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*Report*

# “ACDC Annual Advisory Board Meeting”

February 28, 2022



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The Arms Control & Disarmament Centre (ACDC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the “ACDC’s Advisory Board Meeting” on February 28, 2022. The meeting commenced with a recitation from the Holy Quran. The members of ACDC’s Advisory Board and ISSI research faculty joined the meeting both physically and virtually.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, briefed the participants about the Vision, functions and achievements of the five centres of Excellence at ISSI. Malik Qasim Mustafa, Director ACDC, briefed the participants on the vision, functions and major research themes of the ACDC. The ACDC was established on October 30, 2019, with a vision to contribute focused research and quality policy input through in-depth analysis and dialogue on issues of arms control, disarmament, nuclear safety and security, nuclear deterrence, emerging technologies and challenges to peace and strategic stability. The functions of ACDC include: monitoring regional and international developments on strategic stability, disarmament, non-proliferation, arms control and related domains; organise dialogues; disseminating information through research projects, special reports, and electronic and social media tools; providing quality policy inputs to relevant official departments and enhance outreach with national and international think tanks.

To provide overall guidance and policy directions, the ACDC constituted its Advisory Board and held its first meeting on January 29, 2020. The Board consists of relevant experts from academia, think tanks, government and official departments. He informed the participants about what the Centre had accomplished in the year 2021. Director ACDC informed participants about the major events organised by the Centre and the key takeaways of these events. In addition to the research activities of the ACDC team, he also updated the participants regarding the ACDC-ISSI Vision 2023.

All participants appreciated the work of the Centre and put forward constructive and valuable recommendations for future projects on various international and national issues related to arms control and disarmament. The meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks by Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman Board of Governors, ISSI.

## Recommendations

During the interactive discussion, the members of the ACDC Advisory Board members gave the following recommendation to further enhance the working of the Centre:

- ACDC should improve communication and interaction with academia to minimise the ambiguity that surrounds the key concepts of Arms Control and Disarmament.
- The ISSI administration should allow their research faculty to teach courses in University as a visiting faculty
- ACDC should start a separate Journal on Arms Control and Disarmament or it can publish a Special Issue of the existing ISSI *Strategic Studies* Journal.
- ACDC could initiate an Annual or Biennial Permanent Platform for Non -proliferation Dialogue.
- There is a need to further increase the frequency of engagement with the ACDIS Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).
- ACDC should organise the “Digital Diplomacy Training on Nuclear Issues” to prepare Mid-Career Experts in Pakistan for becoming credible voices of Pakistan`s Narrative.

## Major Themes Identified

During the interactive discussion, the members of the ACDC Advisory Board members identified the following major themes:

Nuclear Domain	Conventional / Emerging Technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuclearisation of the Indian Ocean</li> <li>• Deterrence Debate/Issues (Credible Minimum Deterrence, Full-spectrum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative Analysis of Ukraine and Balakot Crisis – Conventional Deterrence</li> <li>• Increasing Militarisation by India</li> </ul>

<p>Deterrence, Escalation Control)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impact analysis of Indian strategic culture and politics on Nuclear Issues</li><li>• Indian nuclear safety &amp; security dynamics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Land, Air, Sea Warfare – Conventional side</li><li>• Outerspace Issues - Satellite imagery</li><li>• Data Mining</li></ul>
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