



**INSTITUTE OF  
STRATEGIC STUDIES**

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*Report- In-House Meeting*  
*with*  
**Nigerian Media Delegation**

**July 18, 2018**



*Rapporteur: Ahmad Saffee*

*Edited by: Najam Rafique*

### Pictures of the Event



The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) hosted an In-House Meeting with a Six-member Nigerian media delegation on July 18, 2018. The members of the delegation included: Jonathan Mela Juma, Acting Director General, *National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS)*, Okeke John Chinaka, Reporter, *Authority Newspaper Ltd. Abuja*, Opurum Kingsley Chukwuma, Foreign Affairs Correspondent, *Leadership Newspaper*, Sadiyat Inoh Abah, Broadcast Journalist, *Africa Independent Television (AIT)*, *Nigerian Satellite Television Station*, Mannir Dan-Ali Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Editor-in-Chief, *MEDIA Trust Limited*, Cecilia Umaru Gayya, Director General, *Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON) Topo-Badagry*. Ambassador (Retd) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, Najam Rafique, Director Research, Ahmad Saffee, Research Fellow, and Taimur Khan, Research Assistant participated from the ISSI side.

Ambassador (Retd) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry welcomed the delegation and briefed them on the broad contours of Pakistan's foreign policy, especially the challenges it faced from hostile borders on its east and west including the situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan-India relations including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Highlighting the Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, he focused on the past three years, especially since the establishment of the new government of Ashraf Ghani in Afghanistan. He said that the recent border skirmishes on Pakistan-Afghanistan border have been of concern for Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan has improved its border management system which has irked the Afghan government. In terms of the Afghan peace process, Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry was of the opinion that more than anyone else, it is the Afghan government that has been a spoiler to these processes. He believed that rather than blaming Pakistan, the Afghan government should take responsibility and the onus of peace is now with them.

Emphasizing the recent emerging trends in Pakistan-India bilateral relations, he underscored the adverse and belligerent Indian posture towards Pakistan's conciliatory policy in the region. He stressed that both countries should engage in a sustained dialogue process and avoid war-mongering. In addition, Amb. Chaudhry expressed grave concerns on recent incidents in Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir and India's threat of adversely affecting the

bilateral Indus water agreement between the two countries. He added that international community should take notice of India's belligerent actions.

Presenting the historical background to Pakistan-Africa relations, Mr. Ahmad Saffee lauded Pakistan's role in anti-colonial campaign in Africa at multilateral forums. He further added that despite the shared cordiality, Pakistan-Nigeria bilateral relations lack content. He believed that Pakistan-Nigeria relation has much potential that needs to be realized. He pointed towards the potential in the field of economic cooperation, especially with regard to oil and gas, textile, agriculture and livestock industry.

Mr. Ahmad Saffee said that irrespective of missed opportunities and potentials, Pakistan has strong ties in defense cooperation with Nigeria. Pakistan has provided Nigeria with Mushshak trainer planes and now intends to provide JF-17 fighter planes. Moreover, Nigerian delegation actively participated in defence exhibition IDEAS 2016, where deliberation on new avenues of cooperation and joint ventures was undertaken between the two countries.

He also highlighted that Pakistan has many pending MoUs which need to be implemented. He congratulated the delegation on the recent signing of MoU in the education sector which would provide scholarship opportunities to youth from both countries. Moreover, he emphasized that both countries face common challenges which should be dealt with through cooperation and joint efforts, most importantly, the menace of violent extremism is a mutual threat to both the countries. He further suggested that ISSI could sign an MoU with a sister institution in Nigeria and work on exchanges of publications, academics, as well as joint conferences.

Both sides acknowledged the suggestions and pledged to work on these lines in the near future. The Nigerian delegation thanked ISSI for arranging their visit and also extended an invitation to ISSI to visit Nigeria.