solidarity with the kingdom and the people of Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said the kingdom had a very special place in the hearts of Pakistanis and that the



Muslim world looked up to the monarch as the custodian of the two Holy Mosques.

In april, 2017 Imam-e-Kaaba Sheikh Salih bin Mohammad Ibrahim paid a visit to Pakistan and called on President Manoon Hussain and other high level officials. The Imam-e-Kabba said that Pakistan has the capability to lead the Muslim Ummah and defend their ideological and geographical frontiers.

Saudi Arabia was one of the strongest supporters of Pakistan during many national and international issues whether it's linked to restrictions after nuclear tests. While it had

supported Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir conflict, it has since endorsed the Indo-Pakistani peace process.

As two of the world's leading Islamic states as well as the power brokers in the Muslim world, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have sought to develop extensive commercial, cultural, religious and strategic relations since the establishment of Pakistan in 1947. Even today, the relationships with the Saudi Arabia represents the most "important and bilateral partnership" in the current Foreign policy of Pakistan.





Saudi Arabia and Pakistan can also work closely within the framework of “Saudi Vision 2030.” The two countries have unexploited proven mineral resources. Thus, investment in geophysics and other mining-related disciplines will pay huge dividends in the long run.

The Saudi interest in mining industry is there to stay and Pakistan has the human resource to provide for such a demand. The Vision 2030 offers Pakistan an opportunity to upscale its manpower export to more skilled and managerial levels, inevitably boosting its foreign remittances. The close ties between Riyadh and Islamabad will provide more opportunities for cooperation within the Vision 2030.

Vision 2030 has a mandate to forge closer partnerships with foreign countries. No doubt, Pakistan has enjoyed warm relations with Saudi Arabia since the birth of the country. The relations are rooted in the centuries-old religious, cultural and commercial links between the two peoples. Moreover, the relationship is also based on shared Islamic ideals.

Saudi Arabia is the most favorite destiny for skilled and unskilled labours of Pakistan. Pakistani engineers and construction experts have played a crucial role in building infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. Similarly, Pakistani doctors, entrepreneurs, academics and financial experts have played a premier role in developing the institutional infrastructure of the Kingdom.

Saudi Arabian generosity and welcoming behavior towards the Pakistani Muslim brothers make Pakistanis in Saudi Arab feel at home. Saudi Arabia remains a major destination for immigration amongst Pakistanis, the number of whom living in Saudi Arabia stands between 900,000 and 1 million. This figure has always been rising as the land of opportunities is open





for all Pakistanis.

Saudi Arabia has also provided extensive religious and educational aid to Pakistan. The Faisal Mosque (dedicated to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia) in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan bears the testimony to one of greatest friendship between nations, planet earth has ever seen.

The major Pakistani city of Lyallpur was also renamed Faisalabad in honour of King Faisal in 1977, now commonly known as Manchester of Pakistan because of extensive industrialization of the city. In 2006, Former King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia was awarded the Nishan-e-Pakistan, the highest civilian decoration of Pakistan.

Saudi Arabia is the largest source of petroleum for Pakistan. It also supplies extensive financial aid to Pakistan and remittance from Pakistani migrants to Saudi Arabia is also a major source of foreign exchange reserves. In recent years, both countries have exchanged high-level delegations and developed plans to expand bilateral cooperation in trade, education,







real estate, tourism, information technology, communications and agriculture. Saudi Arabia is aiding the development of trade relations with Pakistan through the Gulf Cooperation Council, with which Pakistan is negotiating a free trade agreement. A centerpiece of bilateral economic and commercial relations is the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Several agreements provide a firm footing for bilateral relations. The two countries have in place an agreement for political consultations and air service agreement, an extradition agreement, a cultural accord, an agreement on security cooperation, an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation, and an agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

The Defence cooperation between Saudi Arabia & Pakistan also speaks of the commonality of cause in between the two brother nations. Cadets from Saudi Arabia are taught military lessons in every military academy of Pakistan. From PAF academy Risalpur to Pakistan Military Academy Kakul and Pakistan Naval Academy Manora all services has the honour to train cadets from Saudi Arabia. Even the mid-career courses of officers and famous for its graduates, Command and Staff College Quetta also house trainee officers from Saudi Arabia to polish their military skills.

During the first Gulf war Pakistan Army contingent was first to reach Saudi Arabia for the safeguard of the holy lands in case of any necessity.

In December, 2016, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army staff (COAS) called on Saudi King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. The Saudi king and the COAS agreed that both the countries share great history of cordial relations and deep spirit of brotherhood which has transformed into an enduring partnership. It was also acknowledged that both Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are vital players in regional stability, "with significant responsibility towards the entire Muslim ummah". Both leaders re-emphasised on the need to continue working to eliminate the menace of terrorism and reinforce the mechanism to roll back extremism with even greater vigour.

COAS also held meeting with crown prince and the defence minister HRH Muhammad bin Salman to discuss matters related to mutual interests and bilateral security cooperation. The Defence Minister reassured the Army Chief that the kingdom supports peace and stability in Pakistan in every way. COAS reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the security and protection of the Holy Mosques and also the territorial integrity of the kingdom.























## Royal Saudi Air Force professionals “Saudi Hawks” Participated Pakistan Independence Day

A team of Royal Saudi Air Force special professional team “Saudi Hawks” participated in airshow on the occasion of Pakistan Independence Day 14th August at F-9 Park, Islamabad. Earlier addressing a press conference, the team leader of “Saudi Hawks” said that we feel honored and happy to be here to take part in Pakistan’s Independence Day celebrations. He further said that all his team members were looking forward to present a great show for the people of Pakistan. He added that they would love to come back here and present their aerobatic skills in front of the Pakistani brothers and sisters.







## Global Center for Combating Extremism in Riyadh adopts unprecedented techniques

**W**orld leaders, including Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and US President Donald Trump, inaugurated the Global Center for Combating Extremism headquartered in Riyadh as the US-Islamic Summit came to a close.

Riyadh hosted three anticipated summits during Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia with nearly 50 leaders, mainly from the Muslim world attended.

"We want to convey a message to the West and the world that the Muslim world is not an enemy," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir

said. - The center is established as a result of the international cooperation in facing the extreme ideology leading to terrorism, the world's first common enemy.

- It was founded by a number of countries who chose Riyadh as its headquarters in confronting extreme ideologies by monitoring and analyzing it, to confront and prevent it, cooperate with the governments and organizations to prevail and promote a culture of moderation.
- The center was established on three basic pillars: confronting extremism by the latest

intellectual, media and numerical methods and means

- The center has developed innovative techniques that can monitor, process and analyze extremists' speeches with high accuracy, all phases of data processing and analysis are done in no more than six seconds once the data or comments are posted on the Internet, allowing unprecedented levels of facing extremist activities in the digital world.
- The Center works to refute the hate and extremist speech and promote concepts of





moderation, accepting the other, and the production of media content that confront the content of the radical thoughts in order to defy it, and reveal its promotional propaganda.

- The center includes a number of international experts specialized and prominent in confronting extremist speech on all the traditional media means and electronic world.
- The center operates in the extremists' most widely used languages and dialects. Advanced analytical models are being developed to locate digital media platforms, highlight extremist focal point, and secret sources of polarization and acquiring activities.
- The importance of establishing the center lies in that it is the first time that the world countries seriously come together to face the threat of extremism, which poses a threat to the communities and endanger them, therefore it is the center's duty to fight together to win and to be able to protect people from its danger.

- The selection of the (12) representatives of the Board of Directors from states and organizations; reflects the independence of the center's work, which is characterized by a governance system that applies international management best practices of major international organizations, which allows neutrality, flexibility, efficiency and transparency to fulfill the Center's functions and achieve its objectives.

**"We want to convey a message to the West and the world that the Muslim world is not an enemy," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir**







## Kingdom of Saudi Arabia International relations thru Lens

King Salman has spared no efforts, since assuming the Kingdom's power, in moving the march of the country forward, where his activities have multiplied in various fields, both at the domestic and external levels.

**K**ing Salman has spared no efforts, since assuming the Kingdom's power, in moving the march of the country forward, where his activities have multiplied in various fields, both at the domestic and external levels.

The foreign policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is based on geographical – historical – religious – economic – security – political everlasting principles and facts. It is shaped within major frameworks, among the most important of which are; good-neighbor policy, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, strengthen relations with the Gulf States and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, strengthen relations with Arab and Islamic countries for the benefit of common interests of these countries, as well as advocate their issues, adopt nonalignment policy, establish cooperation relations with friendly







countries, and play effective role in the international and regional organizations.

Saudi Arabia foreign policy objectives are to maintain its security and its paramount position on the Arabian Peninsula, and as the world's largest exporter of oil, to maintain cooperative relations with other oil-producing and major oil-consuming countries.

Saudi Arabian stated policy is focused on co-operation with the Gulf States, the unity

of the Arab world, Islamic strength and solidarity, and support for the United Nations (UN). In practice, the main concerns in recent years have been relations with the US, the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, Iraq, the effect of oil pricing, and using its oil wealth to increase the influence of Islam. As a founding member of OPEC, Saudi Arabia's long-term oil pricing policy has been to keep prices stable and moderate. Saudi Arabia is a founding member of several multinational organizations,

## FOREIGN POLICY

**The foreign policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is based on geographical**

- **historical**
- **religious**
- **economic**
- **security**
- **political**

Everlasting principles and facts. It is shaped within major frameworks, among the most important of which are; good-neighbor policy, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, strengthen relations with the Gulf States and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, strengthen relations with Arab and Islamic countries for the benefit of common interests of these countries, as well as advocate their issues, adopt nonalignment policy, establish cooperation relations with friendly countries, and play effective role in the international and regional organizations.







including OPEC, the United Nations, and the Arab League. It is also a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Muslim World League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, and the Islamic Development Bank—all of which are headquartered in Saudi. The country plays a prominent role in the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and in 2005 joined the World Trade Organization.

This policy is activated through several circles such as Gulf, Arab, Islamic, and international circles according to the following:

### Gulf Circle:

Within the Gulf Circle consideration is given to the blood relations, historical connections, unique geographical neighborhood that brings Arab Gulf States together, besides the similarity of existed political and economic systems.

The Kingdom and other Gulf States believe in the similarities among themselves and based on their desire to unify and coordinate joint policies of security and defense during massive crisis and conflicts that surround and affect the region in different ways, the leaders of the six Gulf States agreed in 1981 to found (Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf - GCC) to be the organizational framework that realizes comprehensive cooperation and integration context aims at fulfilling the desires and aspirations of the six Gulf States on both official and public levels in the fields of political, security, economic, social, educational, cultural, and etc...

The Saudi Arabia's foreign policy in the Gulf Circle is based on major permanent basis and principles that are:

- The security and stability of the region is the responsibility of the states of the region.
- The Gulf States have the right to defend their security and maintain their independence according to their own discretion and as guaranteed by the international law to confront any internal or international challenges.
- Decline the interference in internal affairs of these countries, and work out to cooperate and stand against any aggression on one of the state members, with regard to any aggression, at the same time member states consider aggression on one country as aggression on all member states.
- Strengthen cooperation between the Kingdom and the member states of the GCC in different political, economic, security, social, cultural fields and others, through deepening and consolidating relations and ties among member states.







- Coordinate policies of the GCC when possible, especially toward the regional and international momentous issues. Such cooperation and coordination were obvious during the crisis witnessed by the region, especially during the Iraq-Iran war, and the Iraqi invasion to Kuwait.
- Take serious and persistent action to solve all disputes (especially border disputes) among the countries of the region through understanding that is based on brotherhood and good neighboring principles.
- Sound enthusiasm on the importance of economic coordination among member states through continuous support for unifying economic policies and establish suitable integrated contexts, paying special attention to coordination with regard to oil policies of the member states in a manner that serves their interests, considering that oil is the strategic source of these countries.

### Arab Circle:

Since Her foundation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia realized the importance of joint Arab action and unification of Arab stance. Accordingly, from that time on, the Kingdom and other six Arab independent states in a



sincere endeavor looked for a meeting to set up a mechanism to coordinate Arab relations and joint action to serve the interests and issues of these countries. Consequently, in March 1945 the Arab Countries established the Arab League and signed on its Charter.

The Saudi Arabia's foreign policy in the Arab Circle is based on major permanent basis and principles that are:

- The inevitable connection between Arab-nationalism and Islam. The Kingdom is distinguished by being the birthplace of Islam and the origin of Arab-nationalism. This trend has been always emphasized by Saudi Arabia since the era of Her founder King Abdulaziz, and his followers sons.
- The necessity of Arab solidarity, together with coordination among the Arab







countries with the aim to unify Arab stances and utilize all potentials and resources of Arab countries to serve the Arab interests.

- Realism, which is represented in avoiding slogans and overacting, which negatively affect the security and stability of Arab World, and prevent the interference in Arab internal affairs.
- Commitment to the principle of Arab brotherhood through offering all types of support and assistance.

Due to the fact that the Kingdom has reputable position and credibility in the Arab World, and enjoys logic and well balanced policy, the Kingdom, from the stand point of Kingdom's concern to maintain Arab solidarity, has played a significant role as an honest and fair mediator to solve (internal and regional) Arab disputes. In addition, the Kingdom has exerted great reconciliation efforts aiming at the elimination of Arab controversies, which destroy the Arab unity.

Within this framework, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia paid special attention to the Palestinian issue, considering it the main issue of Arab and Muslims, and a major element of the Kingdom's foreign policy. There is no wonder, since the era of King Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Kingdom shoulders the responsibility of defending the Palestinian issue in all international arenas, and never tarries or lingers in one day or under any justification to support the issue, and on the contrary the Kingdom devoted herself to serve the Palestinian issue toward realizing rightful solutions and fair settlement.

### Islamic Circle:

Islam has been always the most important factor affecting the determination of priorities of Kingdom's foreign policy. Since the foundation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom works out to devote and dedicate Her potentials and resources to serve issues of Islamic World and achieve the motives of solidarity and unity based on the fact of belongingness to one belief. The Islamic symbiosis is the method to regain Muslims position and honor.

For the sake of achieving Islamic solidarity, the Kingdom sought and initiated together with their Islamic countries to establish a system of Islamic governmental and non-governmental organizations, among which are the Muslims World League, established in 1962, and the Organization of Islamic Conference established in 1969, where the Kingdom embraced the Headquarters of both organizations. These efforts originate from the comprehensive image of the meaning of Islamic solidarity that includes several concepts, the major concept





is the collective security of Islamic countries, and working out to peacefully settle disputes among Islamic countries, and provide economic aids to Islamic countries and societies of limited potentials, provide emergency assistance and relief to Islamic countries affected by disaster, and back up Muslims and defend their issues and provide moral and material support to Islamic groups wherever they exist, through generous contribution in building mosques, and establishing Islamic civilized centers.

We can say that Saudi Arabia's foreign policy in the Islamic circle aims at achieving the following objectives:

- Achieve comprehensive Islamic solidarity.
- Open new horizons for economic cooperation among Islamic countries aiming at the support of their potentials and resources on different levels.
- Stand against different types and techniques of cultural overflow and intellectual invasion that threaten the Islamic World.
- Work out to develop the Organization of Islamic Conference and support its activities to achieve more effectiveness in confronting the issues encountered by the Islamic World.
- Activate the role of Islamic countries within the framework of new world order. Provide assistance and support to Muslim minorities worldwide, and look after their rights in accordance with the principles of international law.
- Introduce the real and true image of Islam and its tolerance law Sharia'a, and protect Islam from all the clear accusations and slanders addressed to Islam, such as; terrorism and human rights violations.

### International Circle:

In the international circle, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is very keen to establish equal relations with the great power that is connected with the Kingdom through a series of interests, these interests emerged as a result of Kingdom's growing major role in both Arab and Islamic worlds. Where the Kingdom seeks out through both worlds to expand the Saudi move on the level of international society, and therefore tries to react with the effective and significant international policy centers, taking into consideration the consequences and responsibilities resulting from this policy.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is proud being a founding member of the United Nations in 1945. The Kingdom strongly believes that the international peace is part of her foreign policy. The Kingdom always call for more transparent and justice in the treatment among countries,







in terms of political, economic, social, and other fields. Since justice is the only method toward flourishing, prosperity, and stability of the world. Thus, the Kingdom does not believe in using power as a tool to carry out her foreign policy. At the same time, the Kingdom believes in lawful self-defense as a base of international law.

The Kingdom further believes in the role played by the United Nations and its affiliated specialized agencies and the international organizations as well, and their support to the prosperity of international society in all fields, especially, their support for international security and peace. The Kingdom has joined all these organizations and has been keen to support this international system by all the moral and material means and methods, in addition to maintain her active participation in their activities.

It is possible to say that the Saudi foreign policy is based on major permanent basis and principles, among which are:

- Kingdom's keenness to react with the international society through Her commitment to the UN Charter, concluded international agreements, and the basis of international law, which determine the framework of general conduct of civilized countries and societies.
- Commitment of the Kingdom not to use





power and not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. As well as, condemn violence and all means that negatively affect international security and peace. And emphasizes the principle of peaceful existence among the countries of the world.

- Keenness on the stability of international oil markets, and seeking to develop international trade on fair basis and through the fundamentals of free market economies.
- Form the Saudi foreign policy with moral shape through Her adoption to the principle of supporting the victims of natural disasters, homeless, and refugees in many countries of the world.

Finally, the basis and principles of Saudi foreign policy can be generally summarized in the following:

- Harmonizing with the principles of the Islamic Law (Sharia'a) considering it the constitution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Value the principle of sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of any country. In addition, reject any attempt of others to interfere in her internal affairs.
- Work out for international peace and

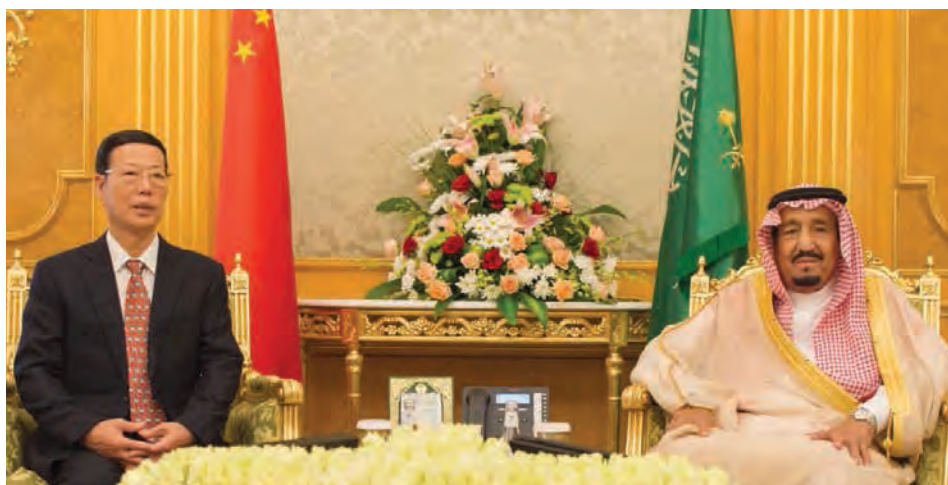






justice, and reject the use of power and violence or any actions that threaten the international peace or lead to the building up of injustice and autocracy.

- Condemn and reject all methods and mechanisms of international terrorism, and confirm that Islam is above suspicion of all terrorist activities.
- Adherence to the regulations of the international law, agreements, charters, and bilateral agreements, as well as respecting them all either within the framework of international organizations or other agreements.
- Defend Arab and Islamic issues in the international arena through continuous support by all political, diplomatic, and economic means.
- Nonalignment and rejection of disputes that threaten international security and peace, and respect the right of people for self-determination and their lawful rights for self-defense.
- Implement balanced and reasonable policy in the field of oil production, in view of Kingdom's position as the major oil producer and the holder of the largest world oil reserve.











## International organization participation

Saudi Arabia is member of the ABEDA, AfDB, AFESD, AL, AMF, BIS, ESCWA, FAO, G-20, G-77, GCC, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICRM, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, International Maritime Organization, Inmarsat, Intelsat, Interpol, IOC, ISO, ITU, NAM, OAPC, OAS (observer), OIC, OPCW, OPEC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WCO, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTrO (Applicant)

## Islamic Military Alliance

The Islamic Military Alliance (IMA), officially the Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism (IMAFT) is an intergovernmental counter-terrorist alliance of countries in the Muslim world, united around military intervention against ISIL and other counter-terrorist activities. Its creation was first announced by Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Defense, on 15 December 2015. The alliance was to have a joint operations center in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. When the coalition was announced there were 34 members. Additional countries joined and the number of members reached 41 when Oman joined in December 2016.

The IMA has stated that its primary objective is to protect Muslim countries from all terrorist groups and terrorist organizations irrespective of their sect and name.

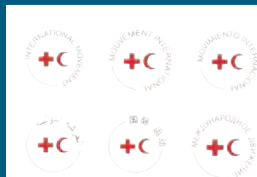
The IMA affirmed that it would operate in line with the United Nations and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) provisions on terrorism.







United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization







# Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Holds Annual Reception for Heads of State and Islamic Dignitaries who Performed Hajj Rituals

**C**ustodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud held at the Royal Court at Mina Palace here today the annual reception for heads of state, Islamic dignitaries, guests of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, guests of government bodies and heads of delegations and pilgrim affairs offices, who performed Hajj rituals this year.

At the outset of the reception, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques shook hands with Sudan's President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, Gambia's President Adama Baro, Comoros President Osman Ghazali, Yemen's Vice President Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmr, Egypt's Prime Minister Sherif Ismail, Egypt's Grand Mufti Shawki Allam, Prince Hamzah bin Al-Husein, Iraq's Representatives Council Speaker Salim Al-Jubouri, Jordan's House of Representatives Speaker Atef Tarawneh, Nigeria's Senate President Bukola Saraki, Niger's National Assembly President Ousseini Tinni, Mauritius Vice Prime Minister Showkutally Soodhun, Prince Hashim bin Al-Hussein, Bangladesh's Former President Hussain Mohammad Ershad,





Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation Ilyas Umakhanov, Afghanistan's former Vice President and current Chairman of High Peace Council Mohammad Karim Khalili, Comoros Vice-President Abdallah Sarouma, Lebanon's former Prime Minister Najib Mikati and senior officials from a number of Islamic countries. The reception started with a recitation of verses of the Holy Quran.







# Governance Model for Achieving Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030

The Council of Ministers has entrusted the Council of Economic and Development Affairs with the task of establishing the mechanisms and measures necessary to achieve Saudi Vision 2030. The Council of Economic and Development Affairs has developed a comprehensive governance model aimed at institutionalizing, enhancing its work, facilitating the coordination of efforts among relevant stakeholders and effectively following-up progress.

## Roles and Responsibilities

**Level One. Defining directions and making decisions:**

- **Council of Economic and Development Affairs.** The Council of Ministers has mandated the Council of Economic and

Development Affairs to establish the mechanisms and measures necessary for achieving Saudi Vision 2030. This includes identifying and presenting visions, directions, and programs; as well as deciding on any amendments or updates to the programs and initiatives. The council

shall also make decisions on any matter under its jurisdiction that could prevent programs from achieving their goals.

- **Finance Committee:** The committee shall establish and update the approval mechanisms for funding programs and initiatives, including medium-term expenditures. It shall also prepare and update the detailed mechanisms for examining the financial requirements of programs and initiatives, for planning of cash flows and for reporting on progress.
- **Communication Team at the Council of Economic and Development Affairs.** The Communication Team shall work to instill a clear image of Saudi Vision 2030. It shall unify the publically communicated messages, correct any miscommunication, develop communication plans and implement the programs that will be publically launched and strengthen our transparency principle.

**Level Two. Developing strategies**

- **Strategy Committee at the Council of Economic and Development Affairs.** The Committee shall support the Council in strategic affairs. It shall propose strategies for achieving Vision 2030 and translate those strategies into implementation programs. The Committee shall also monitor the implementation process, by supervising the Strategic Management Office and examining all its reports. The committee shall also undertake the important role of resolving issues and problems that might impede the implementation of the strategies, programs, and initiatives: it shall resolve any issue escalated by the Strategic Management Office or shall present them to the Council. The committee shall convene at least once every three months







at the invitation of the chair or whenever deemed necessary.

- **Strategic Management Office at the Council of Economic and Development Affairs.** This office shall operate under the Strategy Committee and act as its executive branch. It shall be entrusted with the study and analysis of methods for translating Vision 2030 into action plans and implementation programs, and it will be responsible for continually supervising and monitoring the progress of those programs. It shall determine the progress of the objectives by reviewing reports, identifying gaps, and submitting its periodic reports with relevant recommendations to the Strategy Committee. Furthermore, the office shall assume an important role in overcoming the issues and problems brought to its attention and in examining any delayed or stalled initiatives. For the purpose of clarifying facts and converging views, it shall also prepare a complete dossier that will be used as a basis for review or will be forwarded to the Strategy Committee for resolution.
- **Project Management Office at the Council of Economic and Development Affairs.** This office shall be responsible for monitoring the projects and decisions of the Council. It shall follow up on the progress toward achieving Vision 2030 goals and commitments; and on the Council's priorities and most important initiatives. Accordingly, the office shall ensure adherence to project management methodologies and classify any goals, commitments, and initiatives into portfolios. Furthermore, the office shall analyze the relevant dependencies and risks that could interfere with the achievement of the desired results. The office shall also monitor the progress of exchanges to/from the Council. The office shall communicate with relevant stakeholders, collecting relevant reports, following up on implementation and managing risks. This process will involve identifying, escalating and regularly reporting challenges to the Strategic Management Office. It shall also monitor the level of commitment and collaboration of stakeholders.
- **Ministry of Economy and Planning.** The ministry shall provide support to relevant stakeholders and government agencies involved in strategic and executive planning, pursuant to the instructions of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs or upon the request of the aforementioned parties. It shall also provide any necessary information—including, data, statistics,

and studies—to relevant stakeholders. Finally, it shall harmonize the sectoral and regional plans of relevant stakeholders.

- **Delivery Unit.** The Delivery Unit shall support the Council of Economic and Development Affairs in its work with executive bodies to achieve Vision 2030. It shall assist with designing, implementing and achieving initiatives. The Unit shall also intervene, upon the request of the Council, to resolve any issue that confront initiatives of the Vision 2030 implementation programs. It shall also submit periodic reports to the council on its assigned programs, projects and missions.

### Level Three. Implementing

- **Execution Bodies.** On the path toward achieving Vision 2030, the ministries and other execution bodies shall be primarily responsible for the development and implementation of programs, projects, and initiatives. They shall coordinate efforts and collaborate with each other to achieve desired results. The head of each agency shall resolve internal problems and challenges that could obstruct the achievement of objectives and initiatives. The head shall be responsible for providing reports and required information to the relevant parties.
- **“Aadaa” National Center for Performance Management.** The center shall be entrusted with promoting transparency to all concerned parties by following up on the progress toward implementing programs and initiatives; and attaining objectives. It shall also measure progress regularly, validating the commitment of the parties to the achievement of the common national goals and detecting delays or issues that impede the progress of initiative implementation. The center shall actively engage the public in monitoring the performance of the various Vision 2030 implementation programs and relevant bodies: it shall regularly publish performance dashboards and audited reports, as required by its bylaws in coordination with the Communication Team. It shall also establish and activate mechanisms for measuring and monitoring the performance of government agencies responsible for implementing programs and initiatives.

### Escalation Mechanisms:

Given the need for a clear escalation mechanism for addressing issues that may impede the achievement of Vision 2030's desired objectives, a mechanism was adopted to reinforce the relevant stakeholders'

responsibilities, to increase their awareness of delayed or stalled initiatives, and, if necessary, to activate their accountability role. This shall be carried out on various levels according to the complexity of the problems and the time required to resolve them. Under the supervision of the Project Management Office of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, four different parties shall assume responsibility for escalation. This mechanism aims to bring about effective achievement and quick problem solving as follows:

**Level One.** Issues shall be addressed within each executive body in charge of implementing the programs and initiatives, under the direct supervision of its head (for example, the relevant minister). If the issue does not fall under the jurisdiction of a specific body, the issue shall be referred to a higher level.

**Level Two.** The Strategic Management Office, operating under the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, shall be asked to examine the matter and prepare a complete dossier for the clarification of facts, convergence of views, and acquisition of the necessary information from all relevant bodies. Should it be impossible for the Office to address the concern, the Office shall submit the dossier to the Strategy Committee for resolution.

**Level Three.** The Strategy Committee shall, at its own discretion, decide on the matters referred to it by the Strategic Management Office that fall under its jurisdiction, or it shall refer them to the Council of Economic and Development Affairs for resolution.

**Level Four.** The issue is referred to the Council of Economic and Development Affairs for a resolution.





# Kingdom of Saudi Arabia The Land of Opportunities



**T**he Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is blessed with many rich assets. Our geographic, cultural, social, demographic and economic advantages have enabled us to take a leading position in the world.

To build the best future for our country, we have based our Vision for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on three pillars that represent our unique competitive advantages. Our status will enable us to build on our leading role as the heart of Arab and Islamic worlds. At the same time, we will use our investment power to create a more diverse and sustainable economy. Finally, we will use our strategic location to build our role as an integral driver of international trade and to connect three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe.

Our Vision is built around three themes: a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an





ambitious nation.

This first theme is vital to achieving the Vision and a strong foundation for economic prosperity. We believe in the importance of a vibrant society. Members of this society live in accordance with the Islamic principle of moderation, are proud of their national identity and their ancient cultural heritage, enjoy a good life in a beautiful environment, are protected by caring families and are supported by an empowering social and health care system.

In the second theme, a thriving economy provides opportunities for all by building an education system aligned with market needs and creating economic opportunities for the entrepreneur, the small enterprise as well as the large corporation. Therefore, we will develop our investment tools to unlock our



promising economic sectors, diversify our economy and create job opportunities. We will also grow our economy and improve the quality of our services, by privatizing some government services, improving the business environment, attracting the finest talent and the best investments globally, and leveraging our unique strategic location in connecting three continents.

Our nation is ambitious in what we want to achieve. We will apply efficiency and responsibility at all levels. Our third theme is



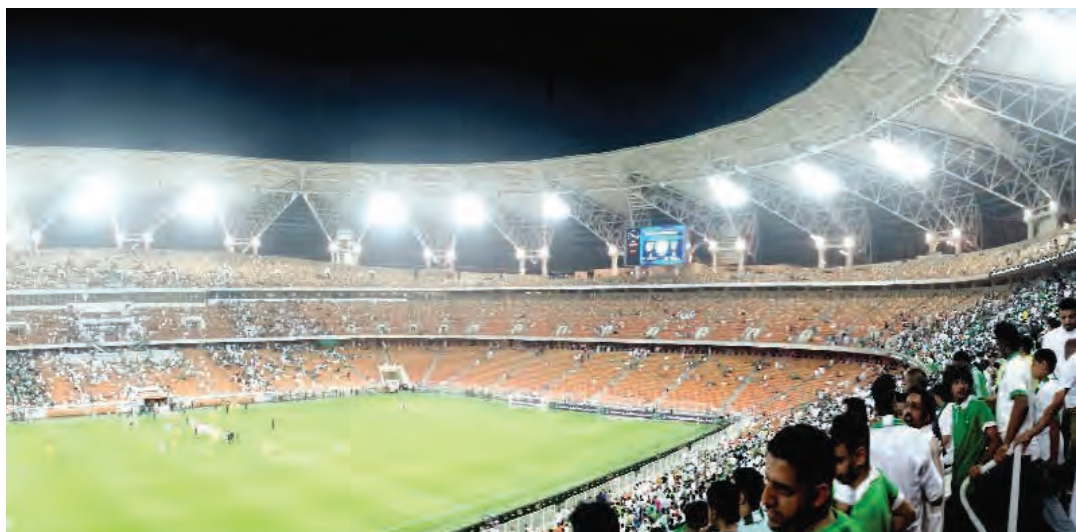




built on an effective, transparent, accountable, enabling and high-performing government. We will also prepare the right environment for our citizens, private sector and non-profit sector to take their responsibilities and take the initiative in facing challenges and seizing opportunities.

In each of these themes, we highlighted a selection of commitments and goals, as a reflection of our ambition and a representation of what we aim to achieve. This Vision will be the point of reference for our future decisions, so that all future projects are aligned to its content.

To clarify our next steps, we have already prepared the ground and launched some







## HOW TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION?

We have outlined a comprehensive and ambitious vision for Saudi Arabia until the year 2030. It is the first step on our journey towards a better, brighter future for our country and our citizens. To achieve our aspirations and hopes, we have already launched many transformative programs that have paved the way for the vision and will help us achieve our goals.

These include, but are not limited to the following:

To ensure the realization of Saudi Arabia's vision for 2030, we are preparing to launch a group of executive programs that will have a significant impact on implementation.

Our commitment to achieving the goals of these pivotal programs and our collective contribution shall be the first step towards achieving Saudi Arabia's vision for 2030. We will continue to launch new programs in the upcoming years as required, and we will continuously review and assess our performance in achieving this vision.

executive programs at the Council of Economic and Development Affairs. We will now launch a first portfolio of crucial programs with the aim to achieve our goals and honor our commitments.

Sustainable success can only be achieved when built upon solid foundations. Our Vision, grounded in our country's strengths, will deliver this stability and create a brighter future for our country and our people.







رؤية  
VISION  
2030  
المملكة العربية السعودية  
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA



# The Saudi Vision 2030

**New plan is a  
futuristic vision for  
the future sustainable  
development**

Following is the text of Saudi Arabia's vision 2030:

In the Name of Allah the most Gracious, the most Merciful.

It is my pleasure to present Saudi Arabia's Vision for the future. It is an ambitious yet achievable blueprint, which expresses our long-term goals and expectations and reflects our country's strengths and capabilities. All success stories start with a vision, and successful visions are based on strong pillars. **The first pillar** of our vision is our status as the heart of the Arab

and Islamic worlds. We recognize that Allah the Almighty has bestowed on our lands a gift more precious than oil. Our Kingdom is the Land of the Two Holy Mosques, the most sacred sites on earth, and the direction of the Kaaba (Qibla) to which more than a billion Muslims turn at prayer.

**The second pillar** of our vision is our determination to become a global investment powerhouse. Our nation holds strong investment capabilities, which we will harness to stimulate our economy and diversify our

The Saudi Vision 2030 was applauded as a major step by the government toward sustainable public finance by a cross-section of the Saudi society.



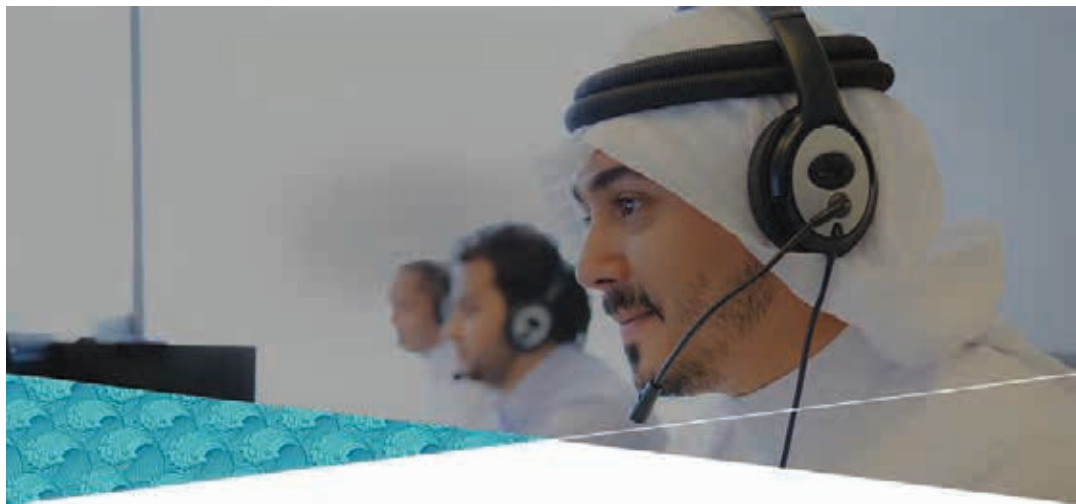


revenues. **The third pillar** is transforming our unique strategic location into a global hub connecting three continents, Asia, Europe and Africa. Our geographic position between key global waterways, makes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia an epicenter of trade and the gateway to the world.

Our country is rich in its natural resources. We are not dependent solely on oil for our energy needs. Gold, phosphate, uranium, and many other valuable minerals are found beneath our lands. But our real wealth lies in the ambition of our people and the potential of our younger generation. They are our nation's pride and the architects of our future. We will never forget how, under tougher circumstances than today, our nation was forged by collective determination when the late King Abdulaziz Al-Saud - may Allah bless his soul - united the Kingdom. Our people will amaze the world again.

We are confident about the Kingdom's future. With all the blessings Allah has bestowed on our nation, we cannot help but be optimistic about the decades ahead. We ponder what lies over the horizon rather than worrying about what could be lost.

The future of the Kingdom, my dear brothers and sisters, is one of huge promise and great potential, God willing. Our precious country deserves the best. Therefore, we will expand and further develop our talents and capacity. We will do our utmost to ensure that Muslims from around the world can visit the Holy Sites. We are determined to reinforce and diversify the capabilities of our economy, turning our key strengths into enabling tools for a fully diversified future. As such, we will transform Aramco from an oil producing company into a global industrial conglomerate. We will







transform the Public Investment Fund into the world's largest sovereign wealth fund. We will encourage our major corporations to expand across borders and take their rightful place in global markets. As we continue to give our army the best possible machinery and equipment, we plan to manufacture half of our military needs within the Kingdom to create more job opportunities for citizens and keep more resources in our country. We will expand the variety of digital services to reduce delays and cut tedious bureaucracy. We will immediately adopt wide-ranging transparency and accountability reforms and, through the body set up to measure the performance of government agencies, hold them accountable for any shortcomings. We will be transparent and open about our failures as well as our successes, and will welcome ideas on how to improve. All this comes from the directive of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, may Allah protect him, who ordered us to plan for a future that fulfills your ambitions and your aspirations.

In line with his instructions, we will work tirelessly from today to build a better tomorrow for you, your children, and your children's children. Our ambition is for the long term. It goes beyond replenishing sources of income that have weakened or preserving what we have already achieved. We are determined to build a thriving country in which all citizens can fulfill their dreams, hopes and ambitions. Therefore, we will not rest until our nation is a leader in providing opportunities for all through education and training, and high quality services such as employment initiatives, health, housing, and entertainment.

We commit ourselves to providing world-class government services which effectively







and efficiently meet the needs of our citizens. Together we will continue building a better country, fulfilling our dream of prosperity and unlocking the talent, potential, and dedication of our young men and women. We will not allow our country ever to be at the mercy of a commodity price volatility or external markets.

We have all the means to achieve our dreams and ambitions. There are no excuses for us to stand still or move backwards. Our Vision is a strong, thriving, and stable Saudi Arabia that provides opportunity for all. Our Vision is a tolerant country with Islam as its constitution and moderation as its method. We will welcome



qualified individuals from all over the world and will respect those who have come to join our journey and our success. We intend to provide better opportunities for partnerships with the private sector through the three pillars: our position as the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds, our leading investment capabilities, and our strategic geographical position. We will improve the business environment, so that our economy grows and flourishes, driving healthier employment opportunities for citizens and long-term prosperity for all. This promise is built on cooperation and on mutual responsibility. This is our “Saudi Arabia’s Vision for 2030.” We will begin immediately delivering the overarching plans and programs we have set out. Together, with the help of Allah, we can strengthen the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s position as a great nation in which we should all feel an immense pride.

Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud  
Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs

## Our Vision

“Saudi Arabia: the heart of the Arab and Islamic worlds, the investment powerhouse, and the hub connecting three continents”

## Introduction

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is blessed with many rich assets. Our geographic, cultural, social, demographic and economic advantages have enabled us to take a leading position in the world.

To build the best future for our country, we have based our Vision for the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia on three pillars that represent our unique competitive advantages. Our status will enable us to build on our leading role as the heart of Arab and Islamic worlds. At the same time, we will use our investment power to create a more diverse and sustainable economy. Finally, we will use our strategic location to build our role as an integral driver of international trade and to connect three continents: Africa, Asia and Europe. Our Vision is built around three themes: a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation. This first theme is vital to achieving the Vision and a strong foundation for economic prosperity. We believe in the importance of a vibrant society. Members of this society live in accordance with the Islamic principle of moderation, are proud of their national identity and their ancient cultural heritage, enjoy a good life in a beautiful environment, are protected by caring families and are supported by an empowering social and health care system.

In the second theme, a thriving economy provides opportunities for all by building an education system aligned with market needs and creating economic opportunities for the entrepreneur, the small enterprise as well as the large corporation. Therefore, we will develop our investment tools to unlock our promising economic sectors, diversify our economy and create job opportunities. We will also grow our economy and improve the quality of our services, by privatizing some government services, improving the business environment, attracting the finest talent and the best investments globally, and leveraging our unique strategic location in connecting three continents.

Our nation is ambitious in what we want to achieve. We will apply efficiency and responsibility at all levels. Our third theme is built on an effective, transparent, accountable, enabling and high-performing government. We will also prepare the right environment for our citizens, private sector and non-profit sector to take their responsibilities and take the initiative in facing challenges and seizing opportunities. In each of these themes, we highlighted a selection of commitments and goals, as a reflection of our ambition and a representation of what we aim to achieve. This Vision will be the point of reference for our future decisions, so that all future projects are aligned to its content. To clarify our next steps, we have already prepared the ground and launched some executive programs at the Council of Economic and Development Affairs. We will now launch a first portfolio of crucial programs with the aim to achieve our goals and honor our commitments. Sustainable success can only be achieved when built upon solid foundations. Our Vision, grounded in our country’s strengths, will deliver this stability and create a brighter future for our country and our people.







## A Vibrant Society

### 1.1 A vibrant society

#### With strong roots

We have enormous untapped opportunities and a rich blend of natural resources, but our real wealth lies in our people and our society. We take pride in what makes our nation exceptional: our Islamic faith and our national unity. Our nation is the core of the Arab and Islamic worlds and represents the heart of Islam.

We are confident that, God willing, we will build a brighter future, one based on the bedrock of Islamic principles. We will continue to excel in performing our duties towards pilgrims to the fullest and promote our deep-rooted national identity.

#### 1.1.1 Living by Islamic values

Islam and its teachings are our way of life. They are the basis of all our laws, decisions, actions and goals. Following Islam's guidance on the values of hard-work, dedication, and excellence, Prophet Mohammed, Peace Be Upon Him, said: "That Allah loves us to master

our work". Therefore, the principles of Islam will be the driving force for us to realize our Vision. The values of moderation, tolerance, excellence, discipline, equity, and transparency will be the bedrock of our success.

#### 1.1.2 Focusing our efforts to serve Umrah visitors

Saudi Arabia has assumed a prominent place in the world and has become synonymous with hospitality and a warm welcome to all Muslims. As such, it has carved a special place in the hearts of pilgrims and the faithful everywhere. We have been given the privilege to serve the Two Holy Mosques, the pilgrims and all visitors to the blessed holy sites. In the last decade, the number of Umrah visitors entering the country from abroad has tripled, reaching 8million people. This is a noble responsibility. It requires us to spare no effort in seeking to offer pilgrims with all they need so we fulfil our duty to provide good hospitality to our brothers and sisters. In this context, we have recently begun a third expansion to the Two Holy Mosques, as well as modernizing and increasing the capacities of our airports. We have launched the Makkah Metro project to complement the railroad and







train projects that will serve visitors to the Holy Mosques and holy sites. We have reinforced the network of our transport system to facilitate access and help pilgrims perform their visits with greater ease and convenience. At the same time, we will enrich pilgrims' spiritual journeys and cultural experiences while in the Kingdom. We will establish more museums, prepare new tourist and historical sites and cultural venues, and improve the pilgrimage experience within the Kingdom.

### 1.1.3 Taking pride in our national identity

We take immense pride in the historical and cultural legacy of our Saudi, Arab, and Islamic heritage. Our land was, and continues to be, known for its ancient civilizations and trade routes at the crossroads of global trade. This heritage has given our society the cultural richness and diversity it is known for today. We recognize the importance of preserving this sophisticated heritage in order to promote national unity and consolidate true Islamic and Arab values. We will endeavor to strengthen, preserve and highlight our national identity so

that it can guide the lives of future generations. We will do so by keeping true to our national values and principles, as well as by encouraging social development and upholding the Arabic language. We will continue to work on the restoration of national, Arab, Islamic and ancient cultural sites and strive to have them registered internationally to make them accessible to everyone and, in the process, create cultural events and build world-class museums which will attract visitors from near and far. This will create a living witness to our ancient heritage, showcasing our prominent place in history and on the map of civilizations.

Among our commitments...

### The honor to serve the increasing number of Umrah visitors in the best way possible

We are honored to attend to pilgrims and Umrah visitors' needs, fulfilling a role bestowed on us by Allah. Our expansion of the Two Holy Mosques has led to a tripling in the number of foreign Umrah visitors over the last decade, reaching eight million in 2015. By increasing the capacity and by improving the quality of

the services offered to Umrah visitors, we will, by 2020, make it possible for over 15 million Muslims per year to perform Umrah and be completely satisfied with their pilgrimage experience.

We will achieve this by improving visa application procedures which will smooth the visa process with the aim of full automation. We will also further integrate e-services into the pilgrims' journey, which will enrich the religious and cultural experience. Both the public and private sectors will play a crucial role in this project as we work to upgrade accommodation, improve hospitality and launch new services for pilgrims.

Among our commitments...

### The largest Islamic museum

We have always taken - and will continue to take - great pride in our heritage. Mohammad, the Last of Prophets, Peace Be Upon Him, was from Makkah, the birthplace of Islam. Medina is where the first Islamic society was born.

We will build an Islamic museum in accordance with the highest global standards, equipped with the latest methods in collection,





preservation, presentation and documentation. It will be a major landmark for our citizens and visitors, where they will learn about the history of Islam, enjoy interactive experiences and participate in cultural events. Using modern technology, visitors to the museum will take an immersive journey through the different ages of Islamic civilization, as well as its science, scholars and culture. It will also be an international hub for erudition and include a world-class library and research center.

Among our goals by 2030...

To increase our capacity to welcome Umrah visitors from 8million to 30 million every year.

To more than double the number of Saudi heritage sites registered with UNESCO.

### 1.2 A vibrant society...

With fulfilling lives

The happiness and fulfillment of citizens and residents is important to us. This can only be achieved through promoting physical, psychological and social well-being. At the heart of our Vision is a society in which all enjoy a good quality of life, a healthy lifestyle and an attractive living environment.

#### 1.2.1 Promoting culture and entertainment

We consider culture and entertainment indispensable to our quality of life. We are well aware that the cultural and entertainment opportunities

currently available do not reflect the rising aspirations of our citizens and residents, nor are they in harmony with our prosperous economy. It is why we will support the efforts of regions, governorates, non-profit and private sectors to organize cultural events. We intend to enhance the role of government funds, while also attracting local and international investors, creating partnerships with international entertainment corporations. Land suitable for cultural and entertainment projects will be provided and talented writers, authors and directors will be carefully supported. We will seek to offer a variety of cultural venues - such as libraries, arts and museums - as well as entertainment possibilities to suit tastes and preferences. These projects will also contribute to our economy and will result in the creation of many job opportunities.

#### 1.2.2 Living healthy, being healthy

A healthy and balanced lifestyle is an essential mainstay of a high quality of life. Yet opportunities for the regular practice of sports have often been







limited. This will change. We intend to encourage widespread and regular participation in sports and athletic activities, working in partnership with the private sector to establish additional dedicated facilities and programs. This will enable citizens and residents to engage in a wide variety of sports and leisure pursuits. We aspire to excel in sport and be among the leaders in selected sports regionally and globally.

### 1.2.3 Developing our cities

Our cities already enjoy high levels of security and development. Despite the current turmoil in the region and the wide expanse of our territories, our country and citizens are safe and secure. Our cities are among the safest in the world with annual crime rates that are less than 0.8 per 100,000 people, far below the international rate of 7.6. We will maintain our safety and security by supporting ongoing efforts to fight drugs abuse, as well as by adopting further measures to ensure traffic safety, reduce traffic accidents and minimize their tragic consequences.

Our cities have grown significantly in recent decades; a growth which has been accompanied by the steady development of their infrastructure. To ensure we can continue to enhance the quality of life for all and meet the needs and requirements of our citizens, we will continue to ensure high quality services such as water, electricity, public transport and roads are properly provided. Open and landscaped areas will also be developed further, to meet the recreational needs of individuals and families.

### 1.2.4 Achieving environmental sustainability

By preserving our environment and natural resources, we fulfill our Islamic, human and moral duties. Preservation is also our responsibility to future generations and essential to the quality of our daily lives. We will seek to safeguard our







environment by increasing the efficiency of waste management, establishing comprehensive recycling projects, reducing all types of pollution and fighting desertification. We will also promote the optimal use of our water resources by reducing consumption and utilizing treated and renewable water. We will direct our efforts towards protecting and rehabilitating our beautiful beaches, natural reserves and islands, making them open to everyone. We will seek the participation of the private sector and government funds in these efforts.

Among our commitments...

### **“Daem”: meaningful entertainment for citizens**

We will increase the number and variety of cultural and entertainment activities with the aim of opening dedicated venues to showcase our citizens’ myriad talents. We will also review our regulations to simplify the establishment and registration of amateur, social and cultural clubs. We will launch and provide the necessary financial support for “Daem”, a national program to enhance the quality of cultural activities and entertainment. The program will create a national network of clubs, encourage the exchange of knowledge and international experiences and promote better awareness of a wide range of hobbies and leisure activities.

By 2020, there will be more than 450 registered

and professionally organized amateur clubs providing a variety of cultural activities and entertainment events.

Among our goals by 2030...

- To have three Saudi cities be recognized in the top-ranked 100 cities in the world
- To increase household spending on cultural and entertainment activities inside the Kingdom from the current level of 2.9% to 6%
- To increase the ratio of individuals exercising at least once a week from 13% of population to 40%

### **1.3 A vibrant society...**

With strong foundations

Our goal is to promote and reinvigorate social development in order to build a strong and productive society. We will strengthen our families, provide the education that builds our children’s fundamental characters and establish empowering health and social care systems.

#### **1.3.1 Caring for our families**

Families are the key building block of a society, protecting it from social breakdown across generations, and acting as both its children’s sanctuary and the main provider of their

needs. One of the defining characteristics of the Kingdom is its adherence to Islamic principles and values, together with the unity and extended family relations. Building on these key characteristics, we will provide our families with all the necessary support to take care of their children and develop their talents and abilities. In particular, we want to deepen the participation of parents in the education process, to help them develop their children’s characters and talents so that they can contribute fully to society. Families will also be encouraged to adopt a planning culture, to plan carefully for their future and the futures of their children. We recognize each family’s aspiration to own a home and the important role ownership plays in strengthening family security. Even though 47 percent of Saudi families already own their homes, we aim to increase this rate by five percentage points by 2020. This would be a substantial achievement given the high increase in the number of new entrants to the housing market. We will meet this target by introducing a number of laws and regulations; encouraging the private sector to build houses; and providing funding, mortgage solutions and ownership schemes that meet the needs of our citizens.







### 1.3.2 Developing our children's character

We intend to embed positive moral beliefs in our children's characters from an early age by reshaping our academic and educational system. Schools, working with families, will reinforce the fabric of society by providing students with the compassion, knowledge, and behaviors necessary for resilient and independent characters to emerge. The focus will be on the fundamental values of initiative, persistence and leadership, as well as social skills, cultural knowledge and self-awareness. We will also promote cultural, social, volunteering and athletic activities through empowering our educational, cultural and entertainment institutions.

### 1.3.3 Empowering our society

We will continue modernizing our social welfare system to make it more efficient, empowering and just. Subsidies for fuel, food, water and electricity will be better utilized by redirecting them towards those in need. We will provide our most vulnerable citizens with tailored care and support. Together with the private sector and non-governmental organizations, we will offer preparation and training to those unable to find employment so they can smoothly join the workforce whenever possible.



### 1.3.4 Caring for our health

Our health care system has benefited from substantive investment in recent decades. As a result, we now have 2.2 hospital beds for every 1,000 people, world-class medical specialists with average life expectancy rising from 66 years to 74 years in the past three decades. We are determined to optimize and better utilize the capacity of our hospitals and health care centers, and enhance the quality of our preventive and therapeutic health care services.

The public sector will focus on promoting preventive care, on reducing infectious

diseases and in encouraging citizens to make use of primary care as a first step. It will deepen collaboration and integration between health and social care, as well as supporting families to provide home care when necessary for their relatives. The public sector will focus on its planning, regulatory and supervisory roles in health care. We intend to provide our health care through public corporations both to enhance its quality and to prepare for the benefits of privatization in the longer term. We will work towards developing private medical insurance to improve access to medical services and reduce waiting times for appointments with







specialists and consultants. Our doctors will be given better training to improve treatment for chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer that threaten our nation's health.

Among our commitments...

“Irtiqaa”: A more prominent role for families in the education of their children

The engagement of parents in their children's education is one of the main principles of success. Our goal by 2020 is for 80 percent of parents to be engaged in school activities and the learning process of their children.

We will launch the “Irtiqaa” program, which will measure how effectively schools are engaging parents in their children's education. We will establish parent-led boards in schools, to open discussion forums and further engage with parents. Teachers will receive training to raise their awareness of the importance of communicating with parents and equip them with effective methods to do so successfully. We will also collaborate with private and non-profit sectors to offer innovative educational programs and events that can improve this academic partnership.

Among our commitments...

Corporatization: efficient and high quality health care

Our goal is to enhance the standard and quality of health care services. Our aim is a health care sector that promotes competition and transparency among providers. This will enhance the capability, efficiency and productivity of care and treatment and increase the options available to our citizens.

To achieve this goal, we will introduce corporatization into the sector by transferring the responsibility for health care provision to a network of public companies that compete both against each other and against the private sector. This will provide our citizens with the highest quality of health care while, at the same time, allowing the government to focus on its legislative, regulatory and supervisory roles. Corporatization shall also promote and prioritize specialization in health care services and enable citizens to choose their preferred service provider.

Among our goals by 2030...

- To raise our position from 26 to 10 in the Social Capital index.
- To increase the average life expectancy from 74 years to 80 years

## 2 A Thriving Economy

### 2.1 A thriving economy...

#### Rewarding opportunities

The skills and competencies of our children are one of the most important and cherished assets. To make the most of their potential, we



will build a culture that rewards determination, provides opportunities for all and helps everyone acquire the necessary skills to achieve their personal goals. To this end, we will reinforce the ability of our economy to generate diverse job opportunities and institute a new paradigm in attracting global talents and qualifications.

#### 2.1.1 Learning for working

We will continue investing in education and training so that our young men and women are equipped for the jobs of the future. We want Saudi children, wherever they live, to enjoy higher quality, multi-faceted education. We will invest particularly in developing early childhood education, refining our national curriculum and

training our teachers and educational leaders.

We will also redouble efforts to ensure that the outcomes of our education system are in line with market needs. We have launched the National Labor Gateway (TAQAT), and we plan to establish sector councils that will precisely determine the skills and knowledge required by each socio-economic sector. We will also expand vocational training in order to drive forward economic development. Our scholarship opportunities will be steered towards prestigious international universities and be awarded in the fields that serve our national priorities. We will also focus on innovation in advanced technologies and entrepreneurship.







### 2.1.2 Boosting our small businesses and productive families

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are among the most important agents of economic growth; they create jobs, support innovation and boost exports. SMEs in the Kingdom are not yet major contributors to our GDP, especially when compared to advanced economies. Therefore, we will strive to create suitable job opportunities for our citizens by supporting SME entrepreneurship, privatization and investments in new industries. To help us achieve this goal, we have established the SME Authority and we will continue encouraging our young entrepreneurs with business-friendly regulations, easier access to funding, international partnerships and a greater share of national procurement and government bids. Our productive families now enjoy vast marketing opportunities through social media and digital platforms. We will facilitate access to these channels, enable microfinance and motivate the non-profit sector to build the capabilities of our productive families and fund their initiatives.

### 2.1.3 Providing equal opportunities

Our economy will provide opportunities for everyone - men and women, young and old - so they may contribute to the best of their abilities. We will place a renewed emphasis on lifelong training and we will seek to make the most of the potential of our workforce by encouraging a culture of high performance. These efforts will be coordinated by the recently established Job Creation and Anti-Unemployment Commission.

One of our most significant assets is our lively and vibrant youth. We will guarantee their skills are developed and properly deployed. While many other countries are concerned with aging populations, more than half of the Saudi population is below the age of 25 years. We will take advantage of this demographic dividend by harnessing our youth's energy and by expanding entrepreneurship and enterprise opportunities.

Saudi women are yet another great asset. With over 50 percent of our university graduates being female, we will continue to develop their talents, invest in their productive capabilities and enable them to strengthen their future and contribute to the development of our society and economy.

We will also enable those of our people with disabilities to receive the education and job opportunities that will ensure their independence and integration as effective members of society. They will be provided with all the facilities and tools required to put them on the path to commercial success. 2.1.4



#### Attracting the talents we need

Achieving our desired rate of economic growth will require an environment that attracts the necessary skills and capabilities both from within the Kingdom and beyond our national borders. We will seek to improve living and working conditions for non-Saudis, by extending their ability to own real estate in certain areas, improving the quality of life, permitting the establishment of more private schools and adopting an effective and simple system for issuing visas and residence permits.

Our goal is to attract and retain the finest Saudi and foreign minds, and provide them with all they need. Their presence in the Kingdom will contribute to economic development and attract additional foreign investment.

#### Among our commitments...

An education that contributes to economic growth

We will close the gap between the outputs of higher education and the requirements of the job market. We will also help our students make careful career decisions, while at the same time training them and facilitating their transition between different educational pathways. In the year 2030, we aim to have at least five Saudi universities among the top 200 universities in international rankings. We shall help our students achieve results above international averages in global education indicators.

To this end, we will prepare a modern curriculum focused on rigorous standards in literacy, numeracy, skills and character development. We will track progress and publish a sophisticated range of education outcomes, showing year-on-year improvements. We will work closely with the private sector to ensure higher education outcomes are in line with the

requirements of the job market. We will invest in strategic partnerships with apprenticeship providers, new skills councils from industry, and large private companies. We will also work towards developing the job specifications of every education field. Furthermore, we will build a centralized student database tracking students from early childhood through to K-12 and beyond into tertiary education (higher and vocational) in order to improve education planning, monitoring, evaluation, and outcomes.

#### Among our commitments...

A bigger role for small and medium-sized enterprises

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) contribute only 20 percent of our GDP whereas, in advanced economies, this contribution can reach up to 70 percent. Despite the efforts made to improve the business environment in the Kingdom, SMEs can still endure unnecessarily slow and complex legal and administrative procedures. They also struggle to attract the necessary skills, capabilities and funding with financial institutions providing no more than 5 percent of the overall funding - a far lower percentage than the global average. We will strive to facilitate enhanced access to funding and to encourage our financial institutions to allocate up to 20 percent of overall funding to SMEs by 2030.

The recently established SME Authority plans to review laws and regulations thoroughly, remove obstacles, facilitate access to funding, and enable youth and entrepreneurs to market their ideas and products. At the same time, we will establish additional new business incubators, specialized training institutions and venture capital funds. These will aid





entrepreneurs in developing their skills and networks. We will also support SMEs in marketing and help export their products and services, by leveraging e-commerce and collaborating with international stakeholders.

Among our goals by 2030...

- To lower the rate of unemployment from 11.6% to 7%.
- To increase SME contribution to GDP from 20% to 35%.
- To increase women's participation in the workforce from 22% to 30%.

## 2.2 A thriving economy...

Investing for the long-term

Diversifying our economy is vital for its sustainability. Although oil and gas are essential pillars of our economy, we have begun expanding our investments into additional sectors. We understand that there are complicated challenges ahead but we have long-term plans to overcome them. In the past 25 years, the Saudi economy has grown by an annual average rate of more than 4 percent, contributing to the creation of millions of new jobs. Although we are already among the 20 largest economies in the world, our ambitions are even greater. We aspire to have an even higher ranking by 2030, despite the headwinds of the global economic slowdown and the expected impact of our structural economic reforms. This requires us to invest in all our resources in order to diversify the economy, unleash the capabilities of our promising economic sectors and privatize some government services.

### 2.2.1 Maximizing our investment capabilities

The ongoing privatization of state-owned

assets, including leading companies, property and other assets, will bring in new and more diverse revenues for the Saudi government. This will further enhance our financial resources and economic stability, which will be reinvested for long-term impact. We will develop further the sophistication of our investment vehicles, particularly after transferring the ownership of Aramco to the Public Investment Fund, which will become the largest sovereign wealth fund in the world. We will increase the efficiency of the fund's management and improve its return on investment, with the aim of diversifying our government resources and our economy.

The Public Investment Fund will not compete with the private sector, but instead help unlock strategic sectors requiring intensive capital inputs. This will contribute towards developing entirely new economic sectors and establishing durable national corporations.

Building on the Kingdom's leading position and historic alliances, we plan to enter long-term partnerships with neighboring and friendly countries for knowledge transfer and trade.

Our Vision is to maximize our investment capabilities by participating in large international companies and emerging technologies from around the world. This will ensure that we become market makers in selected sectors, as well as a leader in competitively managing assets, funding and investment. All of this will require the formation of an advanced financial and capital market open to the world, allowing greater funding opportunities and stimulating economic growth. To this end, we will continue facilitating access to investing and trading in the stock markets. We will smooth the process of listing private Saudi companies and state-owned enterprises, including Aramco. This will require deepening liquidity in our capital

markets, fortifying the role of the debt market and paving the way for the derivatives market.

### 2.2.2 Launching our promising sectors

We will support promising sectors and foster their success so that they become new pillars of our economy. In the manufacturing sector, we will work towards localizing renewable energy and industrial equipment sectors. In the tourism and leisure sectors, we will create attractions that are of the highest international standards, improve visa issuance procedures for visitors, and prepare and develop our historical and heritage sites. In technology, we will increase our investments in, and lead, the digital economy. In mining, we will furnish incentives for and benefit from the exploration of the Kingdom's mineral resources. At the same time as diversifying our economy, we will continue to localize the oil and gas sector. As well as creating a new city dedicated to energy, we will double our gas production, and construct a national gas distribution network. We will also make use of our global leadership and expertise in oil and petrochemicals to invest in the development of adjacent and supporting sectors.

### 2.2.3 Privatizing our government services

Although we believe strongly in the important role of the private sector, it currently contributes less than 40 percent of GDP. To increase its long-term contribution to our economy, we will open up new investment opportunities, facilitate investment, encourage innovation and competition and remove all obstacles preventing the private sector from playing a larger role in development. We will continue





to improve and reform our regulations, paving the way for investors and the private sector to acquire and deliver services - such as health care and education - that are currently provided by the public sector. We will seek to shift the government's role from providing services to one that focuses on regulating and monitoring them and we will build the capability to monitor this transition. We will seek to increase private sector contribution by encouraging investments, both local and international, in healthcare, municipal services, housing, finance, energy and so forth.

Among our commitments...

## Localize defense industries

The benefits of localizing our own defense industries are not limited to solely reducing military spending. It also stimulates other industrial sectors such as industrial equipment, communications and information technology, which in turn creates more job opportunities.

Although the Kingdom is the world's third biggest military spender, only 2 percent of this spending is within our Kingdom. The national defense industrial sector is limited to only seven companies and two research centers.

Our aim is to localize over 50 percent of military equipment spending by 2030. We have already begun developing less complex industries such as those providing spare parts, armored vehicles and basic ammunition. We will expand this initiative to higher value and more complex equipment such as military aircraft. We will build an integrated national network of services and supporting industries that will improve our self-sufficiency and strengthen our defense exports, both regionally and internationally.

Localization will be achieved through direct investments and strategic partnerships with leading companies in this sector. These moves will transfer knowledge and technology, and build national expertise in the fields of manufacturing, maintenance, repair, research and development. We will also train our employees and establish more specialized and integrated industrial complexes.

Among our commitments...

## A mining sector contributing to the national economy at full potential

We have been blessed with rich mineral resources such as aluminum, phosphate, gold, copper, uranium and other raw materials. Although the mining sector has already undergone improvements to cater to the needs of our industries, its contribution to GDP has yet to meet expectations. As such, we are determined to ensure it reaches SAR 97 billion by 2020, creating 90,000 job opportunities in the process.

We are planning a number of structural



reforms, which include stimulating private sector investments by intensifying exploration, building a comprehensive database of the Kingdom's resources, reviewing the licensing procedures for extraction, investing in infrastructure, developing funding methods and establishing centers of excellence. We will also form strategic international partnerships and raise the competitiveness and productivity of our national companies. This will boost their contribution to the sector's growth, as well as to the localization of knowledge and expertise.

Among our commitments...

## A renewable energy market

Even though we have an impressive natural potential for solar and wind power, and our local energy consumption will increase three fold by 2030, we still lack a competitive renewable energy sector at present. To build up the sector, we have set ourselves an initial target of generating 9.5 gigawatts of renewable energy. We will also seek to localize a significant portion of the renewable energy value chain in the Saudi economy, including research and development, and manufacturing, among other stages. From inputs such as silica and

petrochemicals, to the extensive expertise of our leading Saudi companies in the production of different forms of energy, we have all the raw ingredients for success. We will put this into practice with the forthcoming launch of the King Salman Renewable Energy Initiative. We will review the legal and regulatory framework that allows the private sector to buy and invest in the renewable energy sector. To localize the industry and produce the necessary skill-sets, we will also encourage public-private partnerships. Finally, we will guarantee the competitiveness of renewable energy through the gradual liberalization of the fuels market.

Among our goals by 2030...

- To move from our current position as the 19th largest economy in the world into the top 15.
- To increase the localization of oil and gas sectors from 40% to 75%
- To increase the Public Investment Fund's assets, from SAR 600 billion to over 7 trillion.

## 2.3 A thriving economy...

### Open for business

Opening Saudi Arabia further for business will boost productivity and smooth our journey







to become one of the largest economies in the world. We will improve our business environment, restructure our economic cities, create special zones and deregulate the energy market to make it more competitive.

### 2.3.1 Improving the business environment

We will further pursue public-private partnerships, continue to facilitate the flow of private investment and improve our competitiveness. We will develop the necessary capabilities to increase the quality and reliability of our services. We will coordinate with legislative authorities to review current regulations with the aim of improving the business environment and enforcing contracts.

Where it exists in strategic locations, we will also capitalize on the government's reserves of real estate. We will allocate prime areas within cities for educational institutions, retail and entertainment centers, large areas along our coasts will be dedicated to tourist projects and appropriate lands will be allocated for industrial projects.

We will enable banks and other financial institutions to adapt their financial products and services to the needs of each sector, ranging from large project capital funding to short-term working capital for small businesses. We will also facilitate and expedite licensing procedures based on our national economic priorities. We will apply international legal and commercial regulations strictly and create a business environment conducive to long-term investment.

We will strive to facilitate the movement of

people and goods, and to simplify customs procedures at our ports.

As a result, we will create an environment attractive to both local and foreign investors, and earn their confidence in the resilience and potential of our national economy.

### 2.3.2 Rehabilitating economic cities

We are aware that the economic cities of the last decade did not realize their potential. Work has halted in several cities, and others face challenges that threaten their viability. We have worked in cooperation with Aramco to restructure Jizan Economic City. We will strive to salvage other economic cities, especially those with comparative advantages. To achieve this, we will work with the companies owning those cities to revamp them and transfer vital facilities. This effort will depend on the readiness of these companies to work with the government. Our aim is for these cities to contribute in the development of the economy and to attract quality investments as well as local and international talent, all kept in line with our national priorities.

### 2.3.3 Establishing special zones

We will create special zones in exceptional and competitive locations. We shall take into account the comparative advantages of the Kingdom's different regions, assess their feasibility for promising sectors, and then establish special zones, such as logistic, tourist, industrial and financial ones. Special commercial regulations to boost investment possibilities and diversify government revenues will be applied to these zones.

### 2.3.4 Increasing the competitiveness of our energy sector

We plan to raise the efficiency of the government's support system and make the best use of its benefits by redirecting it and targeting eligible citizens and economic sectors. For example, we understand that providing subsidies with no clear eligibility criteria is a substantial obstacle to the energy sector's competitiveness. Free market prices shall, in the long term, stimulate productivity and competitiveness among utility companies and open the door to investment and diversification of the energy mix in the Kingdom. We will also seek to set clear subsidy criteria based on the maturity of economic sectors, their ability to compete locally and internationally and their actual need for subsidies, without endangering promising and strategic sectors.

Among our commitments...

A restructured King Abdullah Financial District

In the last decade, works started at the King Abdullah Financial District, without consideration of its economic feasibility.

The objective was to prepare the land in order to allow the business and financial communities to invest and build real estate. When this objective was not reached, the government decided back then to develop and rent the real estate. Challenges were deepened by the development of the real estate project in one single phase, which caused a significant increase in construction costs and several delays in delivery. This resulted in large oversupply of commercial space for the years to come.

Without any dramatic shift in direction, renting the three million square meters of built-up areas at reasonable prices, or even achieving decent occupancy rates, will be very challenging. With this in mind, we have reviewed the economic feasibility of and designed a new fundamental strategy for the district in order to increase the chances of profitability and success. We will seek to transform the district into a special zone that has competitive regulations and procedures, with visa exemptions, and directly connected to the King Khaled International Airport.

We will also seek to repurpose some of the built-up areas and change the real estate mix, increasing the allocation for residential accommodation, services and hospitality areas. We will seek to build and create an integrated and attractive living and working environment. The district will be the headquarters of the Public Investment Fund, the largest sovereign wealth fund, which will contribute to creating an environment attractive to financial, investment and other corporations.





Among our commitments...

## A flourishing retail sector

Over the past decade, the retail sector achieved an annual growth rate in excess of 10 percent. It currently employs 1.5 million workers, of which only 0.3 million are Saudis. Traditional retail also still dominates 50 percent of the market in the Kingdom compared to 20 percent in a number of countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with our retail market suffering from limited penetration of modern trade and e-commerce. We aim to provide job opportunities for an additional million Saudis by 2020 in a growing retail sector that attracts modern, local, regional, and international brands across all regions of the country. We also aim to increase the contribution of modern trade and e-commerce to 80 percent of the retail sector by 2020. This will be achieved by attracting both regional and international retail investors and by easing restrictions on ownership and foreign investment.

To this end, we will facilitate local and regional flow of goods and develop necessary sectoral regulations. We will also increase financing of small retail enterprises to stimulate their growth and development.

Among our commitments...

## A developed digital infrastructure

A sophisticated digital infrastructure is integral to today's advanced industrial activities. It attracts investors and enhances the fundamental competitiveness of the Saudi economy.

We will partner with the private sector to develop the telecommunications and information technology infrastructure, especially high-speed broadband, expanding its coverage and capacity within and around cities and improving its quality. Our specific goal is to exceed 90 percent housing coverage in densely populated cities and 66 percent in other urban zones.

We will also develop building standards to

facilitate the extension of broadband networks.

We will strengthen the governance of digital transformation through a national council. Additionally, we will improve our regulations and establish an effective partnership with telecom operators to better develop this critical infrastructure. We will also support local investments in the telecommunications and information technology sectors.

Among our goals by 2030...

- To rise from our current position of 25 to the top 10 countries on the Global Competitiveness Index
- To increase foreign direct investment from 3.8% to the international level of 5.7% of GDP.
- To increase the private sector's contribution from 40% to 65% of GDP.

## 2.4 A thriving economy...

### Leveraging its unique position

Saudi Arabia is right at the crossroads of important international trade routes, between three continents: Asia, Europe and Africa. We will therefore maximize the benefits from our exceptional and strategic geographic position, agree new strategic partnerships to grow our economy and help Saudi companies to increase exports of their products. We will leverage the close proximity of energy sources and our distinctive logistical offer to stimulate a new phase of industrialization and to catalyze exports and re-exports.

### 2.4.1 Building a unique regional logistical hub

We have already invested heavily in the construction of ports, railways, roads and airports. To take full advantage of these investments, we plan to work with the private sector and enter into a new series of international partnerships to complete, improve and link our infrastructure internally and across borders. We will also unlock our "hard" infrastructure with systems that can drive higher performance, including more rigorous governance, leaner processes and a



more efficient customs system. We will improve and implement existing laws and regulations. Air, maritime, and other transport operators will be encouraged to make the most of their capacity: achieving durable links between existing trade hubs, as well as opening new trade routes. This will reinforce our position as a distinctive logistical gateway to the three continents.

### 2.4.2 Integrating regionally and internationally

With a GDP of SAR 2.4 trillion, our economy is already the largest in the Middle East. We enjoy close economic ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council and other Arab countries, as well as constructive relations with Islamic and foreign countries. We will seek to establish new business partnerships and facilitate a smoother flow of goods, people and capital.

Among our top priorities is to fortify and extend our interconnectivity and economic integration with other Gulf Cooperation Council countries. We will strive to complete the process of implementing the GCC common market, unifying customs, economic and legal policies, and constructing shared road and railway networks.

We will seek to effectively link with other countries in the region, through enhanced logistics services and new cross-border infrastructure projects, including land transport projects with Africa through Egypt. Logistical and trade exchanges will be streamlined, further cementing our pre-eminent position as a major trade hub.

### 2.4.3 Supporting our national companies

Rather than competing generically across the board, we will concentrate on our comparative advantages, national strengths and the areas that will assure leadership status. Initially, our priority will be to fully support major national companies, which have already gained a leading market share, by promoting their products and services regionally and globally,







especially in the fields of oil, petrochemicals, banking, telecommunications, food, health care, and retail. We will also seek to support Saudi companies with promising growth opportunities so they develop into new regional and global leaders. Finally, we will fully support our national industries, assisting them to market themselves abroad and to export their products. Among our goals by 2030 ...

- To raise our global ranking in the Logistics Performance Index from 49 to 25 and ensure the Kingdom is a regional leader
- To raise the share of non-oil exports in non-oil GDP from 16% to 50%

### 3.1.1 Embracing transparency

We shall have zero tolerance for all levels of corruption, whether administrative or financial. We will adopt leading international standards and administrative practices, helping us reach the highest levels of transparency and governance in all sectors. We will set and uphold high standards of accountability. Our goals, plans and performance indicators will be published so that progress and delivery can be publicly monitored. Transparency will be boosted and delays reduced by expanding online services and improving their governance standards, with the aim of becoming a global leader in e-government.

### 3.1.2 Protecting our vital resources

We will continue to build safe and sufficient strategic food reserves, to better guard against emergencies. Aquaculture will be promoted, as will strategic partnerships with countries blessed with natural resources such as fertile soil and water reserves. In Saudi Arabia, the use of water in agriculture will be prioritized for

those areas with natural and renewable water sources. We will also continue to collaborate with consumers, food manufacturers and distributors to reduce any resource wastage.

### 3.1.3 Engaging everyone

We will deepen communication channels between government agencies on one hand and citizens and the private sector on the other. We shall facilitate interactive, online and smart engagement methods and ways to listen to citizens' views, and to hear all insights and perspectives. We will encourage government agencies to improve the quality of their services, and to meet the needs of every citizen. We want to give everyone the opportunity to have their say so that the government can serve them better and meet their aspirations.

### 3.1.4 Committing to efficient spending and balanced finances

Our commitment is clear: there will be no taxes on citizens' income or wealth, nor on basic goods. We shall prudently and efficiently balance our budget, as well as diversify and maximize our revenue sources. Our goal is to keep prices stable over the long term, and give Saudi citizens greater economic security. ---

In the public sector, we will seek to eliminate waste and continue to make spending more efficient. This will be achieved through stricter spending controls, focusing on high impact projects, aligning strategic priorities to budget, rigorous auditing and putting in place tough accountability mechanisms. We have reviewed all our existing and approved projects to ensure that they will have a sufficiently positive impact on the nation and our economy. We have taken the necessary measures to halt projects that fail to show potential impact and meet predefined standards. We will plan also for better

management of our talented civil service, and provide shared services within our government according to best practices.

We will work to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Public Investment Fund, so that its proceeds can become a new and sustainable public revenue stream. Non-oil revenues will increase as logistical and trade flows increase, and as we grow a more diversified and balanced Saudi economy. We will continue to manage effectively oil production to ensure a rewarding flow of oil revenue and reinvestment. We will revamp government license and service fees and develop the appropriate collection tools. Finally, we will seek to offer, at appropriate fees, a number of new services in select sectors, such as municipal, transport and labor sectors.

### 3.1.5 Organizing ourselves with agility

By eliminating supreme councils in the Kingdom and establishing the Council of Political and Security Affairs and the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, we have increased our effectiveness, efficiency and the speed of decision-making. We will continue in this policy direction, to deliver this Vision for Saudi Arabia. This will result in effective governance and better business continuity within each ministry.

We will carefully examine our government structures and procedures, roles, responsibilities and capabilities. Our ambition is a more joined-up government, with clearer links between policy decisions, delivery, and performance monitoring. We will take an evidence-based approach, just as we will with preventing financial and administrative waste. We will continue to develop monitoring units and help them with recruitment, budgets and other organizational support, to make sure that Saudi services are performing well in accordance with global best practices. These units will push for coordination between government agencies and other relevant bodies, as well as help them monitor and improve their performance.

Among our commitments...

## King Salman Program for Human Capital Development

We have yet to identify and put into effect the best practices that would ensure that public sector employees have the right skills for the future. However, by 2020, we aim to have trained, through distance learning, 500,000 government employees. All ministries and government institutions will be required to adopt best practices in human capital development. We will continue to hire individuals according to merit and work towards building a broad talent base, so they may become leaders of the future.

The King Salman Program for Human Capital





Development will establish HR centers of excellence in every government agency, and provide training. We will work to raise the productivity of employees to the highest levels possible, by implementing proper performance management standards, providing continuous training for professional development, and sharing knowledge. We will develop targeted policies to identify and empower future leaders, and will furnish a stimulating environment that provides equal opportunities and rewards for excellence.

Among our commitments...

## Shared services to our government agencies

We are working towards shared services across our government agencies. This will contribute to achieving our goal of increasing productivity and raising the efficiency of government spending. Shared services in our government will also aim to increase quality, cut costs, unify our efforts, and provide a suitable work environment for all parties at the lowest cost.

Shared services can be applied globally and locally in many sectors. This is our long-term goal, and we will implement it gradually. As a first step therefore, we will examine the status of support services in government sectors, set the scope of work and develop comprehensive priorities and implementation plans. We will follow best practices in employing shared services, with a robust set of performance indicators that will measure quality, workflow improvement, cost reduction and knowledge transfer.

Among our commitments...

## “Qawam”: increasing spending efficiency

We are committed to making our public spending radically more efficient, using our resources more effectively, and limiting waste. We will launch the “Qawam” program as a reflection of the Qur’anic verse that calls for moderation in spending between excess and parsimony. Allah the Almighty says: “And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor niggardly, but hold a medium (way) between those (extremes)”

Through this program, we will comprehensively review financial regulations in all government agencies. The program is intended to move away from a narrow reliance on process auditing, and move towards a more integrated approach with effective and efficient spending controls, and specific and measurable goals, while sustaining resources and assets. We will raise awareness and reward a culture of efficient spending throughout all administrative levels. Specialized training for employees and other key stakeholders will be provided as

required, boosting the performance of finance departments and internal auditing.

Among our commitments...

## Effective e-government

We have made remarkable progress in e-government. The scope of online services has already been expanded over the last decade to include employment programs, online job searches, e-learning services, traffic, passports and civil affairs, online payment services, online issuance of commercial registers, among others. This has improved Saudi Arabia’s ranking on several global indicators. In the UN e-Government Index, for instance, we ranked 36 in 2014, up from 90 in 2004.

We will expand the scope of current online services further to include areas such as geographic information, health care and education. Quality will be improved by streamlining processes, and diversifying communication channels. We will also support the wider use of online applications in government agencies, such as cloud applications, data sharing platforms and HR management systems. Finally, we will strengthen the governance of online services within the government itself.

Among our goals by 2030...

- To increase non-oil government revenue from SAR 163 billion to SAR 1 Trillion.

- To raise our ranking in the Government Effectiveness Index, from 80 to 20.

- To raise our ranking on the E-Government Survey Index from our current position of 36 to be among the top five nations.

## 3.2 An Ambitious nation...

### Responsibly enabled

The nation we aspire to build will not be realized without a grand, collective national effort where everyone contributes. We all have roles to fulfill, whether we are working in the public, private or non-profit sectors. We will therefore work continually to achieve our hopes and fulfil our aspirations and responsibilities to our country, our society, our families, and to ourselves.

### 3.2.1 Being responsible for our lives

We have already faced and overcome many challenges and accomplished much, by the grace of Allah and our brotherhood. We have contributed to building our country. We have been, and still are, a great example in assuming responsibility. Today, as we face fresh challenges, new roles and responsibilities are required. We







should feel great confidence in our capabilities, in our understanding of our obligations and in our ability to achieve excellence for our nation, our society, our families and ourselves.

We are each personally responsible for our own futures. As such, we will develop ourselves and will work to become independent and active members of society, developing new skills in the process. We will remember our lifelong obligations to our families. In the workplace, we will be committed and disciplined, acquire new experience and pursue our ambitions. We will create the right environment to enable us to fulfill these responsibilities. We will promote greater financial independence by providing planning tools such as mortgages, savings portfolios, and retirement options. We will set up a regulatory framework that empowers the non-profit sector.

### 3.2.2 Being responsible in business

We aspire to have businesses that contribute to developing our society and our country, not be geared solely towards generating profits. We expect our companies to observe their social responsibilities and contribute to creating a sustainable economy, including by creating the stimulating opportunities for young men and women that can help them build their professional careers. We will encourage the businesses that follow through on this commitment to participate in our country and to address national challenges.

### 3.2.3 Being responsible to society

The values of giving, compassion, cooperation and empathy are firmly entrenched in our society. We have already played an influential role in providing social aid locally, regionally

and globally. In the future, we will formalize and strengthen the organization of our social and compassionate work so that our efforts have the maximum results and impact.

Today, we have fewer than 1,000 non-profit foundations and associations. In order to increase the resilience and impact of this sector, we will continue to develop regulations necessary to empower non-profit organizations. We will review our regulations to encourage endowments to sustainably fund the sector and to encourage corporations and high net worth families to establish non-profit organizations. Government support will be directed to the programs with highest social impact and we will support training workers to encourage volunteering and careers in the non-profit sector. Enabling non-profit organizations to attract the best talents in order to ensure best management practices and the transfer of knowledge, which will strengthen these institutions over the long-term. This will ensure that the non-profit sector plays an enhanced and more efficient role in critical sectors such as health care, education, housing, research, and cultural and social programs.

Among our commitments...

### A more impactful non-profit sector

Today, we have fewer than 1,000 non-profit and charitable foundations and associations. They contribute just 0.3 percent of our GDP, much less than the global average of 6 percent. Currently, just 7 percent of projects are focused on generating social impact or are aligned with the long-term national priorities. By 2020, more than one third of our non-profit organizations' projects should have measurable and deep social impact. The recently published regulations on non-profit

organizations and on the General Authority for Endowments will help the non-profit sector become more institutionalized, formalized and more efficient. We will accelerate this shift further by supporting projects and programs with high social impact and by facilitating the establishment of non-profit organizations by high net worth families, which will promote rapid growth of the non-profit sector. We will support this growth by creating a supportive and cooperate environment in which the sector's institutions and government agencies can collaborate.

At the same time, we will encourage the non-profit sector to apply proper governance standards, facilitate high quality training to staff and promote a culture of volunteering and full-time careers in the sector.

Among our goals by 2030...

- To increase household savings from 6% to 10% of total household income
- To raise the non-profit sector's contribution to GDP from less than 1% to 5%
- To rally one million volunteers per year (compared to 11,000 now)

### How to achieve our Vision

We have outlined a comprehensive and ambitious Vision for Saudi Arabia until the year 2030. It is the first step on our journey towards a better, brighter future for our country and our citizens. To achieve our aspirations and hopes, we have already launched many transformative programs that have paved the way for the Vision and will help us achieve our goals. These include, but are not limited to the following:

**The Government Restructuring program:** Around the world, governments are organizing themselves with agility, continuously restructuring and aligning their systems to national priorities. We have already started moving along this path by eliminating supreme councils and establishing the Council of Political and Security Affairs and the Council of Economic and Development Affairs. These reforms have helped to speed strategy development and decision-making, as well as enhance performance. We will continue this careful restructuring, comprehensively and gradually, based on our clear priorities.

**The Strategic Directions program:** We have approved the strategic directions determined by our government agencies. Existing roles have been reviewed to align with our future economic and social needs. Decisions are based on detailed studies and benchmarks, as well as comprehensive analysis of each agency's programs, plans and relevant performance indicators. The Fiscal Balance program: After the Council of Economic and Development Affairs was established, we began examining our existing capital expenditures, their approval





mechanism and their measureable economic impact. We have formed committees and introduced new departments tasked with reviewing relevant regulations and taking the necessary action on the expenditures. As a consequence, last year, we increased our non-oil revenues by 30 percent, and we plan to continue diversifying our non-oil revenues in the coming years, by introducing new measures.

**The Project Management program:** The Kingdom's agencies are currently undergoing a wave of reforms and transformation. To manage this momentum and ensure all efforts are coordinated, we adopted an effective approach to project management and established expert project management offices (PMOs) in the Council of Economic and Development Affairs and many other government agencies. We also set up a central Delivery Unit.

**The Regulations Review program:** Over the past year, we reviewed many current laws and enacted new laws that have been years overdue. These include the company law, the non-governmental organizations' law, the law concerning fees on non-used lands, the General Authority for Endowments (Awqaf) law, among others. We will continue to review all laws to ensure they are in line with the Kingdom's priorities.

**The Performance Measurement program:** We adopted the principle of performance measurement, and made sure it is properly used in our evaluation of all government agencies, their programs, initiatives and executives. We established the Center for Performance Management of Government Agencies to institutionalize these efforts for the long-term and built performance dashboards to promote accountability and transparency.

To ensure the realization of Saudi Arabia's Vision for 2030, we are preparing to launch a group of executive programs that will have a

significant impact on implementation. These include, but are not limited to the following:

**The Saudi Aramco Strategic Transformation program:** We believe that Saudi Aramco has the ability to lead the world in other sectors besides oil, and it has worked on a sweeping transformative program that will position it as a leader in more than one sector.

**The Public Investment Fund Restructuring program:** Having worked on restructuring the fund, we are now refining its investment capabilities and enabling the fund to manage a broader portfolio of current and new assets. We aim to transform it into the largest sovereign wealth fund in the world and will announce a comprehensive plan to achieve this goal.

**The Human Capital program:** Because human capital is a crucial factor in the success of any substantial project, we aim to launch a thorough program for nurturing our human talent. This program will measure, assess and analyze the efficiency of our civil service. It will also support our government agencies with staff, studies, consultations, and strategic partnerships related to human capital.

**The National Transformation program:** In a new approach, our government agencies have been working through numerous workshops to examine their role in implementing the initiatives necessary for delivering on national priorities. We are identifying opportunities for partnering with the private sector, as well as innovative administrative and funding approaches. We are detailing specific initiatives that have clear performance indicators.

**The Strategic Partnerships program:** We are working with our economic partners around the world to build new strategic partnerships for the twenty-first century, in harmony with our national Vision, so that we can be a trade hub connecting three continents and enhance

our exports. **The Privatization program:** We are in the process of determining additional sectors suitable for privatization. Our goal is to create a comprehensive privatization program. We will make use of international best practices, transfer knowledge and achieve our goals in a balanced and scientific manner.

**The program for Strengthening Public Sector Governance:** We will work on restructuring our government agencies continuously and with flexibility. We will eliminate redundant roles, unify efforts, streamline procedures and define responsibilities. We shall also enable our agencies to deliver on their mandate, to be accountable, to ensure business continuity and to show adaptability in the face of new challenges. Under the Council of Economic and Development Affairs, we will establish a strategic management office to focus on coordinating all government programs and ensuring their careful alignment with the national Vision. The office will also prevent gaps, duplication or contradiction between agencies' policies and programs, and ensure that all components of the Vision are detailed in proper sectoral strategies. We will also establish a Decision Support Center at the Royal Court to support decision-making through analytical and evidence-based information and reports.

Our commitment to achieving the goals of these pivotal programs and our collective contribution shall be the first step towards achieving Saudi Arabia's Vision for 2030. We will continue to launch new programs in the upcoming years as required, and we will continuously review and assess our performance in achieving this Vision. May Allah bless us and guide us to the right path.

Source: <http://www.mofa.gov.sa/sites/mofaen/Vision2030/Pages/default.aspx>







## King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief **A pioneering humanitarian role**

**K**ing Salman is well-known for his charitable works and efforts. He is the President of the Assembly of Prince Salman Center for Disability Research, Honorary President of the Assembly of Prince Fahd bin Salman for Patients with Kidney Failure, Honorary President of the Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation and many other associations.

Since 1956, King Salman assumed the presidency of many humanitarian and service committees which took over the relief and aid responsibilities of supporting many of the stricken regions around the world, whether the regions affected by war or natural disasters. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz won many medals due to his humanitarian efforts from Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Morocco, Palestine, Philippine, Senegal, United Nations and Yemen.







#### **Associations and Organizations Abroad Activities Chaired by King Salman:**

- Chairman of the Committee to donate to the victims of Suez in 1956.
- Head of the Main Committee to Collect Funds for Algeria in 1956.
- Chairman of the People's Committee to Help the Families of the Martyrs of Jordan in 1967.
- Chairman of the People's Committee to Help the Palestinian People.
- Chairman of the People's Committee for the Relief of the Victims of Pakistan in 1973.
- Chairman of the People's Committee to support the War Effort in Egypt in 1973.
- Chairman of the People's Committee to Support the War Effort in Syria in 1973.
- Chairman of the Committee for the Relief of Local Victims of the Floods in Sudan in 1988.
- Chairman of the Local Committee to Provide Aid and Shelter to Kuwaiti Nationals Following the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait in 1990.
- Chairman of the Local Committee to Receive Donations for Those Affected by Floods in Bangladesh in 1991.
- Chairman of the High Commission to Collect Donations for Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.
- Chairman of the Kingdom's Exhibition between Yesterday and Today which is Held in a Number of Arab and European Countries, the United States and Canada during the period in 1985/1992.
- Chairman of the Supreme Committee to Collect Funds for Al-Quds Uprising in Riyadh in 2000.







Historically, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken on a pioneering humanitarian role in serving the international community around the world. King Salman realizes the significance of this role in alleviating human suffering and ensuring that all people are given the opportunity to live healthy, dignified lives. To further emphasize their dedication to the service of all in need, King Salman established

borders. The activities of the center were inaugurated in May of 2015 under the high patronage and guidance of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, may God support him.

The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre is on the forefront of humanitarian outreach throughout the globe. To date it has

Middle East to Central and South Asia. At a time where there are more internal and external refugees on the move than at any time since World War II, Saudi Arabia through King Salman Relief Centre is assuming the responsibility that in some circles is solely lacking. Some of the poorest countries on the planet, and in some cases not Muslim, like Honduras have been able to work directly with the King Salman Relief Centre and others like Burkina Faso are hardly even given the dignity of a momentary thought.

Established in 2015 it has not hesitated to project its mandate to aid and assist the poor throughout the globe. It does not make decisions to assist based on politics, ethnicity or religion. Only its ability to help and make a difference are the factors that are taken into consideration. We have seen since the 1990s what happens when indifference meets tragedy: pain, despair, and sadly death.

In one of the many initiatives undertaken by The King Salman Relief Centre there are 28 food security and shelter projects benefitting some 18 million people in countries like Mauritania, Zambia, Somalia, Albania, Yemen, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

### World's largest donors

To put it in perspective, Saudi Arabia has been among the world's largest donors and was the global leader of contributions for humanitarian causes on the basis of a percentage of GDP.



King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre. The purpose of this important international organization is to provide humanitarian aid and relief to those in need outside of the Kingdom's

provided humanitarian and development aid to more than 37 countries, which stretch from Central America to East Asia, from West Africa to Southeastern Europe, and obviously from the







Another way of looking the scope of the outreach from the Kingdom is the contribution in 2015 of \$274 million as a target set by the United Nations. The Kingdom matched that total in its opening pledge.

It is not too much of an exaggerated statement when it is offered that at no time in recent history has there been comparable levels of war and death from North Africa to the very heart of the Middle East. The people of Syria and Iraq have endured images and experiences along the human spectrum that can only be rivaled perhaps by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia or Eastern Europe from January 1945 until the end of World War II in May of that year.



The slaughterhouse in Syria seems to have come to a momentary pause and with Iraq shares a humanitarian crisis of massive proportions. Once prosperous farms possessing good land have been burnt and laid to waste,

homes destroyed, with millions trundling their belongings to unknown destinations.

Temporary housing aid, food distribution centers, have been created in Syria for what is an estimated one million displaced Palestinian refugees affected by the brutal war there. Currently in Yemen there are over 21 humanitarian aid delivery projects which benefit an estimated 27 million people which involve some 11 international and local partners.

### Medical aid projects

Included in the overall operation are some 33 medical aid projects that reach some 16 million Yemeni's and Yemeni refugees in Djibouti, and this individual segment of the humanitarian outreach program to Yemen encompasses some 40 intentional and local partners.

A significant achievement of the King Salman Relief Centre in Yemen has seen some 98 percent of cholera patients cured. These numbers have been proven accurate and according to the World Health Organization the death rate associated with cholera has gone down to 0.8 percent.

Upon coming to power King Salman bin Abdulaziz set up this organization and it has not lacked in making an impact. As Governor of Riyadh he had a demonstrated track record of vigorous participation in charity and humanitarian work. This tradition continues







and the importance of its mission is not lost when a Minister Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeah was chosen to lead this cause.

In both Syria and Yemen there is the real prospect of aid intended for humanitarian missions being stolen and the individuals working to get it to those who need it risking their lives for their causes. Nonetheless the work of The King Salman Relief Center and its people carries on unabated in the face of this. To be confronted with pain, suffering, in some cases evil, and to be indifferent, or choose to do nothing actually aligns with a position being taken.

### The best generation

By doing nothing the pain, suffering, and evil is enabled to continue when people do nothing. When Prophet Muhammed (Peace be Upon Him) arrived in Madinah, he created bonds of







brotherhood between the local inhabitants and the emigrants from Mecca.

In this way, he encouraged them to render assistance to one another and live together in harmony. The Prophet, in his wisdom, brought two different peoples together into one combined society, who became the best generation humanity has ever witnessed.

It is important that the previous sentence is read carefully again because it included all the peoples who lived in Madinah. The King Salman Relief Centre works in this same line of thinking.

It is mandated for Saudi Arabia to play a role in bring humanitarian aid and provide a path to the end of misery and suffering where it is possible to do so. And today through its actions, Saudi Arabia has done that in a most decisive manner for all peoples, Muslim and non-Muslim.



The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre aims to be an international model of excellence for the provision of humanitarian aid. Some of the fundamental principles upon which the center bases its operations are:

- Providing help to indigent and crisis-affected people throughout the world.
- Providing aid objectively and fairly to all in need.
- Coordinating and consulting with reliable and trustworthy international organizations and institutions.
- Following internationally-accepted criteria for the optimum selection and application of relief programs.
- Unifying the efforts of all parties concerned in the Kingdom's relief activities.
- Ensuring the professionalism and competence of the center's employees and volunteers.
- Accurate aid delivery to eligible recipients, ensuring that targeted aid is not diverted for other purposes.
- Aid must meet the highest quality standards.





## KSA support to Pakistan in the hours of extreme sufferings

On 8th October 2005 half of Pakistan including Azad Kashmir and KPK were jolted by a powerful earth quake of 7.8 magnitude. Pakistan was worst hit in the history of the nation. The friendship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was put to test and indeed Saudi government support to Pakistan in the hours of extreme sufferings is written with golden pen in the history of both the nations. From medical facilities to prefabricated houses, from uninterrupted supply of rations to provision of rescue expertise all across the affected area of Pakistan is the evidence of exceptionally warm and heart touching relations between Pakistan & Saudi Arabia.

As Pakistan was put to test in the month of Ramzan! It was indeed a very special gift from the Kingdom of Humanity when custodian of two holy mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud sent special dates weighing 50 tons, for distribution among the October 8, 2005 Earthquake affectees.

Number of Saudi Delegations visited the quake hit areas on the special instruction of Saudi Government, Interior Minister, Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz to provide instant relief to the affected people of jolted area.

In 2010 flood, Saudi Arabia has been played a major role in rehabilitation of people. KSA give \$105m (£67m) in aid, according to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, though just \$5m of this is in cash, with the rest in the form of relief goods. The Saudi public has separately raised \$19m.

Who so ever has been in the Government of Pakistan the brotherhood between two nations has always been on sharp increase. May it be the first Islamic Summit of Lahore conducted by the Government of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1974 and love of King Faisal with Bhutto, or the very especial relations of General Zia ul Haq with King Fahd, relations with Saudi Arabia are always prospering!

The next generation of Pakistani leadership indeed carrying the flag of friendship even higher then set by their predecessors. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto following the footsteps of her late Father has been very close to the Royal family and during his two Tenures as PM, Pakistan and KSA became more of strategic partners then friends.

As far as the PM Nawaz Sharif is concerned his politics in Pakistan hugely revolves around







Pakistan's relationship with SA, especially during his 2nd tenure Nawaz Sharif cemented these relations with number of pacts and treaties in the field of education, defence, trade, with the silver lining on it, a huge industrial revival in the best interest of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The major Pakistani city of Lyallpur was also renamed Faisalabad in honor of King Faisal in 1977.

In 2014 Pakistan government had announced that Saudi Arabia provided a grant of \$1.5 billion to Pakistan. The nature of the grant was declared as a gift. Moreover, Saudi's have limited the pay back for Pakistan government in terms of finance but also provide food and other benefits to be sent to Pakistan. More than 1million ton food is sent to Islamabad from Saudi. The kingdom has often tried to woo Pakistan by giving it gifts and loans, for example in 2014 it gifted Pakistan 200 tones of dates.

The two countries share religious ties and are united by common motives to commemorate their religion and beliefs. President Mamnoon Hussain has reiterated Pakistan's resolve to standby Saudi Arabia to ensure its territorial integrity and defence. He said the people and government of Pakistan have special feelings for the people of Saudi Arabia and its leadership.

During the talks between PM Nawaz Sharif and King Salman, situation in the Middle East and issues facing the Muslim world came under discussion. The Pakistani PM elaborated upon the measures being taken to tackle terrorism and militancy in Pakistan. Further, it was agreed that both nations have had cordial relations and that there was further need to strengthen the association by focusing on the trade and economic ties. Also, that it was required to converge on matters of regional and international significance.

This story of everlasting friendship between two Muslim nations is still on and fresh like a blossom! Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy close relations which are marked by common perceptions on all issues of mutual interests. Both countries have sought to develop extensive commercial, cultural, religious and strategic relations. The rapidly changing geo-political and geo-strategic scenarios in the region and the Middle East demands greater levels of mutual cooperation and collaboration at all levels. The way forward between both the countries is to have joint security plan, cooperation in the energy sector, shared and comprehensive strategy against terrorism and extremism and most importantly, working towards creating an environment of peace in the region.

People of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are locked in a relationship for times to come.

Long live Pak- Saudi Friendship

In-sha-Allah!







## Conjoined Twins, a Trip to Saudi Arabia

# A Life- Changing Procedure



**B**ased on the directive of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Pakistani conjoined twins Fatima and Mashael were successfully separated in a surgery at King Abdullah Specialist Hospital for Children in King Abdulaziz Medical City for the National Guard in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The twins underwent an operation to separate them from their lower chest and abdomen which was performed over 6 phases taking 6 hours by 20 consultants/specialists.

The parents of the twins are extremely appreciative and truly thankful for the fatherly gesture and generosity of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, as well as to the Medical team and the successful outcome of the separation. This is the 40th Case that has been separated by the Saudi Team.

The operation, on March 26, was part of a long-running Saudi program to separate conjoined twins who come from poor families around the world. Dr. Abdullah al-Rabeeah, the surgeon who leads the program, said that since 1990

it had performed 40 procedures for families from 20 countries — on three continents — who could not otherwise afford the costly operations. That includes 34 separations like Fatima and Mishal's. The program appeared to be one of the largest of

its type in the world.

King Salman approves individual cases and the government foots the bills, giving patients and their families first-class plane tickets and free accommodations.







# Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Admiral Nawaf Said Ahmad Al-Malkiy hosted a reception to Mashal and Fatima in Islamabad

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Respectable audience

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Today we rejoice the successful separation of the Pakistani conjoined twins (Mashal and Fatima) at King Abdullah Specialist Hospital for Children in Riyadh. The twins arrived in Riyadh with their parents on the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz. They were admitted to King Abdullah Specialist Hospital for Children at King Abdulaziz Medical City in Riyadh. The medical and surgical teams were able to separate the conjoined twins "Fatima and Mashal" in a process that lasted about 5 hours.

As you know, Saudi Arabia's aid and assistance has stretched all through the world, regardless of religious, ethnic and racial differences. Saudi Arabia has become pioneer in humanitarian and relief works and one of its strongest supporters. Saudi Arabia leads the world in the percentage of its aid compared to total national income, including assistance to distressed countries, drought-relief assistance, disaster relief assistance and alleviating the suffering of people affected by earthquake, floods and providing non-refundable assistance and soft loans for economic development programs, humanitarian projects and medical assistance.

The suffering of conjoined children has driven the Kingdom to include separation of the conjoined twins in its humanitarian assistance

role. It has so far conducted a total of 40 successful operations, thanks to guidance from Allah Almighty and the earnest care of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. It elevated Saudi Arabia to the ranks of top countries in this region. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has brought smiles to the lives of a number of conjoined children from 19 different countries around the world through 26 years of this program. Doctors are currently receiving similar cases from Somalia, Sudan and Morocco. A long list representing many countries of the world is pending before specialized surgery team to determine the priority of the surgical operation.

The conjoined twins are one of the rare cases in the world that takes place in one out of 200,000 people. The cost of a single operation is between 300,000 and one million Saudi riyals. The Kingdom pays for all its expenses, including accommodation for the family and more than a year follow-up treatment of conjoined children even after they return home with their parents. As humanitarian cause is part of the relief work, undertaken by King Salman Relief and Humanitarian Center, under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz, it has included care for conjoined twins in its medical humanitarian work. King Abdullah Children's Hospital of the National Guard's Health Affairs has hosted a number of

humanitarian cases from different continents of the world, because care for the humanitarian issues without discrimination is the top priority of the Kingdom's leadership, keeping in mind the pleasure of Allah Almighty.

The Kingdom is proud of the presence of a Saudi medical team specialized in the conduct of separation of conjoined twins, consisting of 70 doctors and technicians headed by Dr. Abdullah al-Rabiah, former Minister of Health and a Saudi academic and physician. This team is ready at any time to conduct such operations and looks forward to intensifying the research work on this medical experience and training more national cadres to increase the number of specialists in such operations, and that the presence of a specialized hospital in the Kingdom in the field of twins separation gives it a unique global medical ranking in comparison with the most renowned medical centers in the US Philadelphia and Boston, Great Britain's Armant Hospital and Toronto Hospital in Canada.

In conclusion, I wish progress and prosperity to the brotherly country Pakistan and long live the friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. I also thank you personally and on behalf of the Embassy staff for your participation. May Allah bless you all.





## Dean of Diplomatic Corps hosted Farewell to Outgoing Envoys

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Kazakhstan Ambassador H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbayev hosted a reception in the honor of Outgoing envoys H.E. Dr. Hasrul Sani Bin Mujtabar High Commissioner of Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Sherif Shaheen Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Nedim Makarevic Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Luu Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong Ambassador of Royal Thailand at Serena Hotel, Islamabad.







## 87th National Day of KSA celebrated in Islamabad



Ambassador, H.E. Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmed Al-Malkiy, hosted an impressive reception on the 87th anniversary of the founding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at Serena hotel in Islamabad. The guest of honor was Speaker National Assembly Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Prominent representatives of the Pakistani Government, politicians, members of the diplomatic community and businessmen took part in the reception. The event was a depiction of Islamic culture and tradition











## 68th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China celebrated in Islamabad

Chinese Ambassador H.E. Sun Weidong and his wife Diana Bao hosted a reception at Serena hotel to celebrate the 68th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China. Chairman Senate Mian Raza Rabani was the chief guest of the event. Ministers, politicians, senior members of the armed forces, diplomats and the civil society were present in large numbers.











**Mr. Mian Fazal Elahi** CEO, Editor, Publisher of “Diplomatic Focus” hosted a dinner reception in the honor of Outgoing envoys H.E. Dr. Hasrul Sani Bin Muhtabar High Commissioner of Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Sherif Shaheen Ambassador of Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Mr. Nedim Makarevic Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Luu Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Suchart Liengsaengthong Ambassador of Royal Thailand and New Envoy H.E. Nawaf Bin Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy Ambassador of Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at Serena hotel, Islamabad. Mr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training was the chief guest of the eve. In other prominent guests Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, Ex. Foreign Minister and Former Speaker of National Assembly was also graced the event. Diplomats and the civil society were present in large numbers.









# 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine celebrated in Islamabad



Ambassador of Ukraine H.E. Volodymyr Lakomov hosted a reception to celebrate the 26th anniversary of Ukrainian Independence at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. The Federal Minister for State & Frontier Region Lt Gen (R) Abdul Qadir Baloch was the chief guest. The Federal Minister for Defence Production Rana Tanveer Hussain and Minister of State Pir Amin ul Hasnat also graced the ceremony. Diplomats, along with Pakistani guests from the government, private sector and civil society attended the celebration.





# Uzbekistan 26th National Day celebrated in Islamabad



H.E. Furqat Sidiqov, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan in Pakistan hosted a grand reception at Serena hotel Islamabad to mark the 26th anniversary of the Independence Day of his country. Federal Minister for Privatization Daniyal Aziz was the chief guest. The Governor Punjab Muhammad Rafique Rajwana also graced the occasion. The venue was packed with notables from all walks of life including the government officials and business community.





Ambassador of Brazil H.E. Claudio Lins hosted a reception to mark the 195th Anniversary of the independence of Brazil and the 69th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Brazil and Pakistan. Diplomats and the civil society were present at eve.





## Anniversary of Iran's Sacred Defense week observed in Islamabad



Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pakistan held a special ceremony on the occasion of the anniversary of the Sacred Defense Week at Serena Hotel, Islamabad. Chief of General Staff of Pakistan Army Lieutenant General Bilal Akbar, a high ranking commander of Pakistan army, was the chief guest on the occasion. Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Mehdi Honardoost and Iran's Military Attaché Brigadier Mohsen Riazat warmly welcomed the guests. Foreign diplomats, Pakistani officials, religious leaders, politicians, former ambassadors, professors and analysts were also present at the eve.







## Independence Day of Belarus marked in Islamabad

To celebrate the Independence Day of Belarus, a special reception was hosted by the Belarus Ambassador H.E. Andrei G. Ermolovich at local hotel, Islamabad. Mr. Sheikh Anser Aziz, mayor of Islamabad and chairman of CDA was the chief guest on the occasion. Other prominent guests included Punjab Governor Malik Mohammad Rafique Rajwana and the dean of the diplomatic corps Kazakhstan's Ambassador H.E. Bakhitbek Shabarbaev. Diplomats, along with a large number of Pakistani guests from the government, private sector and civil society attended the celebration.





## **“Friendship Night: Strengthening the Indonesian-Pakistan Brotherhood” at Indonesian Embassy Islamabad**

Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Iwan Suyudhie Amri has said that bilateral economic relations between Pakistan and Indonesia have increased during the last four years. Talking to guests at Friendship Night Dinner, the ambassador said that bilateral trade volume increased from \$1.6 billion in 2012 to \$2.1 billion in 2016. Indonesia Embassy has arranged the Friendship Night Dinner here which was attended by business community, educationists and others.





# Nepal Constitutional & National Day celebrated



The Ambassador of Nepal H.E. Ms. Sewa Lamsal Adhikari hosted a well-attended reception at Serena hotel Islamabad to mark the constitutional and national day of Nepal. Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Engr. Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman was the chief guest at the event which was also attended by politicians, intellectuals, diplomats, businessmen.





# DIPLOMATIC FOCUS

We are  
Cordially welcome to  
**H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi**  
**As New Envoy**  
of United Arab Emirates  
to Islamic Republic of Pakistan



H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi Ambassador of United Arab Emirates courtesy meeting with H.E. Nawaf Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Islamabad



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*Congratulations*  
on **87<sup>th</sup>** National Day of the  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**Muhammad Nasir Shahzad**  
C.E.O.



H.E. Nawaf Saeed Ahmad Al-Malkiy



H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi



[www.almuzammil.pk](http://www.almuzammil.pk)

1st Floor, 282-B Block, Main Boulevard, Sabzazar Scheme Lahore - Pakistan  
Email: [almuzammil\\_pk@yahoo.com](mailto:almuzammil_pk@yahoo.com), [amz@almuzammil.pk](mailto:amz@almuzammil.pk), [nasir@almuzammil.pk](mailto:nasir@almuzammil.pk)  
Tel: 0092 - 42 - 35962274, 0092 - 42 - 35962275,  
Dubai: 00971 - 502414481, 00923 - 344006004



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&  
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