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Report – Hard Launch

“Centre for Strategic Perspectives”

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The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) inaugurated its fifth centre of excellence, the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) on June 3, 2021. The Chief Guest at the occasion was Lt. General Mian Hilal Hussain HI (M), Secretary Defence, Government of Pakistan.

In his introductory remarks, Director, Centre for Strategic Perspectives, Mr. Najam Rafique introduced the newly established centre of excellence and gave a briefing about the activities and working of the centre. He said that CSP envisions giving tangible inputs for policy makers as well as disseminating information. He introduced the CSP team and shed light on the achievements of the centre since its inception.

Welcoming the Chief Guest, Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry said that the ISSI is fully committed to providing inputs to the government of Pakistan and that the institute aims to synergise its work and be relevant to the government of Pakistan. He further said that we are working on narratives which are in line with the government of Pakistan and we are further working to augment those narratives.

In his keynote address, the Chief Guest Lt. General Hilal Hussain stated that the establishment of the Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) is a very timely initiative, keeping in view the changing dynamics and transformations that the world is currently undergoing. He further said that the world is in a flux and the contemporary challenges underline the need for a holistic and all encompassing approach towards the various challenges that we face today. The world has undergone several transformations in the past few decades and the changing world order is taking a unilateral shift and this has been seen as leading towards new trends, which have a tendency to undermine globalism and promote unilateralism. The world requires multilateral approaches to global problems. New challenges in the realm of non-traditional threats like climate change, the ongoing pandemic as well as energy security, food security, water security and population explosion, all pose a significant threat. These are issues which need attention and immediate redress as part of Pakistan's strategy for comprehensive security.

Moreover, Lt. General Hussain said the post World War II era produced international institutions which are now being destabilized due to rigid unilateralism. It must not be forgotten that solutions to longstanding and serious problems require a harmony as geopolitical tensions and

growing inequality cannot be solved by any single country on its own. Global threats are collective and therefore require collective solutions to them. It is evident that inclusivity can only be promoted through multilateralism alone. Multilateral organizations, agreements and accords may not be perfect, but they help in several realms and apart from conflict prevention, socio-economic development, climate change, pandemic responses, peacekeeping and among others, human rights are all domains which fall under the umbrella of multilateralism. Therefore, when big global powers act irresponsibly, multilateralism suffers in different ways and undermines globalism.

Lt. General Hussain opined that Pakistan strives for a peaceful neighbourhood as well as cordial relations with Russia, the United States and Europe. Europe is important vis a vis trade and development and Pakistan greatly values its relationship with the United States, which has been an important strategic partner spanning many decades, with the relationship experiencing its lows and highs. Relations between Russia and Pakistan have warmed in the last one decade and cooperation between the two countries now largely focuses on counter-terror cooperation as well as cooperation in the military realm. Afghanistan's peaceful future depends to a great extent on a favourable regional environment, with Pakistan at its center. On the other hand, an unstable Afghanistan threatens Pakistan in many ways, with the danger of a spillover of terrorism as well as the illegal narcotics trade as major impediments to peace and security. It is therefore very important to advance and formally undertake research on Pakistan's relations with major powers and the establishment of the Centre for Strategic Perspectives at ISSI is a timely endeavor.

PICTURES OF THE EVENT

