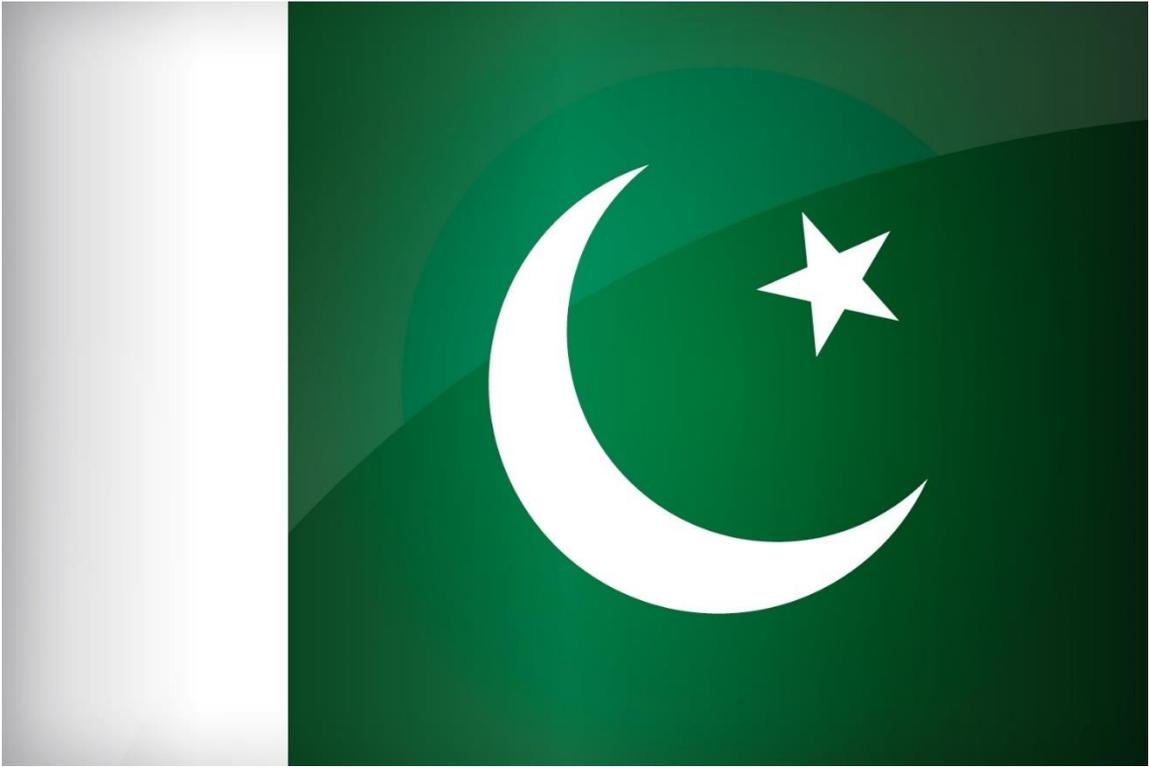


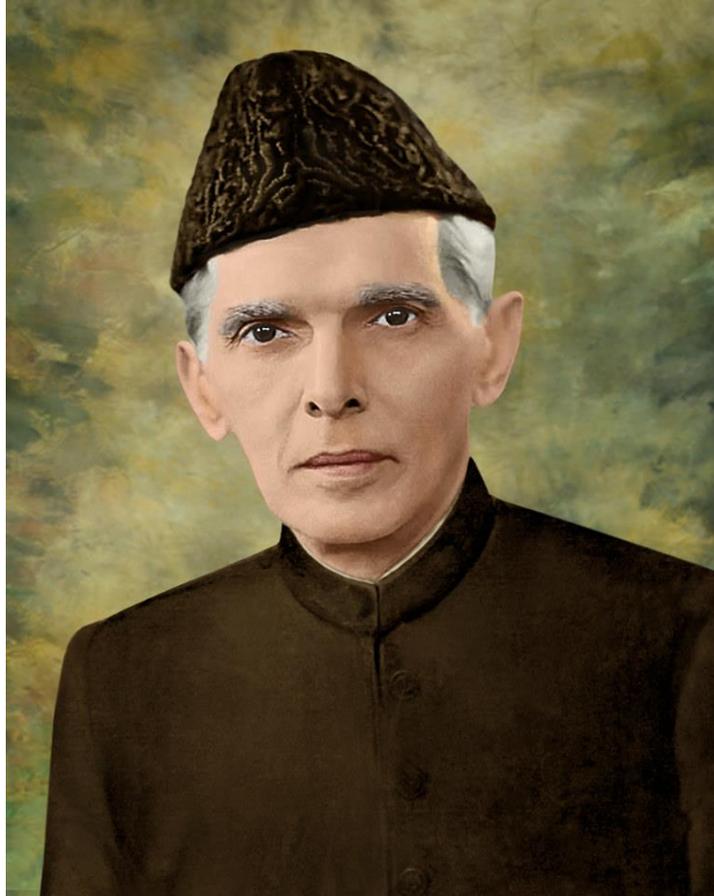


National Security Division Government of Pakistan

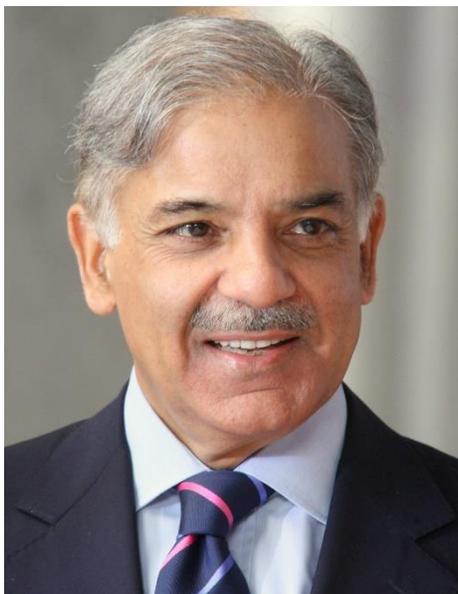
Year Book 2023-24

NATIONAL FLAG





Father of the Nation
Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah



Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

Prime Minister of Pakistan
Minister in Charge, National Security Division



Engr. Aamir Hasan (01-07-2023 to 03-12-2023)
Secretary, National Security Division



Mr. Waqar Ahmed (12-12-2023 to 05-05-2024)
Secretary, National Security Division

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FOREWORD

This booklet covers activities and achievements of the National Security Division (NSD) during financial year 2023-2024. It would not be out of place to mention at the outset that the National Security Division is relatively a new Division. It was established, on the directives of the Prime Minister, in January 2014. In its initial phase, the Division remained engaged in setting up administrative mechanisms to ensure its smooth functioning and to fulfill its mandate in line with its functions assigned under the Rules of Business, 1973.

The immediate task before the Division, soon after its establishment, was to fulfill its function of providing secretariat support to the National Security Committee (NSC), the principal decision making body on national security matters. The Division discharged this responsibility efficiently and meetings of NSC were convened as and when desired by the political leadership. Since August 2013, the Committee has met on Forty-Three (43) occasions. The meetings afforded an opportunity to political and military leadership to discuss and make decisions on national security issues including situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K); Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other important matters of internal and external security.

As part of its overall mandate, the Division has initiated National Security dialogue with international counterparts for enhancing understanding and forging cooperation on security matters. One notable international meeting of SCO in Astana, Kazakhstan on 2-3 April, 2024 was attended by Secretary NSD.

These and other such activities are being documented, in the pages that follow, towards the fulfilment of the requirement laid down under sub-rule (2) & (3) of Rules of Business, 1973. At the same time, it is hoped that this brief report would serve as a useful reference to public sector stakeholders, scholars, researchers and the general public.

Secretary
National Security Division
Islamabad

VISION

Pakistan is envisioned as an Islamic welfare state, internationally relevant and aligned with universal principles of justice, equality and tolerance. Seeking a peaceful neighborhood based on mutual co-existence, regional connectivity and shared prosperity. A secure and economically resilient Pakistan, empowered by diversity of culture, and demographic dividends, while ensuring fundamental rights and social justice without discrimination on the basis of caste, creed or belief. Promoting good governance through strengthening of institutions, transparency, accountability and openness as articles of faith.

MISSION

The National Security Division endeavors to promote and integrate initiatives on national security and strategic policy planning under a holistic National Security Policy based on the principles of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The Division seeks to promote a unified national narrative on a broad-based conception of National Security, and remains committed to providing administrative and intellectual support to the National Security Committee (NSC), Pakistan's premier decision making forum on national security, and all relevant stakeholders. Appreciating Pakistan's complex security requirements, the Division is geared to build international synergies by holding security dialogues with partner countries to strengthen Pakistan's global cooperation on matters of security.

FUNCTIONS UNDER RULES OF BUSINESS 1973

Following are the core functions assigned to the National Security Division under Government of Pakistan, Rules of Business 1973:

1. Function as Secretariat of the National Security Committee (NSC).
2. Convene meetings of the National Security Committee.
3. Collect, coordinate and collate proposals and input from all relevant Ministries and organizations for consideration of the NSC.
4. Formulate comprehensive National Security policy for approval of the National Security Committee as well as ensure its sustainability through monitoring of its implementation and undertaking periodical review / updation in consultation with all the stakeholders as required.
5. Coordinate the implementation of strategies and policies approved by the NSC through relevant Ministries and organizations.
6. Develop national narrative to promote the national security vision outlined in the NSP and counter the negative and obscurantist ideology of the extremists, terrorists, and militants.
7. Provide administrative and financial management support to the functionally independent Strategic Policy Planning Cell (SPPC) and coordinate all intellectual / research and dialogue – based activities through the SPPC.
8. Brief the Parliament and its Committees on national security related issues.
9. Conduct national security dialogue with other countries in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
10. Interact with counterpart National Security Councils of other countries.
11. Organize Islamabad Security Dialogue on regular basis.

National Security Committee

National Security Committee (NSC) is the principal decision making body of the country on national security matters. Composition of NSC is as follows:

The Prime Minister	Chairman
Minister for Defence	Member
Minister for Finance and Revenue	Member
Minister for Foreign Affairs	Member
Minister for Information and Broadcasting	Member
Minister for Interior	Member
National Security Adviser	Member
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee	Member
Chief of Army Staff	Member
Chief of Naval Staff	Member
Chief of Air Staff	Member
Secretary, National Security Division	Secretary
Secretary, Cabinet Division	Co-opted Member

One (01) meeting of the Committee held in 2023-24.

The NSC, in its 3rd meeting, held on 17th April 2014, approved composition and functions of its following two supportive arms: -

- i) Planning Committee
- ii) Advisory Board

Planning Committee

Composition

- National Security Adviser (NSA); Chair
- Secretary Foreign Affairs;
- Secretary Defence;
- Secretary Interior;
- Secretary National Security;
- Heads of the relevant intelligence agencies;
- Chief of General Staff; and
- Any other official by special invitation.

Functions

- Identify security issues on which research is required;
- Make arrangements for carrying out research by public and private sector institutions;
- Prepare necessary policy briefs and working papers for consideration of the NSC; and
- Prepare material on national security issues for presentation to the Parliament.

Advisory Board:-

Two meetings held in 2023 – 2024.

Composition

- National Security Adviser
- Secretary, National Security Division
- Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)
- President, Institute of Regional Studies (IRS)
- Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Research & Analysis (ISSRA)
- President, Center for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS)
- President, National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA) co-opted member
- Any other think tank or person of eminence with expertise in strategic and foreign policy issues.

Functions

- Conduct research on national security issues under the supervision of the National Security Division;
- Brief the Planning Committee on national security issues
- Organize national and international seminars on national security issues.

ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

National Security Policy: -

National Security Division has formulated the 1st ever Comprehensive National Security Policy of Pakistan which was approved by the Federal Cabinet on 28-12-2021 and launched on 14-01-2022. The implementation of the National Security Policy is a longstanding continuous process and to this effect meetings are being conducted across the country with quarters concerned from time to time. Update on implementation on priority areas identified in the National Security Policy was received from 35 ministries/divisions during 2023-2024.

Security Dialogue with International Counterparts: -

A core function of National Security Division is to establish linkages and initiate dialogue with national security agencies of other countries with a view to enhance understanding for Pakistan's security situation and promote bilateral/multilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism and security matters. In this regard, the Division has initiated national security dialogue with international partners. In this regard, the National Security Division represented Pakistan at the Secretaries of the Security Councils meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 1st – 2nd April, 2024. The National Security Division also negotiated the protocol for the Heads of State meeting of the SCO. Furthermore, implementation of the Security Protocol Between Pakistan and Uzbekistan continued during 2023-2024. The National Security Division also held bilateral meetings with counterpart Secretaries of the Security Council from other countries on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

Policy Review and Research on National Security

The Strategic Policy Planning Cell (SPPC) of the NSD produced regular brief for the Prime Minister on international developments and their impact on Pakistan and the wider region. In addition, the cell produced policy notes on traditional and non-traditional national security issues of an immediate and long-term nature for NSC members. The Division also provided expert opinion from national security perspective on policies being developed by other Ministries / Divisions and/or negotiations with other countries.

Strategic Communications

During the year under review, the Division continued to coordinate with other ministries and government departments on strategic communications related to key national security issues and commemoration on important national occasions.

Advisory Board and Think Tank Engagement

The NSD has focused specially on activating the Advisory Board to ensure input from partnering think tanks on relevant and vital national security issues. During the period under report i.e 2023-2024, a total of two meetings of the Advisory Board were held to discuss national security issues and seek input/briefings from Advisory Board members on policy options for Pakistan. In addition, the Division remained engaged with academia and the wider policy community through the Think Tank Portal where experts provided input on pressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges highlighted in the National Security Policy.

Building a Culture of Excellence

Significantly, the NSD continues strive to operate with a degree of professional excellence, befitting to the responsibility placed upon us. The NSD and SPPC strive to think and work with a strong emphasis on functioning as a collective unit that does not promote any undue hierarchy to work for real time policy formulation.

Automation through Deployment of E-Office System:-

Automation of file keeping and communication protocols within the Division as well as with other Ministries/Divisions have been brought in line to with NITB's E-Office System. The NSD is currently ahead of the digitalization timeline as it is operated on Level-4 of the E-Office system with respect to its daily functioning.



**Round Table on defensive, offensive economics on 1st August, 2023
Engr. Aamir Hasan, Federal Secretary, National Security Division (NSD)**



chairing the 29th meeting of the Advisory Board on 26th October, 2023



Secretary, National Security Division briefing the National Security and War course NDU's participants on National Security Policy on 31st October, 2023



Mr. Waqar Ahmad, Secretary, National Security Division chairing the 3rd Round Table Conference on "Impact of Climate Change on the Security of Pakistan" on 15th February, 2024

قومی ترانہ

پاک سرزمین شاد باد کشورِ حسین شاد باد

تو نشانِ عزمِ عالیشان ارضِ پاکستان !

مرکزِ یقینِ شاد باد

پاک سرزمین کا نظام قوتِ اخوتِ عوام

قوم ، ملکِ ہسلطنت پائندہ تابندہ باد

شاد باد منزلِ مراد

پرچمِ ستارہ و ہلال رہبرِ ترقی و کمال

ترجمانِ ماضی شانِ حال جانِ استقبالیہ !

سایہ خدائے ذوالجلال