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SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

# PIVOT

Quarterly Magazine of Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad

# ENGAGING AFRICA



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## Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI)

Established in 1973, the Institute of Strategic Studies is an autonomous, non-profit research and analyses organization. It is devoted to provide an in-depth understanding and objective analyses of regional and global strategic issues, affecting international peace and security. The Institute also promotes a broad-based and informed public understanding of vital issues affecting Pakistan and the international community as a whole.

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Strategic Perspectives through Research and Dialogue

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To provide quality policy inputs through informed research, objective analyses and dialogue on global and regional issues affecting peace, security and development of Pakistan.

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## Chief Editor's Note



**A**frica is the world's second biggest continent and has been described as the "continent of the future" by many due to its tremendous resources and steady economic growth in recent years. The region has a combined GDP of about \$3.1 trillion.

Pakistan and Africa share a long-standing history of diplomatic relations and collaboration. Over the years, Pakistan has actively engaged with African nations through various means, including diplomacy, economic cooperation and peacekeeping missions. In 2019, "Engage Africa" initiative was up-scaled to fortify political, economic, and diplomatic ties with the African nations as part of efforts to further deepen Pakistan's long-standing engagement with Africa. This project also seeks to enhance and broaden cultural ties between the two sides.

Over the years, diplomatic relations have strengthened through regular high-level visits and bilateral consultations. Both sides have stressed the importance of fostering political dialogue and expanding cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Furthermore, Pakistan has actively pursued economic cooperation with African countries. Trade relations have also seen positive growth, with Pakistan exporting textiles, pharmaceuticals, machinery, and other goods to Africa, while importing raw materials like minerals and agricultural products. To enhance economic cooperation, Pakistan has facilitated the establishment of joint economic commissions and signed several bilateral agreements.

Without any doubt, Pakistan and Africa share a growing multifaceted relationship. Both sides remain committed to take their partnership to a new level in the years and decade to come.

This Special Edition of Pivot magazine, dedicated to commemorate Africa Day, has been put together by The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East, and Africa (CAMEA), and I am grateful to Director CAMEA, Amina Khan, and her team for their laudable efforts.

*Talat*

Dr. Talat Shabbir

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## Message from Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

**T**he African continent is a diverse and fascinating place, with a rich history and culture that has contributed immensely to the world.

From its natural resources to its vibrant arts and music scene, Africa is a treasure trove of unique experiences and perspectives. The African continent is a diverse and fascinating place, with a rich history and culture that has contributed immensely to the world.

Pakistan-Africa relations have also been a source of strength and cooperation, with both regions sharing common interests in areas such as trade, security, and development. Total trade between Pakistan and Africa was US \$6.94 Billion in 2022; there exists a lot of potential for improvement. The people of Africa and Pakistan have a deep appreciation for each

other's cultures and traditions, and this has helped to build strong bonds of friendship and understanding between the two regions.

The Government of Pakistan launched the Engage Africa Policy to further cultivate diplomatic and trading relations with African countries and thereby enhance government-to-government level interactions, bilateral economic cooperation, and people-to-people contacts. The Policy has laid the foundation for fostering deeper engagement between Pakistan and African countries.

The future of Pakistan-Africa relations looks bright with continued efforts toward mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration in various areas. I am confident that Pakistan's relations with African countries will grow and glow in the coming years and decades ahead.



# Message from Javed Ahmed Umrani Additional Secretary Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Pakistan's relationship with Africa goes back to the 1950s and is rooted in their shared history of colonialism and the struggle for independence. Pakistan takes pride in having recognized and supported many African countries in their efforts to gain independence from colonial powers, resulting in strong diplomatic and economic ties between Pakistan and several African nations.

Pakistan has contributed significantly to the African continent through its peacekeeping efforts, as it is a leading contributor to UN missions in Africa. Pakistan's efforts have played a crucial role in maintaining peace and security in various African countries. In addition, Pakistan has provided significant development assistance in key areas such as education, health, and agriculture. Despite

the massive populations of both regions, trade between Pakistan and Africa only stood at US \$6.94bn in 2022, leaving ample room for improvement.

Moreover, Pakistan has been actively involved in training African citizens. The Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan has trained 767 diplomats from 54 African countries, demonstrating Pakistan's commitment to supporting the growth and development of African nations. Pakistan has also provided scholarships to over 495 African students under the Pakistan Technical Assistance Program to study in Pakistan, in advanced fields such as medicine.

In recent times, Pakistan has increasingly placed Africa in focus with the introduction of the Look Africa and Engage Africa Policy. Pakistan has opened five new diplomatic resident

missions in Africa in the last two years, in Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Djibouti, and Rwanda, as envisioned in the policy. African countries are also reciprocating keenly, with Ethiopia opening its resident mission in Pakistan last year, and many others currently in the pipeline.

Despite the challenges faced by both regions, Pakistan's relationship with Africa remains grounded in mutual respect, cooperation, and shared aspirations for peace and prosperity. The introduction of Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy is a positive step that will further strengthen ties between the two regions. I am confident that this policy will create new opportunities for trade and investment, leading to mutual prosperity and a brighter future for both Pakistan and Africa.



Javed Ahmed Umrani,  
Additional Secretary  
Africa, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs



# Message from Amina Khan, Director CAMEA



Africa has long been considered the land of unexplored opportunities for Pakistan, keeping this premise in mind. Pakistan has been actively involved in strengthening its relations with various African nations. Pakistan, through its “Engage Africa” policy, intends to establish a robust bilateral relationship with all African nations, while also benefiting from the opportunities that Africa offers in terms of trade, investment, and cultural exchanges.

One of the main objectives of the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East, and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) is to identify areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Africa and find avenues to establish and further consolidate Pakistan’s ties with the African continent through its Engage Africa policy - therefore it gives us immense pleasure to publish a special edition of Pivot Magazine exclusively dedicated to Africa.

Pakistan has been involved in various initiatives in Africa, including participating in

peacekeeping operations and providing support for development projects. Pakistan’s defence cooperation with African countries is increasing and it has offered support in the capacity-building of the African forces in counter-terrorism and security-connected disciplines. In the fields of training and development

of human capital, Pakistan offers educational and capacity-building courses to a large number of countries.

Pakistan has also been offering scholarships to African students to study in Pakistani universities, and many African students are currently availing this opportunity. Several African leaders have visited Pakistan including the iconic anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. Mr Mandela made the following remarks during his visit to Pakistan on Pakistan’s relations with Africa: “Our nations are joined, not only by cultural and religious bonds but also by common experiences and challenges.”

Moreover, over 700 diplomats from 54 countries have received diplomatic training courses at the Foreign Services Academy in Islamabad. Moreover, the country has also been providing humanitarian assistance to African countries affected by natural disasters and conflicts. However, despite these engagements, unfortunately, the volume of interaction between

Pakistan and the African continent has not been as great as it should be, and there remains immense untapped potential particularly, on the economic front. Under its “Engage Africa” policy, Pakistan has been exploring avenues to further strengthen its bilateral ties with African nations be it politically, economically or in the realm of defence.

A testament to the importance Pakistan accords to Africa is evident by the opening up of new missions in different parts of Africa. The five recently opened missions in Rwanda, Djibouti, Uganda, Ghana and the Ivory Coast underscore Pakistan’s commitment to expanding its engagement with Africa and forging stronger ties with various countries of the continent. This can help Pakistan work towards mutually beneficial partnerships.

Pakistan’s outreach to Africa is not limited to opening new missions. It has also initiated several programs aimed at strengthening economic and diplomatic ties with the continent. The opening of Ethiopia’s mission in Islamabad in 2023 further underscores the growing importance of Pakistan’s engagement with Africa. With these efforts, Pakistan is demonstrating its commitment to strengthening ties with African countries, enhancing mutual understanding, and promoting cooperation on issues of common interest.

We also thankfully acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



# World Commodities Map: Africa



# Pakistan and Africa

## *Partners for Peace, Progress and Prosperity*

By Ambassador Sohail Mahmood

“Africa is the Continent of the Future,” is one of the most common refrains of our times. This is no cliché; it is a statement of fact.

Africa, indeed, is the focus of the world today, especially of the major and middle powers -- for a range of cogent reasons. Being the second largest Continent on the planet, home to 54 sovereign states with a total population of 1.4 billion people, Africa boasts of a combined GDP of over \$ 3 trillion. Africa's enormous human potential is supplemented in equal measure by its immense natural resources. Africa's deepening economic integration and accelerated development through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is creating vast new opportunities for Africa and its international partners. The African Development Bank has projected the GDP growth in Africa to average 4% in 2023 and 2024, which is higher than the global averages of 2.7% and 3.2% respectively. In 2019, the World Bank said it expected that most African countries would reach middle income status by 2025.

**Pakistan is fully cognizant of the reality of a resurging Africa and firmly committed to comprehensively upgrading its engagement with the Continent in all dimensions.**

**While geo-political considerations remain a compelling factor, Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics is the other key driver of this policy thrust towards Africa**

Pakistan is fully cognizant of the reality of a resurging Africa and firmly committed to comprehensively upgrading its engagement with the Continent in all dimensions. While geo-political considerations remain a compelling factor, Pakistan's pivot to geo-economics is the other key driver of this policy thrust towards Africa.



Pakistan's relations with African countries have traditionally been marked by warmth, cordiality, mutual respect, and trust and understanding. These long-standing friendly ties have deep-rooted foundations. Pakistan was among the most ardent supporters of the liberation struggles of African nations. In the post-Independence decades, Pakistan has made an invaluable contribution to the Continent's peace and security through participation in the UN Peace Keeping Operations (UNPKOs) in Africa. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is another platform on which Pakistan-Africa relations have solidified over the past many decades, with 15 African countries being part of the OIC family. The present phase of relations is marked by a shared desire to forge closer cooperation across a whole range of areas -- political, diplomatic, economic, trade and investment, security and defence, education and culture, and people-to-people exchanges.

Pakistan's "Engage Africa" policy fully encapsulates the nature, direction and scope of the country's approach. On the one hand, it



seeks to expand Pakistan's diplomatic footprint in Africa; on the other hand, it aims at building a robust economic partnership with the Continent. While the Foreign Ministry spearheads the overall effort, the Ministry of Commerce has been leading the endeavours to intensify trade and economic interactions through its 'Look Africa' construct.

Which pursuing the objective of enhanced engagement, both Pakistan and the African partners remain acutely conscious that an enormous potential for mutually-beneficial collaboration remains untapped -- both in bilateral relationships as well as on the Continental plane. Both sides recognize that high-level exchanges need to be up-scaled and made regular. The existing legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms to promote sectoral cooperation require to be utilized dynamically.

Pakistan has recently opened 5 more Resident Missions -- in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Uganda, Djibouti and Rwanda -- while Ethiopia has become the latest African country to open its Embassy in Islamabad. But more needs to be done at both ends to expand the diplomatic connect. The two-way trade reached nearly \$7 billion in 2022; but given the size of markets on both sides, much more can be achieved. Efforts are underway to bridge the information gap and increase interface between the business communities on the two sides. Three Pakistan-Africa Trade & Development Conferences - held in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa - have helped enhance overall trade by 7% in recent years.

Engagement in the security and defence fields has been growing. Pakistan's participation in PKOs in several African countries has laid a strong basis for enhanced security cooperation. Pakistan's experience in successfully combating terrorism is something from which many African partners can and wish to benefit. Pakistan's capacity in defence production is another avenue through which Africa's needs for equipment and military modernization can be met.

There are a host of other areas -- from agriculture to food processing to Information Technology -- where both sides can fruitfully collaborate. Pakistan has been supporting efforts for training and human resource development in Africa for decades. A new, well-defined and well-resourced Development Partnership -- aligned to Africa's priorities -- would help further fortify these endeavours. Strengthening

the existing academic, think-tank and P2P linkages would be an essential component of the soft connectivity so vital in today's integrated world.

Pakistan also continues to advance its institutional relationship with the African Union (AU), which has evolved into an articulate and representative platform for all African countries and acquired a distinct place among the regional organizations of consequence worldwide. Pakistan's outreach to other organizations in Africa's all 5 sub-regions is also being enhanced to identify and realize the possibilities of beneficial ventures.

**For Pakistan, deeper engagement with Africa remains a strategic imperative. Forging a strong and effective partnership for peace, progress and prosperity is an indispensable goal. This objective must continually be advanced through a clear vision, consistent policy, and a long-term strategy**

To sum up, Africa's economic growth trajectory despite Covid-19 and other headwinds, and consistently rising international profile, are self-evident. Africa has traditionally played an important part in the major multilateral groupings of the developing world -- including the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and G77 & China. Long desirous of an enhanced role in the UN Security Council, Africa is now staking a legitimate claim for entry into the G20. Africa's enhanced global voice and role would mean further space for the Global South and a vitally important perspective on defining issues of the times -- from great-power contestation to the existential threat of climate change.

For Pakistan, deeper engagement with Africa remains a strategic imperative. Forging a strong and effective partnership for peace, progress and prosperity is an indispensable goal. This objective must continually be advanced through a clear vision, consistent policy, and a long-term strategy.



Ambassador Sohail Mahmood,  
Former Foreign Secretary,  
Director General ISSI



# Pakistan - Uganda Ties

## Message from High Commission

### Muhammad Hassan Wazir

**P**akistan considers Uganda as one of the most important and promising development partners in Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy Initiative. Pakistan-Uganda bilateral relations have been warm and cordial since their inception. The two countries also engage with each other on various international fora.

Uganda is a market of around 43 million people with more than



240,000 sq. km land of fertile valleys that produces quality coffee, tea, cotton, pulses and many delicious fruits. These make up a significant part of Ugandan exports. Uganda can thus play an important role in the future of global food security.

Pakistani-Uganda bilateral trade approximates US\$ 33 million, which is well below potential. It is also limited to only a few items. These include vegetable



products and pharmaceuticals. With the opening of the Pakistan Mission in Uganda in 2017, Islamabad is better placed to further deepen bilateral relations with Uganda through exchange of high-level visits and interaction between the business communities of both sides.

Uganda is a member of the East African Community and is a hub for business activities for South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda. In the aftermath of the removal of Covid-19 restrictions, there is a surge in business activities across the country. Traders and investors from other parts of the world move towards Uganda as one of the best viable and profitable economic markets in the region. The decision to open the Pakistan High Commission in Uganda, though much delayed, is very appropriate. The Mission is now in a position to coordinate directly between the local and Pakistani business communities. For instance, recently a large group of the business community from Uganda participated in the Engineering and Healthcare Trade Show held in Lahore from 22-25 February 2023 and during the event, Ugandan traders were able to make lucrative deals with their Pakistani counterparts.

Similarly, Pakistan is also proud to have around 7,000 to 10,000 Pakistani community members in Uganda, who act like bridges between Pakistan and Uganda. While thanking the people of Uganda for opening their hearts and hearts for our diaspora, the Pakistani community also plays an important role in the development of Uganda through investment in diverse fields of economy.

These Pakistani investors are an important source of employment for the local Ugandans, paying huge amounts of taxes to the government. The Pakistani diaspora is also involved in philanthropic activities across Uganda in the field of health, education, supply of soft drinking water, food distribution etc.

Pakistan and Uganda are partners for promoting peace, development, prosperity and well-being of their people.

Long live Pakistan Uganda friendship.



Muhammad Hassan Wazir,  
High Commissioner of  
Pakistan to Republic of  
Uganda



# Pakistan - Cote d'Ivoire Ties

## Message from Dr. Manzoor Chaudhary

Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) attained independence from France on August 7, 1960. After a prolonged civil war, peace was restored with the help of United Nations peacekeeping forces who were present from 2004-2017 including 1,100 troops contributed by Pakistan. The country has witnessed unprecedented economic growth over the last ten years. The GDP growth is expected to be around 7.2% during 2023.

As part of its "Look Africa" and "Engage Africa" policies, Pakistan opened its resident diplomatic Mission in Abidjan in 2022. Dr. Manzoor A. Chaudhry, Pakistan's first Ambassador presented credentials to the Ivorian President on March 3, 2022. Foreign Minister of Cote d'Ivoire undertook his first-ever visit to Pakistan in March 2022 to attend OIC CFM in Islamabad. The President of the National Assembly of Cote d'Ivoire visited Pakistan in February 2023. He met



the Pakistani President, Foreign Minister, Commerce Minister and held detailed discussions with the Speaker of the National Assembly. On the occasion, the two National Assemblies signed a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual cooperation.

Pakistan's bilateral trade with Cote d'Ivoire doubled during 2021-22 from about US\$108 million to US \$ 214 million. Pakistan's exports to Cote d'Ivoire in the corresponding period jumped up by more than 70% from about US\$ 22 million to US\$ 38 million. There are opportunities of enhancing

mutually beneficial economic and commercial ties between the two nations. Cote d'Ivoire provides Pakistan with cocoa and cotton, being primarily an agricultural country. Pakistan has traditionally exported rice and textiles to Cote d'Ivoire with opportunities in the IT and services sector. Pakistan may also consider enhancing defense cooperation by training Ivorian forces against existential terrorist threats in and around the country.



Dr. Manzoor Chaudhary,  
Ambassador of Pakistan  
to Côte d'Ivoire, Abidjan

# Pakistan-Senegal Ties

## Message from Ambassador Saima Sayed



**T**he Africa that we see today has come a long way from its days of colonization and unrest. In spite of its tribulations, we see a vibrant and dynamic Africa today. There is a hunger and passion to build, prosper and flourish. African nations are talking about modernization, exploring new paths for their future generations' prosperity and building new partnerships across the globe.

Africa is attracting the world's attention with its growing population of youth and entrepreneurs, dynamic economies with the largest free trade areas, diverse ecosystems and vast natural resources. On the political and diplomatic front, it is one of the largest voting groups in the United Nations. And with the growing regional integration within Africa it has reinforced its place as a vital regional block on the world stage. Whether it is peacekeeping or peace building, or sustainable development goals (SDGs) or UN Security Council reform, African perspectives carry weight.

The theme for this year's Africa Day commemoration reflects the futuristic approach of the African nations. On this occasion, while the African people honor their struggle for freedom and celebrate their history, they also deem it necessary to reflect on the way ahead; the impending challenges and the future for its next generations.

Globally, the political economy of energy is in a flux due to geopolitics as well as technological advances. Covid-19 disrupted the world economies, leaving a strong imprint on the global health systems and this has forced the world to

reorient their priorities, approach towards technology and look for new partnerships. In the face of this global flux, African nations seek opportunities within these challenges with the help of new partners, new technology and most of all spurred on by their quest to develop and prosper and make use of untapped resources for the betterment of their people.

Pakistan has had unique ties with countries in Africa. The nature of these ties is based on a shared commitment to peace and it may be noted that Pakistan has supported the freedom struggle of many African countries. Pakistan has been playing a key role in maintaining peace and security through UN peacekeeping missions particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic, since the last 7 decades. A large Pakistani Diaspora in Africa has been the source of exchanges in education, medicine, information technology and defense. Under the Engage Africa Initiative, new avenues for economic diplomacy and collaboration with our African friends have been initiated by Pakistan.

The Africa Trade Development conference in Nairobi in January 2020 was a major initiative in this regard. Pakistan has opened up five new missions in Africa in Ghana, Djibouti, Ivory Coast, Uganda and Rwanda along with upgradation of missions in Niger and Tanzania to the Ambassadorial level. Over the past several decades, our relations in the political, trade and economic, and security and defense fields have moved forward. Pakistan has also commenced an institutional relationship with the African Union.

Meanwhile, Pakistan continues to work with African partners in the multilateral fora and closely coordinate positions on a broad range of regional and international issues, there is immense potential to further build on this relationship whether in the trade, investment or diplomatic realm.

Pakistan's interests with Africa converge on a broad range of subjects from collaboration in sustainable development to finding alternative energy sources, from building infrastructure to eradicating infectious diseases, from fighting extremism and terrorism to partnering for security and stability. In all these realms, both stand to gain immensely through closer cooperation.

The African nations have achieved important milestones since their declaration of freedom and prosperity. Africa is brimming with hope and opportunity. Its fast-growing population and markets present openings for prosperity in an environment of slowing global growth. It still has a long way ahead to turn its youth bulge into a demographic dividend for growth and development and to utilize the vast natural reserves that have the potential to eradicate poverty in the region .



Saima Sayed,  
Ambassador of  
Pakistan to Senegal





## Message from the Ambassador of Pakistan to Djibouti H.E. Shahid Ali Seehar



**D** jibouti is a small country having an area of 23,700sq. km and a population of about one million. It is located in the Horn of Africa adjacent to the Bab-el-Mandab strait, a critical maritime choke point that connects the Arabian Sea with the Red Sea and onward with the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal. About 30% of global maritime trade passes through it. Its growing geo-strategic importance may be gauged from the fact that it hosts six foreign military bases i.e. US, China, France, Italy, Germany and Japan. More importantly, it is China's only overseas military base and the biggest US military base in Africa.

Djibouti is a member of the UN, OIC, African Union and Arab League. Besides, it is a member of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is an important regional development organization in East Africa comprising Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda with its headquarter in Djibouti.

Pakistan and Djibouti enjoy warm and brotherly bilateral relations. The two countries also enjoy excellent cooperation at various multilateral fora including the UN and OIC. Although both the countries established formal diplomatic relations in 1977 after Djibouti's independence, their ties are anchored in shared history, faith, culture and geographical proximity in the Arabian Sea region. Leadership as well as the people of both countries hold each other in high esteem and there is goodwill towards each other.

With a view to capitalize on these positives and in line with the "Engage Africa" initiative, Pakistan established

its resident mission in Djibouti in May, 2022. Since then, several initiatives have been taken by both sides to further deepen and diversify bilateral relations for mutual benefit.

Economically, our bilateral trade has hovered between US\$ 50-60 million over the last few years. Most of the goods are re-exported to Ethiopia since Ethiopia's 90% global trade transits through Djibouti's ports. However, there still remains a huge potential in the area of trade and economy that needs to be tapped through increased cooperation. While Djibouti itself may not be a big market for its exports, however, it is an ideal bridgehead to capture bigger markets in neighboring countries including Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan.

Presently, Djibouti is fast emerging as an "African Tiger" due to huge Chinese investment in recent years. The two countries are strategic partners and China has built 3 flagship projects between 2012 and 2020 in Djibouti at a cost of US\$ 14 billion; a railway line and water pipeline between Djibouti and Ethiopia, and Djibouti International Free Trade Zone, which is the biggest in the continent. These investments have transformed Djibouti into one of the most important trade and logistics hubs in Africa and the world. That is why many politico-economic analysts view Djibouti emerging as Dubai and Singapore of Africa.

In the sphere of defense and security, the navies of the two countries enjoy excellent ties and both sides are keen to further strengthen these for mutual benefit. Djiboutian Naval Chief and Commandant of Coast Guard visited

Pakistan and attended AMAN-23 multinational naval exercise held in Karachi in February, 2023.

Since its establishment last year, the Mission has been endeavoring to formalize a robust institutional mechanism between the two sides in the form of various bilateral agreements/MoUs to further solidify the existing ties. Besides, the mission in coordination with the host authorities arranged participation of a high-level Djiboutian business delegation in the 2nd Engineering and Healthcare Show held in Lahore in February, 2023. This was the first ever visit of any Djiboutian business delegation to Pakistan. Efforts are now underway to arrange participation of the Djiboutian side in the upcoming 4th edition of TEXPO to be held in May, 2023 in Karachi.

Keeping in view the growing importance of a shift from geo-politics to geo-economics, Pakistan's initiative to open a resident mission in Djibouti is not only timely but is also bound to benefit the two sides enormously in the coming days. If the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a lynchpin of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), then Djibouti may be termed as the initiative's key to unlock East Africa's vast potential in trade and resources.

Djibouti being a valuable seaport-post in the Horn of Africa, can be ideally positioned to work together for increasing trade and commerce between the two countries and regions as well, besides strengthening regional maritime security in the Arabian Sea and Indian ocean at large ■



Shahid Ali Seehar,  
Ambassador of  
Pakistan to Djibouti



# Mohammed Karmoune

## Dean of the African Corps in Pakistan

By CAMEA Team

**CAMEA:** How do you view Morocco's relationship with Pakistan, what are the potential areas of cooperation that exist between the two countries and what are the challenges that challenge the relationship?

**MK:** Morocco and Pakistan established diplomatic relations in 1958. The two countries enjoy robust bilateral relations, which are based on mutual respect, solidarity and the sharing of the common Islamic cultural heritage and values.

Over the years, our relations have been strengthened by a similarity of views on most issues of international importance, appreciation of each other's problems and deep commitment of both countries to the OIC.

Both Rabat and Islamabad are constantly seeking the best ways to further strengthen their ties

in various economic activities, such as Fertilizers, Agriculture, Renewable energy, Car industry, Health, Infrastructure, Vocational and University training, etc.

**Over the years, our relations have been strengthened by a similarity of views on most issues of international importance**

Food security, climate change, combating terrorism and separatism remains the top challenges the two countries have to deal with. Defense cooperation is also an important component that needs to be strengthened to combat the growing threat of terrorism in our respective regions.

**CAMEA:** What are the areas

of cooperation in the field of trade and investment and what are the major areas of trade between the two countries?

**MK:** Personally, I find that fertilizer is an important sector in which our countries can cooperate more effectively to achieve self-sufficiency and food security. Morocco and Pakistan have, since 2004, set up a joint venture to produce phosphoric acid. The Moroccan OCP group and the Pakistani Fauji group are partners and have a production unit within the industrial complex of the OCP group in Morocco. The urea produced by the Pak-Morocco Phosphate Company in Al-Jadida is entirely exported to Pakistan.

The two partners signed in March 2023, a memorandum of understanding on the strengthening of their level of cooperation. This agreement



marks a common desire to develop innovative solutions that meet the specific needs of Pakistani farmers and contribute sustainably to the improvement of their agricultural productivity. Under this agreement, the OCP group will identify the specific agronomic needs of Pakistani soil (soil mapping) and develop the most suitable fertilizer formulas with a view to contributing to the adoption by Pakistani farmers of good agricultural practices based on applied research, innovation and new technologies.

### Both Rabat and Islamabad are constantly seeking the best ways to further strengthen their ties in various economic activities

The implementation of this MoU will also help improve agricultural productivity and income for Pakistani farmers and contribute to the development of resilient, innovative and sustainable agriculture.

In the field of renewable energy, Pakistan can count on the expertise of the Kingdom of Morocco in solar energy. The country is a pioneer in renewable energy in Africa, including solar and wind energy.

As for the trade exchange between the two countries, the bulk of Morocco's exports to Pakistan in 2022, is constituted of Phosphoric acid, DAP, and rock phosphates (350 million euros). For its part, Pakistan exported nearly 40 million euros worth of goods, with textiles, cotton and rice standing out.

**CAMEA:** What is the current state of people-to-people

contacts between Pakistan and Morocco and what steps are being taken to further enhance such contacts?

**MK:** The economic cooperation and trade exchange that exist between Morocco and Pakistan does not match the cordial and brotherly relations the two countries have developed since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Hence the need for further boosting bilateral economic cooperation through the following actions:

1. Maintaining regular contacts between the business communities in the two countries
2. Reviving the joint Business Council which was established in 2018, for the promotion of trade, investment, technology transfer, services and other industrial sectors.
3. Encouraging the exchange of visits between business communities in the two countries to explore the potential that exists in Morocco.
4. Explore investment potential and identify products and sectors likely to present business opportunities between the two countries, in different sectors.
5. Encourage visits exchange between the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Morocco and Pakistan to enhance business-to-business and chamber-to-chamber ties.
6. The Pakistan-Morocco Business Council should play a proactive role and exchange business-to-business delegations to explore the avenues of cooperation, trade and joint ventures.
7. Encourage the participation of business communities in exhibitions which are organized in both Morocco and Pakistan.
8. There is a need to strengthen and update the legal framework in order to give a new dynamic to our bilateral relation.
9. Revive the parliamentary friendship groups in order to exchange views and experiences in this area.

**CAMEA:** What is the significance of Pakistan-Morocco cooperation in the context of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation?

**MK:** Being one of the founding States of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation in 1969, Morocco and Pakistan share several common ideals and goals.





Both Pakistan and Morocco are members of the Al Quds Committee, chaired by His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

## The Engage Africa policy is an important strategy adopted by Pakistan to identify new markets for its exports and to expand its commercial and diplomatic footprint in the Continent

Multilateral cooperation between the two countries at the level of the OIC is excellent.

**CAMEA:** How do Pakistan and Morocco collaborate in the fields of education and culture and what key initiatives have been taken to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries so far?

**MK:** Morocco and Pakistan share the common Islamic cultural heritage and are looking forward to further boost their cultural and educational exchanges.

At the present time, the following actions are being implemented:

1. The Kingdom of Morocco offers annually ten scholarships to Pakistani students who wish to undertake their training in the Moroccan public Institutions for higher education.
2. The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs of Morocco invites annually two eminent scholars and thinkers from Pakistan to participate in the religious lectures which are chaired by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.
3. The Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs of Morocco invites annually the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony of Pakistan to propose a candidate to participate in the competition for Mohammed VI International Prize for the Holy Quran Memorisation and Interpretation.
4. An MoU was also signed in 2020 between the Royal Institute for Strategic Studies (IRES) and Institute of Strategic studies Islamabad, (ISSI), to enhance exchanges and linkages between the think tanks and educational institutions of both countries.
5. On the level of decentralized cooperation, Rabat and Islamabad have become sister cities in May 2022. The twinning of the capital cities will open the way for more cultural exchange and cooperation between the universities, the libraries and the museums of the two capitals (the process of making Casablanca and Karachi sister cities is underway).
6. The two countries are also considering cooperation in the tourism sector. Many Moroccan and Pakistani tourists and businesspersons are showing great interest in visiting Morocco and Pakistan.

In the field of Media, the two countries have signed, in 2021, a cooperation agreement between the Moroccan News Agency (MAP) and the Pakistani News Agency (APP). Under this agreement, the two parties agreed to exchange visits and expertise in the journalistic, technical and

administrative matters.

**CAMEA:** Being the dean of African missions in Pakistan, how do you see Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy and what areas do you think need further improvement? What are the major challenges that African countries face in Pakistan and how can they be addressed?

**MK:** Africa, today, is the focus of the entire world, particularly of the major and middle powers. It is a lucrative market that hosts more than 1.3 billion population and with more than \$500 billion import bill.

The Engage Africa policy is an important strategy adopted by Pakistan to identify new markets for its exports and to expand its commercial and diplomatic



footprint in the Continent. This initiative aims at improving links with the 54 African countries and takes advantage of both the continent's resources and emerging markets.

## Morocco and Pakistan can forge a common economic alliance at the level of the African continent through the creation of joint ventures

Within the framework of this initiative, Pakistan organized, up till now, three economic forums in Africa to explore business opportunities on the Continent and strengthen cooperation with various African countries.

- ❖ The first Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Forum was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 30-31 January 2020.
- ❖ The second forum was organized in Lagos, Nigeria, from 23 to 25 November 2021
- ❖ The third forum was organized in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 29 November to 1st December 2022.

In this respect, Morocco and Pakistan can forge a common economic alliance at the level of the African continent through the creation of joint ventures, which can invest in different sectors of the economy and sell their products both in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Morocco concluded multilateral free trade agreements with the EC, the European Free Trade Association, the Agadir Agreement for the Establishment of Free Trade Zone among the Arab Mediterranean countries.

Morocco is also a party to the Great Arab Free Trade Area. Bilateral free Trade areas are also in force with Turkiye, the USA and the UAE.

The African Continental Free Trade Area, which has come recently into force, offers an excellent opportunity to strengthen the Moroccan-Pakistani partnership.

In this respect, Morocco, as a gateway to Africa, could be a very attractive platform for Pakistani companies to do business with the continent. The Kingdom has made great efforts to strengthen its economic presence at the continental level in various fields. It ranks now the second African investor on the continental level, and the first in West Africa. Its political stability and its geostrategic position make it an important regional player which believes in the future of Africa through South-South cooperation.

Pakistani investors can also profit from the facilities to invest in the southern provinces of the Kingdom of Morocco to enter the sub-Saharan African market. The textile sector seems to me a good starting point since it is the largest manufacturing industry in Pakistan. The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services of Casablanca-Settat (CCISCS)

has signed, on 17 January 2023, a cooperation agreement with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sialkot. Under this agreement the CCISCS will support two Pakistani companies which have shown an interest to invest in the southern provinces of Morocco.

**CAMEA:** On a personal note, how has your experience been so far in Pakistan?

**MK:** A unique, extraordinary, unforgettable, invaluable experience.

## The African Continental Free Trade Area, which has come recently into force, offers an excellent opportunity to strengthen the Moroccan-Pakistani partnership

**CAMEA:** Message for Pakistan?

**MK:** I wish the great nation of Pakistan more, well deserved, development, prosperity and wellbeing to its hospitable wonderful people, above all.



# Pakistan Trade Relations with East African Countries

By Abdullahi Mohamed Mohamud

**F**oreign trade plays a critical role in the economic development of modern economies. Two critical components of foreign trade are foreign relationships and exports. Exports are significant for economic growth because it allows businesses to expand their markets beyond their domestic borders, which can help drive growth and profitability.

Pakistan is developing with a diverse economy that is heavily reliant on its agricultural and textile industries. The country is also known for its production of goods such as leather products, sports goods, surgical instruments, and handicrafts. Pakistan's Look Africa Initiative aims to strengthen diplomatic ties and enhance trade relations with Africa, building on a relationship that has spanned several years. The trade volume between the two countries has risen to \$4.6 billion in recent years, reflecting the growing economic ties. The country has also increased its participation in international and African trade fairs and exhibitions to showcase its products and attract foreign buyers. There are nine East African countries which include Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Somalia, and Djibouti. The population of these countries is estimated at 312 million. This region is an important region for international business due to several factors, including its strategic location, natural resources, and growing economies. Here are some specific reasons why East Africa is significant for international business.

**Strategic location:** East Africa is situated at the crossroads of Africa, connecting the continent to the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. It is a gateway to many landlocked countries in the region, making it an important hub for trade and commerce.

**Natural resources:** East Africa is home to a variety of natural resources, including oil, gas, minerals, and agricultural products. This presents significant opportunities for international businesses that operate in these sectors.



**Growing economies:** The economies of East Africa are growing rapidly, with many countries in the region experiencing robust economic growth in recent years. This growth has been driven by a variety of factors, including increased foreign investment, infrastructure development, and a growing middle class.

**Market size:** East Africa has a population of over 312 million people, making it a significant market for international businesses. With a growing middle class, there is increasing demand for goods and services across a range of sectors.



Pakistan has established economic relations with several East African countries including Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda. The main areas of cooperation between Pakistan and these countries include trade, investment, and development assistance. However, Trade between Pakistan and East African countries has been increasing in recent years, with Pakistan exporting a range of products such as textiles, rice, surgical instruments, and pharmaceuticals to these countries.

## Pakistan has established economic relations with several East African countries including Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda

On the other hand, East African countries export tea, coffee, fruits, and other agricultural products to Pakistan. Pakistan has also invested in various sectors in East African countries such as energy, agriculture, and infrastructure development. In addition, Pakistan provides development assistance to these countries in the form of technical assistance, capacity building, and humanitarian aid. Overall, the economic relationship between Pakistan and East African countries is based on mutual cooperation and benefits both sides. There is significant potential for further growth and expansion of this relationship in the future.



Abdullahi Mohamed Mohamud,  
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# Somalia's National Identification and Registration System



## A Helping Hand from Pakistan

By Amal Batool and Nawal Asif

**A**ny country's national identification and registration system is vital for a government to keep its people's identity records. This ensures its civilians' security, preventing fraud, identity theft, and other threats to individual safety and subsequently serves any country's national interests. Keeping these vital aspects in mind, the Somali Government has passed a Bill in 2023, to start issuing its people national identification cards. Somalia has launched the registration of the country's civilians that would allow the Government to maintain a clean record of identities. The strategy of identification and registration set forward by the Bill passed resulted in the first civil registration and identity card issuance exercise in the March of 2023 in three decades.

Even though the I.D. card issuance exercise began recently, the initiative for the establishment of Somalia's National Identification and Registration System started way back in 2018 when Somali



Government entered into a contract with the Government of Pakistan in which NADRA (National Data Base and Registration Authority) would assist them in the development of Somalia's National Identification System. On the 9th of March, a Somali delegation arrived in Pakistan hoping to seek NADRA's technical help in transforming the

Somali Registration System. An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed by the then Minister of Interior, Mr Ahsan Iqbal, between Somalia and Pakistan.

### Somalia's National Identification and Registration System started into a contract with the Government of Pakistan in which NADRA would assist them in the development of Somalia's National Identification System

On the 23rd of May, 2018, the then chairman of NADRA, Usman Mobin, with the Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan, H.E. Mrs. Khadija Almahzoumi, signed a Government-to-Government agreement. The agreement was of U.S. \$10.3 million and supplying technical assistance for Somalia's National Identification System and allied services. The allied services include Border Control, Citizen's I.D., Election Management, and Civil Registration. The agreement took place at the Prime Minister Secretariat in the presence of the then PM of Pakistan, Mr. Shahid Khaaqqan Abbasi.

The new system established by the collaboration of Pakistan and Somalia can be used for online and offline voting, identification, verification, security process, and financial and social programs. In addition, the collaboration will provide Somalia with access to the technology, software, equipment, and knowledge NADRA offers to formulate a highly advanced



identification system.

This collaboration is another achievement for NADRA showcasing its credibility and authenticity. Furthermore, this initiative is a step to safeguard Somalia from internal security threats and highlights a new era of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Somalia. The agreement shows the two states' bright future in Information Technology, education, trade, and cultural exchanges. The states value and cherish the bond they share, and such agreements strengthen these bonds.

Indeed, Pakistan has always played its role well in helping and assisting other states. This case is no different. Pakistan proved itself as a helping hand to Somalia in establishing its National Identification and Recognition System. It also aligns with Pakistan's "Engage Africa Policy" (explain) and will hopefully result in more collaborations and interactions like this with Somalia and other African states.



Amal Batool,  
is Intern at CAMEA



Nawal Asif,  
is Intern at CAMEA

# Pakistan-South Africa Bilateral Relations

By High Commissioner Aftab Hassan Khan

Pakistan's engagement with Africa is long-standing and its relations with African countries have traditionally been marked by warmth, cordiality, mutual trust and understanding. Pakistan's steadfast support for the independence struggles of African nations created a sense of gratitude and goodwill that continues till date. The important contributions made by Pakistan's armed forces personnel to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa as part of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations have served to further fortify this goodwill. Over the past several decades, our relations in the political, trade and economic, and security and defense fields have moved forward.

Africa, today, is the focus of the entire world, particularly of the major and middle powers. Being the second largest continent, home to 54 sovereign states with a total population of 1.4 billion people, Africa boasts of a GDP of



US \$3.1 trillion. The World Bank expects that most African countries would reach middle income status by 2025. Africa's rich natural resources, vast import market, strong economic growth patterns of recent years, and a continent-wide framework for free trade offer unique opportunities.

**Pakistan's steadfast support for the independence struggles of African nations created a sense of gratitude and goodwill that continues till date**

In order to augment relations with the African Continent, the Engage Africa initiative was launched in 2017, which envisaged concrete steps for practical cooperation. The envisaged steps included regular high-level contacts, increased government to government and business to business interface, and effective instruments to promote trade and investment. Besides these, closer parliamentary and people-to-people exchanges, and media and think-tank collaboration for enhanced awareness of opportunities and positive image-building. As part of the Engage Africa initiative five new diplomatic missions and six new trade





missions were opened across Africa.

South Africa is sub-saharan Africa's most advanced economy with US\$ 865 billion GDP (PPP). It is one of the world's largest exporters of gold, platinum and other natural resources. As a member of BRICS and African Union, it plays a key economic and political role in the continent and world at large.

## Africa's rich natural resources, vast import market, strong economic growth patterns of recent years, and a continent-wide framework for free trade offer unique opportunities

Pakistan and South Africa enjoy warm and friendly relations since full diplomatic relations were established in 1993-94. Pakistan had been at the forefront of the international efforts to dismantle the apartheid system. The efforts



were much appreciated by the Leadership of South Africa and Former President Nelson Mandela. President Mandela visited Pakistan twice (October 1992 and May 1999) and was awarded Nishan-e-Pakistan and Nishan-e-Quaid-e-Azam apart from being given the honor to address the joint sitting of the parliament during his second visit. Late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited South Africa at the Inauguration of the Presidency of Nelson Mandela in 1994.

As part of the Engage Africa every year since 2020, Pakistan Africa Trade Conferences and Single Country Exhibitions are held, the third one of which was held last year from 29th November-01 December 2022 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ms. Stella Abrahams, South African Minister for Small Business Development of South Africa and his Pakistani counterpart, Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar besides hundreds of businessmen from Pakistan and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) countries attended the event. The event encompassed 25 key sectors of trade between Pakistan and SADC region.

Trade between Pakistan and South Africa has been growing steadily. Currently the two-way trade is around US\$ 2.0 billion. There is still a lot of scope for increasing the



level of trade commensurate with the warmth of the bilateral relations.

The relations in the defense domain are also growing steadily marked by frequent high level interactions among the military leadership of both sides.

## Pakistan had been at the forefront of the international efforts to dismantle the apartheid system

Chief of SANDF, Gen Rudzani Maphwanya visited Pakistan in July 2021 and later in November, 2022 to participate in IDEAS 2022. Former Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza also visited South Africa in July 2022.

Lack of institutional mechanisms and regular interactions have marred the true potential of the bilateral relations. Pakistan to increase its interactions with South Africa during the current year which also includes holding the 5th Meeting of the Joint Commission, establishing new institutional mechanisms and exchange of visits at the government level.



Aftab Hassan Khan,  
High Commissioner of Pakistan  
to South Africa





# The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA): Opportunities for Pakistan

By Areeba Arif Khan

**T**he African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is a major milestone for the African economy, providing a framework for regional economic integration, growth and development across the continent. The agreement represents a significant opportunity for Pakistan to expand its trade and investment ties with African countries, creating new opportunities for businesses and strengthening economic ties between the two regions.

The AfCFTA is designed to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business, people and investments. By removing trade barriers, the agreement is expected to boost intra-African trade by as much as 52.3% by 2022. This will create significant opportunities for businesses in Pakistan, which can leverage its strengths to gain access to a larger market and expand its outreach.

One of the key benefits of

the AfCFTA for Pakistan is the elimination of trade barriers. With the implementation of the agreement, Pakistan would gain preferential access to a market of over 1.2 billion people, representing a combined GDP of over \$3 trillion. This will provide a significant boost to Pakistan's exports, which have been under pressure due to increasing competition from other countries. Pakistan's textile and clothing industry, which is one of the country's largest export sectors, could benefit significantly from the elimination of tariffs on



textile and apparel products.

In addition to the elimination of trade barriers, the AfCFTA will also create opportunities for Pakistan to invest in African markets, which will enable Pakistani businesses to establish a foothold in African markets, as a result, this will help gain access to a larger customer base and expanding their operations. The potential for investment is significant, with the African Development Bank estimating that Africa needs around \$170 billion per year in infrastructure investment alone.

**The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is a major milestone for the African economy, providing a framework for regional economic integration, growth and development across the continent**

Furthermore, the AfCFTA presents an opportunity for Pakistan to diversify its exports. Currently, Pakistan's exports are heavily concentrated in a few sectors, such as textiles and clothing, leather goods, and sports goods. The African market presents a vast array of opportunities across a range of sectors, such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure, among others. By diversifying its exports, Pakistan can reduce

its dependence on a few sectors and become more resilient to external shocks.

To fully take advantage of the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA, Pakistan will need to address some key challenges. These include improving its infrastructure, enhancing its competitiveness, and building stronger trade and investment ties with African countries. In particular, Pakistan will need to focus on improving its transport and logistics infrastructure, which is crucial for efficient trade and investment.

Pakistan can also leverage its existing strengths to become a key player in the African market. For example, Pakistan has a strong pharmaceutical industry, which can play a significant role in meeting the healthcare needs of African countries. Similarly, Pakistan's agriculture sector can provide much-needed support to African countries in terms of food security. With Africa's population expected to double by 2050, there will be a growing demand for food and agricultural products, presenting significant opportunities for Pakistani businesses.

Another area of potential collaboration between Pakistan and Africa is in the field of renewable energy. With a vast array of renewable energy resources, including solar, wind, and hydropower, Africa has significant potential for renewable energy development. Pakistan, which has made significant progress in developing its own renewable energy sector, can

provide expertise and technology to support African countries in developing their own renewable energy infrastructure.

Conclusively, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement presents a significant opportunity for Pakistan to expand its trade and investment ties with African countries.

**To fully take advantage of the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA, Pakistan will need to address some key challenges. These include improving its infrastructure, enhancing its competitiveness, and building stronger trade and investment ties with African countries**

By leveraging its strengths and addressing key challenges, Pakistan can become a key player in the African market, thereby contributing to its own economic growth and that of the African continent .. To fully realize the potential of the AfCFTA, Pakistan will need to develop a comprehensive strategy for engagement with African countries.



Areeba Arif Khan, Research Associate at ISSI



# Links between Engage Africa Policy Pakistan-Mauritius Relations

By Ambassador Muhammad Ashrad Jan Pathan

Pakistan introduced its 'Engage Africa Policy' (EAP) in 2019. The vision of the Pakistani government to pragmatically engage Africa underpinned a more targeted approach to reinforcing its political and economic relations with Africa. With the implementation of EAP, Pakistan is in a much better position to achieve its short, medium, and long-term goals in Africa. Increased engagement with African countries in political, economic, defense, social and people-to-people contacts would pave the way for a whole host of opportunities for Pakistan and Africa to further strengthen their lasting cooperation. The 'Engage Africa Policy' is an attempt at addressing the gap and laying the foundations of a renewed mechanism and platform for fostering greater engagement between Pakistan and Africa, within a sustainable and long-term framework.

The EAP has a definitive action plan. In political engagements it proposes, inter alia, increased exchange of high-level visits of the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of Trade. In addition to bilateral visits, enhanced interaction with African leadership is activated on the sidelines of international events/meetings. In 2021-22, Pakistan opened five new Missions in Africa including those in Uganda, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Ghana and Rwanda bringing its presence in Africa to 19 Missions. EAP also envisages the opening of additional Missions in Africa every three to five years. Relatively, Pakistan has good relations in the fields of defense and security cooperation with Africa. Pakistani troops have an immense reputation in Africa through their role in all UN Peace-keeping Missions in the continent. Pakistan's expertise in counter-terrorism is being shared with African countries. Recently, the Parliament of Pakistan has also undertaken a number

of initiatives to increase its interaction and engagement with African Parliaments.

Similarly, in order to enhance economic and trade relations, the EAP suggested holding regular sessions of Joint Economic Commissions with African countries. Under the EAP, Pakistan organized three editions of 'Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conferences' in Nairobi (2019), Abuja (2021) and Johannesburg (2022). These regional African events showcased the potential of trade between Africa and Pakistan. Recently, a number of new positions of Trade and Investment Officers have been created at the Pakistani African Missions to explore opportunities in economic cooperation with Africa. Pakistan Business Councils are also being reactivated with specific targets. The performance of Pakistan's Honorary Counsels in Africa is under review and new candidates, especially in countries where there are no Resident Missions, with true potential are being identified.

**The 'Engage Africa Policy' is an attempt at addressing the gap and laying the foundations of a renewed mechanism and platform for fostering greater engagement between Pakistan and Africa, within a sustainable and long-term framework**

In social and cultural sectors, the EAP suggested a number of avenues where cooperation with African states are at an advanced stage. These include cooperation with African countries in tourism, sports, media, health, education and proposals for increased people to people contacts. Since, most of the African countries have varied culture, socio-economic and



growth levels, HDIs, CPIs and diverse levels of basic facilities and development hence, the Pakistani Missions are cooperating with African countries based on their host countries' (and accredited countries') politico-economic indicators.

In pursuance of our Engage Africa Policy, Pakistan High Commission in Mauritius is also making strides to deepen our relations with the small African island countries located in Western Indian Ocean Region including Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros. So far, the High Commission has presented his credentials to the Presidents of Mauritius and Seychelles, while dates for credentials with Madagascar and Comoros are expected in coming months. Seychelles has shown keen interest in cooperating with Pakistan in health, education, parliamentary interaction and trade and economic spheres.

Pakistan-Mauritius relations are deep rooted. The migration to Mauritius, which took place during the 17th and 18th centuries, also included people from cities that are now part of Pakistan. Both the countries always maintained friendly relations. In the past 15 months, governments of both the countries have cooperated in multiple areas. Pakistan considers Mauritius as the gateway to Africa and hence to capitalize the Mauritian location and access, negotiations on a number of proposals at bilateral level are at an advanced stage. Some of these proposals include export of frozen meat from Pakistan, establishing direct air-links, promotion of tourism, cooperation in education and scientific fields, increased number of scholarships, proposals for joint production of films in Mauritius and institutionalizing cooperation at the election commissions of the two countries. In the past four months, both the countries signed three important Memorandums of Understanding. It is hoped that the 2nd round of Bilateral Political Consultations and 11th session of the Joint Working Group on Trade between Pakistan and Mauritius shall take place in Islamabad during 2023.

Although the volume of bilateral trade with Mauritius is low, it is still that the business sector of both countries may explore complementarities between their respective markets and work on win-win deals. There had been visits of Mauritian trade delegations to Pakistan in February 2022, November 2022 and January 2023. To give further impetus to bilateral trade, the government of Pakistan has recently appointed Ambassador Rafick Elahee as the Honorary Investment Counsellor of Pakistan in Mauritius. Mr. Elahee is a leading businessman

engaged in the pharmaceutical and textile sectors and has served as Mauritian High Commissioner to Pakistan.

The High Commission of Pakistan organized 'Pakistan Week 2022' (PW22) in Mauritius from September 2-9, 2022 to commemorate 75th anniversary of the Independence Day of Pakistan and 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Mauritius. The PW22 activities included an Essay Competition, Pakistan Film Festival, Friendly Cricket Match, Qawali/Sufi Night, Painting & Photographic, Handicrafts Exhibitions, Pakistan Food Festival and Independence Day Reception followed by a Musical Concert by Faisal Kapadia and band. The week-long events were inaugurated by Mauritian leadership including the President, PM, Vice President, Vice Prime Ministers and various Cabinet Members. During participation at PW22, the Mauritian PM announced a donation of five million Mauritian Rupees for the flood victims in Pakistan.

### **Although the volume of bilateral trade with Mauritius is low, it is still that the business sector of both countries may explore complementarities between their respective markets and work on win-win deals**

To acknowledge the meritorious services of Mr. Achad Bhaglah, the President of Pakistan had been pleased to confer 'Tamgha-e-Imtiaz' on him on March 23, 2023. Mr. Bhaglah is an eminent scholar and former civil servant of Mauritius who completed his graduate and master's degree from Karachi University from 1975-81.

The month of March is extremely important for both Mauritius and Pakistan. It was March 12, 1968 when Mauritius got its independence from British rule and again the same day in 1992 Mauritius became a Republic. In Mauritius, we recently celebrated the 55th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius and 31st anniversary of its becoming the Republic. On this occasion, messages of felicitations, wishing prosperity of the government and the people of Mauritius were conveyed by the President, Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan to their Mauritian counterparts.



Arshad Jan Pathan,  
Ambassador of Pakistan to Mauritius



# Pakistan-Tanzania Relations



By Cd`A Muhammad Azam Bihan

Pakistan has historically enjoyed cordial relations with Tanzania and has maintained a resident diplomatic Mission in Dar-es-Salaam since 1967. Two separate MoUs between Pakistan and Tanzania (i) “Bilateral Political Consultations” and (ii) “Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation” were signed in December 2020, which are a testament to the growing relations. Despite the cordial relations that exist between the two countries, they lack substantive engagement as no bilateral summit or ministerial level visit has taken place till date. A Pakistan-Tanzania Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in the Senate of Pakistan in October 2021 and Tanzania-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly of Tanzania in November 2021.

## EXCHANGE OF VISITS

‘The Government of Pakistan’s ‘Engage Africa Policy-2019’ has laid the foundation for fostering deeper engagement between Pakistan and Tanzania. The Pakistan High Commission in Dar es Salaam is continuously working for the promotion of trade and economic relations between the two countries. In order to exploit the potential for bilateral economic cooperation, the mission organized visits of important Tanzanian public and private sector business representatives to Pakistan such as Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (November 2020); Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (October 2021);

Tanzania Horticultural Association (October-November 2021); and Medical Stores Department (December 2021). In addition, the business delegations from both countries also regularly participated in the exhibitions held in Pakistan and Tanzania such as Engineering and Healthcare (February 2022); 46th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (June-July 2022); 2nd Pakistan-Africa Trade Development Conference (November-December 2022); and 2nd Engineering and Healthcare (February 2023).

## ECONOMIC TIES

The volume of Pakistan-Tanzania bilateral trade in goods and services in 2021-22 stood at US\$224million despite COVID19 related challenges. The trade figures in the

Financial Year	Pakistan’s Export	Pakistan’s Imports	Total trade
2017-18	106	17	123
2018-19	101	40	141
2019-20	114	98	212
2020-21	92	70	162
2021-22	126	98	224

Source: FBR Islamabad

last five years are given below:

Pakistan’s major exports include textiles; linens; tents; cotton fabric; rice; electrical and electronics parts; industrial products; machinery; bulldozers and tractors. Main imports from Tanzania are raw cotton, tea, dry fruits, cloves, hides, ground nuts, beans and chickpeas. On the High Commission’s persuasion, the Tanzanian-Pakistan Business Council was formed in July 2022. The main objective

of the Council is to facilitate the business communities to enhance the economic activities between the two countries.

## SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CAPACITY BUILDING COOPERATION

Pakistan has been extending development assistance to Tanzania through capacity building, training of Tanzanian diplomats, bankers, railways and postal service officers since the 1970s

## The Government of Pakistan’s ‘Engage Africa Policy-2019’ has laid the foundation for fostering deeper engagement between Pakistan and Tanzania

Pakistan offers regular scholarships to Tanzanian students through the Technical Assistance

Program for Africa. Some scholarships are also offered directly by the COMSATS University and the Aga Khan University. It is a matter of great pride for Pakistan to note that Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania, had herself attended a public management course in Pakistan in 1988.

## DEFENCE AND SECURITY COLLABORATION

Tanzania has been availing training facilities at the Pakistani Armed Forces’ institutions. Twenty





Gentlemen Cadets from the United Republic of Tanzania trained at Pakistan Military Academy (1967-1971). One hundred and twenty six Tanzanian Air Force officers have, so far, received training in Pakistan since 1978. Pakistan has also been regularly offering training courses to the Tanzania Army and Navy officers since the 1980s. There have also been high level bilateral exchanges. The Chief of the Air Staff of Pakistan, visited Tanzania in January 2015. The incumbent President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Mwinyi visited Pakistan in 2014 in his former capacity as the Defence Minister of Tanzania. Most recently, Rear Admiral Michael M. Mumanga, Commander Tanzania Navy, visited Pakistan in January, 2022 to witness the “Exercise BARRACUDA-XI” conducted by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency. Pakistan Navy Ships have been paying regular goodwill visits, the last was by PNS ALAMGIR’s port-call at Dar es Salaam in January 2022. A sixmember medical team of specialists on board held a two-day Free Medical Camp in Dar es Salaam. Over twenty three hundred Tanzanian visitors including Pakistani Diaspora members availed of the medical services including free lab tests and medicines.

## CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY MATTERS

Around three thousand strong Pakistani Diaspora members living in Tanzania (including about



700 Pakistani nationals and the rest being Tanzanians of Pakistan origin) are a friendship bridge between the two countries. They are mostly engaged in small to medium scale investment in steel manufacturing, textile and trade. Some professionals work in the Aga Khan Hospital and Aga Khan Education Network. Other while color Professionals work for few UN specialized agencies and the banking and audit sectors.



To commemorate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan and the 60th anniversary of Independence of Tanzania, the High Commission organized the special “Pakistani Contemporary Art Exhibition” in the National Museum of Tanzania in August 2021.

### To commemorate the 75th Independence Day of Pakistan and the 60th anniversary of Independence of Tanzania, the High Commission organized the special “Pakistani Contemporary Art Exhibition” in the National Museum of Tanzania in August 2021

Pataudi and Prof. Dr. Rahat Naveed Masud, organized the exhibition of 35 renowned Pakistani artists including unique works of the renowned Pakistani artists Mr. Masood Kohari, Mr. Ijaz ul Hassan and Mr. Jamal Shah.



In order to promote the rich culture of Pakistan, a Mini-truck Art Exhibition was organized by the High Commission at the Embassy Residence on February 14, 2023 to showcase Pakistan’s rich culture of truck art in Pakistan. The spouses of the Heads of Diplomatic Corps in Dar es Salaam as well as Tanzanian Diaspora were invited. Welcoming the invited guests at the inauguration ceremony, Charge d’ Affaires (a.i.) Muhammad Azam Bihan called the exhibition the beginning of a vibrant cultural and people-to-people interaction as well as establishing institutional collaboration with Tanzania.

## TANZANIAN FAMOUS CUISINES

Tanzanian cuisine varies by geographical region. Along the coastal regions, spicy foods are common, and there is also much use of coconut milk.



Tanzania’s traditional foods include wali (rice), ugali (maize porridge), nyama choma (grilled meat), mshikaki (marinated beef), samaki (fish), pilau (rice mixed with a variety of spices), biriyani, and ndizi-nyama (plantains with meat).



Muhammad Azam Bihan, Charge d’ Affaires, Pakistan High Commission in Tanzania



# Algeria & Africa

By Ambassador Brahim Romani

## A glorious history and bright future

May 25th, Africa Day, commemorates the founding of the Organization of the African Unity in 1963, and is a rich course of joint African struggle in which Algeria was a pioneer in defending the continent in terms of freedom and the right to utilize its natural resources as well as to participate in a new world order characterized

by balance, justice and solidarity.

Algeria was also proactive in its support for liberation movements in South Africa. In 1961, the great African leader, Nelson Mandela also trained in the centers of Algerian revolution Namibia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Guinea Bissau and others.



President of Algeria Mr Abdelmajid Tebboune received the President of Guinea Bissau, Mr Umaro Sissoco Embaló

## A glorious path of solidarity

Algeria is seen as the beating heart of Africa. It attaches top priority to joint African actions in multiple fields. Its remarkable contributions to the establishment of security and peace are applause worthy, such as the mediation of Peace Agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea in 2002, and in the Sub-Saharan region, Algeria is the head of the International Mediation Group on Mali and the Follow-up Committee for the implementation of the peace and reconciliation agreement in Mali signed in Algiers in 2015. Efforts can also be seen during the African Peace and Security Council in combating terrorism, extremism and crime in the continent, through the active role of the President of the Republic, Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, the African Union Coordinator for combating terrorism and violent extremism.

Algeria was one of the pioneers of the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative (NEPAD) 2001, which included the vision of the African Union for economic and social developments of the continent. Algeria is also a member of the Ministerial Committee charged with following up the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063, to promote security, peace, development and unity of the continent.

Algeria hosts several important continental organizations, such as the African Center for Studies and Research on Terrorism (CAERT), the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), the Regional Command for Joint Operations Against Terrorism in the Sahel (CEMOC) in Tamanrasset, the African Energy Commission (AFREC) and the Conference



of African Constitutional Judicial institutions (CJCA).

Algeria is a prominent member of the Committee of Ten of African Union concerned with reforming the UN Security Council. Knowing that Algeria is a candidate for a non-permanent member position of the UN Security Council for the period 2024-2025 with the acclamation of the African Union, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

## A huge potential and the gateway to Africa

Algeria constitutes a pivotal country and a bridge of communication and strategic cooperation with the continent. It is the largest country in Africa, Arab and Mediterranean regions, with an area estimated at

about 2,400,000 km<sup>2</sup>, being central in the world as a Northern African country, which connects it to Europe across the Mediterranean Sea. It is working to achieve continental economic integration through huge

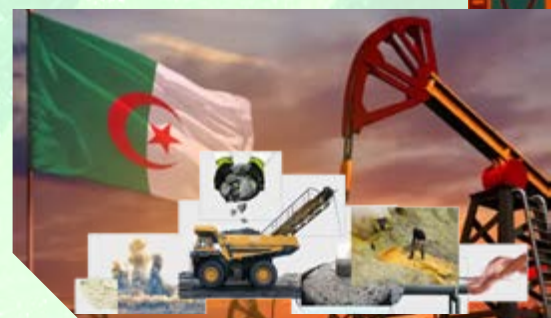
structural projects underway, such as the great port of Algiers "El-Hammadiya", the trans-Saharan gas pipeline, parallel to the trans-Saharan road with a length of 5000 km, linking northern Algeria with the capital of



Nigeria - Lagos through Tunisia, Mali, Chad and Niger, including the fiber optic network. Note that Algeria is a member of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFFCTA).

Algeria has diversified rich resources and modern infrastructure; 1600 km of Mediterranean shores, 36 airports, 11 seaports, 63 universities and 48 high schools. At the African level,

it is the second in gas production (more than 100 billion m3 annually) and reserves (4.5 trillion m3), third in oil production (1 million barrels per day) and reserves (12 billion barrels) including the largest iron, phosphate, zinc, gold and other mines. It also has a railway network linking the national territory to the southern border, which will reach 6,300 km soon and 12,500 km in 2030. In addition to the availability of fertile land for all types of



agriculture, in the north, center and south, being rich in various agricultural products.

## Future Potential

Pakistan was one of the first countries to support the Algerian revolution and to recognize its interim government in 1958, by establishing a representative office for it in the capital, Karachi. Pakistan also granted diplomatic passports to some of the leaders of the revolution, such as Ahmed Ben Bella, who became the first President of independent Algeria 1962-1965.

**Pakistan and Algeria have long-standing relations distinguished by solidarity, cooperation and continuous coordination in various organizations to which both countries belong**

Pakistan and Algeria have long-standing relations distinguished by solidarity, cooperation and continuous coordination in various organizations to which both countries belong; the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement and Group of 77.

Both countries have had several high level bilateral exchanges, such as the visit of President Houari Boumediene to participate in the first conference of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Lahore in 1974; the visit of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to Algeria in January 1972, as well as Benazir Bhutto in July 1990. The last meeting between the foreign

ministers of the two countries, Ramtane Lamamra and his counterpart, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, took place on September 23rd, 2022 on the sidelines of the meetings of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Algeria and Pakistan, both of which are important countries in their respective regions, can have fruitful partnerships in various sectors; industry, agriculture, energy, mines and modern technologies.

The two countries have been linked to joint cooperation mechanisms; the Bilateral Political Consultations Committee since the year 2003, and the Joint Ministerial Committee for Technical, Economic and Trade Cooperation (JMC) since 1987.

In 2023, Algeria and Pakistan will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 2017, Pakistan launched the Look Africa Policy Initiative with the aim of developing cooperative relations with Africa, in parallel promotion of political and diplomatic relations, which was embodied in the arrival of 13 Pakistani diplomatic missions on the continent. It gave a strong impetus to the Pakistani-African relations.

In this context, Pakistan's Engage African policy empowers Algeria



for its considerable capabilities and excellent qualifications, location, resources, competencies, and modern structural connection with the continent, and hence can be a solid base for Pakistan to extend relations with Algeria.

**Algeria and Pakistan, both of which are important countries in their respective regions, can have fruitful partnerships in various sectors; industry, agriculture, energy, mines and modern technologies**

Algeria is keen to diversify and develop partnerships globally, especially with the Asian region, in which Pakistan is a strategic country. In this context, the Algerian Embassy in Islamabad is working in coordination with the official and economic institutions of the two countries to activate bilateral cooperation.



Brahim Romani, Ambassador of Algeria to Pakistan





# Pakistan Trade with African Region

By Mohammad Nasir Mirza

Africa, home to more than one billion people, has rightly been labeled as the 'Continent of the Future,' owing to its promising economic potential, lucrative investment opportunities, abundant natural resources and most importantly due to its high percentage of youth population. For a country like Pakistan, where economic activity has received a boost in wake of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Africa is a land of endless opportunities. Pakistan's trade volume with Africa has reached a historic level of \$6 billion in 2021. According to the International Trade Centre's (ITC) trade map, imports were recorded at \$4.5 billion in 2021 as opposed to \$2.6 billion last year, posting a robust growth of 70.5%.

**W**here do bilateral trade relationships stand between Pakistan and Africa?

To reinvigorate trade ties with Africa, Pakistan launched the 'Look Africa' policy in the year 2017, in an attempt toward geographical and product diversification of exports. Under the policy, the top 10 African nations based on their economic size; Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Angola, were identified to enhance trade. In addition, Preferential Trade Agreements (PTA) with three African trading blocs – SACU, ECOWAS and EAC, were among the key aspects of the policy. A series of Pakistan-Africa Trade & Development Conference (PATDC) was also part of the policy for which the first PATDC was held in January 2020 in Nairobi, the second was held in Lagos in November 2021, and a third was held in Johannesburg in 2022. Moreover, six trade wings have opened in Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania. Under these wings, local people have been appointed as trade development officers in various African countries. The Pakistan South African Association based in

South Africa works closely with the Pakistan mission in South Africa. This Association is operating in many parts of Africa like Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Maputo, Swaziland, Lesotho, and Namibia.

## Potential areas

◆ Pakistan's contribution in agriculture can play a vital role in developing the Pakistani market and trade in Africa, an example of which is Millat Tractors.



In December 2020 Millat Tractors secured an export order for 600 tractors to Angola which is an important milestone towards the practical implementation of the 'Engage Africa Policy'. The agricultural machinery and equipment industry has a lot of potential. It is the most promising industry in Pakistan and has a lot of export potential for a region like Africa where Agriculture is the largest source of sustenance for the people.



❖ In the health sector, Africa is lagging behind and facing major diseases such as malaria, typhoid, cholera, dengue fever etc. This health emergency creates an opportunity for Pakistani pharmaceutical companies to work with relevant stakeholders in Africa to combat the crisis.

## To reinvigorate trade ties with Africa, Pakistan launched the 'Look Africa' policy in the year 2017, in an attempt toward geographical and product diversification of exports

To achieve this goal a Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Committee has also been set up to encourage the production and export of medicines and medical products to countries abroad and specifically to African countries like Kenya, Rwanda, Ivory Coast and Djibouti.



However, despite the friendly nature of Pakistan- African ties, mutual trade figures have remained quite meager.

### Anomalies in Pak-Africa bilateral trade

❖ Pakistan, being the world's largest importer of black fermented tea, imports from Kenya stand at around 87% at an average tariff of 11%. However, non-basmati rice which is Pakistan's prime export

product to Kenya faces an average tariff of 35% and most of the time is subjected to stringent scrutiny. Similarly, high tariff anomalies can be traced in other African economies such as Nigeria, Egypt and Ethiopia.

❖ According to the ex-chairman REAP, increasing freight cost, lack of availability of vessels and bags for transportation make Pakistani rice expensive in the African market. Pakistan faces high freight costs as compared to India.



India uses Iranian vessels for its shipments. Furthermore, another factor that hinders the exports from Pakistan is lack of high value addition products like "Rice Bran," which has a huge market in Africa but Pakistan produces a low quantity of rice bran as compared to India. It produces around 110 million tons of rice bran annually which hardly fulfills the local consumption needs. Most of the rice bran is consumed locally for feeding cattle.

### Policy recommendations

❖ There is great potential for Pakistani electric fans and tractors in Africa. They provide both product and market diversification for Pakistan's export basket.

❖ The Ministry of commerce needs to start negotiations with the regional trading blocs such as South African Custom Union (SACU), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Western African States (ECOWAS) and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

❖ India uses Iranian vessels for

the transportation of shipments. Pakistan should also actively look for measures to start trade negotiations with Iran in this regard.

❖ Non-tariff measures include sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, pre-shipment inspections, import quotas and various others. Pakistan needs to make sincere efforts in terms of reducing non-tariff measures. One of the biggest NTMs that stalled the shipment of Pakistani rice to Kenya is the Khapra beetle infestation. Thus, it is important to take measures for saving crops from infestation. The presence of this pest in rice has caused tremendous losses to Pakistan's exports.

## Africa is full of economic opportunities. Various sectors in which Pakistan is capable of exporting, should be properly researched, in terms of potential and capacity

Conclusively, Africa is full of economic opportunities. Various sectors in which Pakistan is capable of exporting, should be properly researched, in terms of potential and capacity. Hence, Pakistan's investors and manufacturers should come up with innovative ideas that in turn would greatly benefit the economy and help create sustainable trading channels. However, at this stage policy-making decisions supplemented by a mindful approach will play a substantial role.



Muhammad Nasir Mirza,  
Former President Rawalpindi  
Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry

# Somalia-Pakistan Relations

By Cd'A Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim



**B**ilateral diplomatic relations between Somalia and Pakistan were established in December 1960 right after Somalia's independence and since then, the two countries have enjoyed a cordial brotherly relationship. Pakistan firmly stood beside the people of Somalia during their independence struggle with both moral and material support. In 1992, after the collapse of the central Government of Somalia, Pakistan sent troops to Somalia under the aegis of the United Nations troops.

The historic diplomatic relationship of the two countries based on mutual respect, culture and religious affinity which binds the two states together. It reached its height in the 1970s to 1980s during the military regime led Government of Somalia, as the diplomatic Missions respectively opened in the two capitals, cooperation agreements adopted, followed by high level visits intended to further promote cooperation between two sides in a bid to maximize the business trade and people to people connection.

The two countries were among the founders of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1969 in order to safeguard and promote the OIC strategy and objectives towards future betterment of Islamic countries. Somalia and Pakistan remain with common global issues.

The incumbent Government of Somalia led

by H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud is giving high importance to the relationship of the brotherly government of Pakistan and is committed to further strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

**Somalia has the second longest coastline in Africa which extends to more than 3330 km packed with diverse blue economy resources, such as fishery, gas and petrol minerals which are key for the country's economy**

In December, 2022 a high level delegation composed of parliamentarians, federal ministers and federal state level interior ministries led by H.E. Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, the federal Minister of Interior, federal Affairs, and reconciliation of Somalia, paid a study tour visit to Pakistan. During their two weeks in Pakistan, the visiting the delegates visited many institutions of the Government of Pakistan, such as the speaker of the parliament, prominent senators, Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs, NADRA, and many other prominent individual Ministers from both the federal and provincial level and discussed strengthening the cooperation between the two countries as well as agreed to exchange many visits in the near future. The Interior Minister signed an MoU on establishing the National Database system in Somalia with the Chairman of the National Database and Registration Authority of Pakistan (NADRA) and this agreement



has been underway since 2018 and it will start being implemented in August 2023.

There is also an important draft of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral political consultation between Somalia and Pakistan which is in its final stages and will be signed soon. It is hoped that many other MoUs, in areas such as fishery and livestock will be signed soon.

Somalia is situated in a strategic location in the eastern horn of Africa bordering the Indian Ocean Sea and red sea of the Gulf of Aden, a substantive and significant corridor for the trade and Economic movements across the world. Meanwhile, apart from being a strategic hub in the region, Somalia is rich with untapped resources abundant in both terrestrial and marine spaces.

Somalia has the second longest coastline in Africa which extends to more than 3330 km packed with diverse blue economy resources, such as fishery, gas and petrol minerals which are key for the country's economy. Moreover, being agro-pastoral people, Somalis raise the largest livestock herds (camel, cattle and goats) in the region and export to the entire Arab world and beyond. Moreover, Somalia has more than 10,000 fertile land hectares ready for cultivation and this makes it, resource wise unique and unmatched.

The economic and trade business relation of two countries has been vibrant in the past years, but unfortunately, due to the instability in Somalia and other impeding factors, the trade movement drastically declined and slowed down. However, there is a huge number of Somalis with small and medium trade associations, who trade in Pakistan to export and import commodities between Pakistan and Somalia. Even though there is no accurate data about the volume of the trade body, estimation figures indicate that trade was approximately over US\$ 75 -100 million in the year 2023 on both sides. Key commodities exported from Pakistan to Somalia include food products, cement, textile, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and iron and those imported from Somalia include fruits, sesame oil, from Somalia.

In the area of military cooperation many agreements were signed in the past, particularly the Air-Force agreement which was signed in the 1980s. However, these agreements were reviewed recently and a new MOU was signed in this field. Pakistan used to train Somalian air-force pilots in Somalia during the last military led government of the country.

In this regard, the Embassy of Somalia in Islamabad is working to ensure the implementation of the existing agreements and to work on more agreements in several other areas. There is also a commitment to boost up the

trading capacity of the respective business groups and, on the other hand, work with the concerned authorities to remove hindering trade obstacles impeding the inflow of the trade. The chamber of commerce of both countries interact so that work can be done on future trade prospects of the two countries.

## Education Sector

Pakistan has been the sole destination for education for Somali students since many decades.. Hundreds of graduates from Pakistan with every level of specialization skills are currently serving in almost every corner in Somalia.. As part of the country's progress goals they are in the top leadership of the development institutions either in governmental or private sector in senior ranks such as Directors, university lecturers, professional doctors, lawyers, and private sector CEOs, and business owners.

**In the area of military cooperation many agreements were signed in the past, particularly the Air-Force agreement which was signed in the 1980s. However, these agreements were reviewed recently and a new MOU was signed in this field. Pakistan used to train Somalian air-force pilots in Somalia during the last military led government of the country**

In addition to this, the Government of Pakistan has generously allocated a fixed quota of scholarship seats for the students from Somalia in every academic year. This scholarship quota remains permanent and many poor students benefit every year. According to some data more than 3000 (three thousand) students completed their higher education in Pakistan in the last three decades. Approximately 1200 students with varied specializations are currently studying in the different universities of Pakistan; while many more are coming in Pakistan to their studies.

There is also a small Somali community which is successful here in Pakistan. These families who are estimated to be around 100 households are leading a peaceful and sustainable life in Pakistan while some of them are registered as refugee asylum seekers.



Shirwa Abdullahi Ibrahim,  
Charge d'Affaires of Somalia  
in Pakistan



# Kenya – Pakistan Ties

By High Commissioner Nyambura Kamau

**T**he Republic of Kenya is located in the eastern part of Africa with a population of approximately 54 million people. Kenya is the largest and most advanced economy in East and Central Africa. Kenya's GDP accounts for more than 50 percent of the region's total in terms of current market price index; with strong growth prospects supported by an emerging urban middle class and an increasing appetite for high-value goods and services. Kenya is amongst the largest economies in Sub-Saharan Africa after Nigeria and South Africa.

Kenya is strategically located and is the gateway to East and Central Africa with great regional and international connectivity. With its strategic location that borders the Indian Ocean, Kenya is considered a strategic

production and distribution base for Africa, Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and other Indian Ocean Islands. Kenya's economy is driven by agriculture, manufacturing, the service industry, and tourism.

Kenya is a member of regional blocs such as the East African Community (EAC) and Common Market for East and South African (COMESA), which has a combined population of 500 million people. Kenya is also a member of the 79 member countries of the Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP), which has a trading agreement with the EU that allows free market access. It also has trading arrangements with the United States of America through the African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) and Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the UK.

**Kenya is strategically located and is the gateway to East and Central Africa with great regional and international connectivity**

Kenya has relatively well-developed physical infrastructural facilities including, four international airports, an extensive road and railway network, a modern deep-sea port in Mombasa which is capable of handling bulk and other containerized cargo, an expanding, liberalized





energy sector, and digital telecommunication networks. As a result, Kenya continues to develop as a financial and transport hub for the East and Central African region.

Kenya is a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and multi-religion country. People from different backgrounds peacefully coexist working, trading, and living side by side.

Kenya has a coastline on the Indian Ocean together with savannah, lakes, the Great Rift Valley, and mountain highlands making it rich in flora and fauna. It is also home to wildlife like lions, elephants, and rhinos which make it a great tourist destination for wildlife safaris.

The country also hosts the headquarters of the United Nations Environmental Programme and UN-HABITAT and other International Organizations.

#### Kenya- Pakistan Relations

Pakistan and Kenya have long-standing bilateral relations and enjoy warm relations with strong people to people interactions. Several factors underpin the relations between the two countries, including a strong commitment from the two nations to grow their ties. This is driven mainly by the fact that bilateral relations have become a key cog in transforming the two economies including, in areas such as Trade, Defense, Research, Education etc.

Pakistan is the 4th largest trading partner for Kenya only below the US, Uganda, and the Netherlands representing about 7% of Kenya's total exports globally. Kenya Exported about USD 500 million worth of goods to Pakistan and imported about USD 300 million worth of goods from Pakistan in 2022. Tea is the main export of Kenya to Pakistan while rice is the biggest export from Pakistan to

Kenya. Kenya's other main exports to Pakistan include hides and skin, onions, carbonates, sacks, bags, and cut flowers. Pakistan's other major exports to Kenya include cotton fabrics (woven), surgical equipment, pharmaceutical products, and veterinary products.

There is a huge potential for trade, investment, and tourism between Kenya and Pakistan that has not been exploited yet. Kenya has taken bold and prudent steps to ensure that sound trade and trade-related policies are implemented to promote trade and investment and encourage tourism. Kenya is focused on the key pillars of; manufacturing; agriculture and food security; affordable housing and settlement; micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME); digital and creative economy; and universal healthcare.

## Pakistan and Kenya have long-standing bilateral relations and enjoy warm relations with strong people to people interactions

Kenya continues to seek for more cooperation with Pakistan and is constantly engaging with both the public and private sector players to enhance the relations and build on new strategies to expand the economies of both countries.



Nyambura Kamau,  
High Commissioner  
of Kenya in Pakistan





# African Union Successes and Failures

By Ambassador Shozab Abbas

On 27th May 1963, thirty-two African countries established Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa, mainly to achieve complete emancipation from the scourge of colonialism, imperialism and white minority rule. The launch of OAU endorsed to strengthen civil and democratic rule, by building institutional capacity, eradicating corruption, establishing rule of law, empowering individuals and communities, resolving violent conflicts and augmenting stature of Africa on global plane. Surprisingly, the OAU successfully achieved the first and foremost goal of independence from imperial colonialism, however, internal peace, stability and development remained a distant dream. Crushing civil wars in Nigeria and Angola and rampant human rights violation in many parts of Africa, guided the African leadership to strive to evolve African Union (AU) at Durbin in 2002, and agreed to establish organ like Peace and Security Council, with a standing African army, to intervene when security needed to restore order in any of the member state.

Currently, the African Union, with 55 member states, is headquartered

in Addis Ababa and endeavoring collectively to promote peace, security, economic integration, development, good governance and democracy to improve the quality of life of 1.4 billion people. The AU is the home to many of the poorest, heavily indebted and badly governed countries on earth.

**All arms of the AU are effectively working in unison to forge peace & stability, promote economic integration, cooperation and development, and strengthening good governance and democracy in Africa**

Despite these daunting challenges, the AU has registered its mark in the realm of international organizations. In the past, the AU through its peace support missions, has saved many precious lives in African countries including Burundi, Comoros, Somali and Sudan. Currently, African Union has deployed two peacekeeping missions: United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The AU has been playing a constructive

role to mitigate smoldering tension between Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt on the operationalization of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) built on Blue Nile River. Ethiopia has vehemently supporting and urging, all parties, to come under the umbrella of the AU and resolve regional hydrological dispute amicably. Recent peace accord, signed in February 2023, between Ethiopian government and Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF) is another unambiguous proof of political prowess, collective wisdom and believe of member states in of the efficacy of the African Union.

The African Union has introduced a number of steps to reform the organization in an endeavor to reduce the existing gap between ordinary citizens of the continent and the AU. A number of mechanisms, five regional blocs, and intergovernmental platforms have been established to strengthening democracy, eradicating poverty, improving the environment, and maintaining peace and stability in Africa. All arms of the AU are effectively working in unison to forge peace & stability, promote economic integration, cooperation and development, and strengthening good governance and democracy in Africa.

In 2018, to pursue the goal of



African economic integration, the AU launched milestone African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The agreement has been signed by 44 out of 55 African countries. Once, AfCFTA is fully implemented, it would help eliminating tariffs on most goods and services within a stipulated timeframe and bolster intra-African trade.

### Pakistan and African Union Cooperation

Pakistan, in the past, stood with the African nations struggling to exercise universally accepted principle and right of “self-determination”. Pakistan extended all out diplomatic and political support for the liberation of colonized countries like Angola, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Rhodesia, and Western Sahara. During the Algerian and Tunisian struggles for independence, Pakistan selflessly granted Pakistani passports to the exiled African leadership to empower them to return to their masses and muster up struggle against wretched colonial masters.

Undoubtedly, the foundation of close fraternal relations between Pakistan and Africa were laid down by the visionary leadership of late Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1973. Pakistan also extended unequivocal support against the racism and apartheid policies of South Africa. Later, when Pakistan hosted the second OIC summit in Lahore in 1974, under leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, all Muslim nations of Africa and Asia, including Somalia, Sudan, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Guinea, and Niger from Sub-Saharan Africa, participated in the conference and expressed sincere commitment to building a new chapter of Pak-Africa relationships. The Summit Minaret and Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore still stand as a testament to the brotherly relations between Pakistan and African countries.

Since 1960s, Pakistani peacekeepers have been involved in peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities in Africa including Côte d’Ivoire, Western Sahara, South Sudan, Darfur, DR Congo, Liberia and Somalia. The services of Pakistani peacekeepers under the UN umbrella are well-recognized by African countries. Pakistani soldiers, policemen and civilians have won great acclaim by the African civil society, organizations, governments and the UN for dauntlessly performing duties in most difficult circumstances and protected life and property of the African people.

In 2019, Pakistan launched the “Engage Africa Initiative” to strengthen its diplomatic and political relations with the African Union countries. To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Commerce collaborated to expand Pakistan’s economic and diplomatic footprint on the African continent. As part of this initiative, Pakistan opened five new resident missions in Djibouti, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, and Uganda, while the embassies in Niger and Tanzania were upgraded to ambassadorial level. Additionally, the Ministry of Commerce established commercial sections in Algeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan. Further efforts are underway to promoting trade, scientific, agricultural, industrial, tourism, maritime and environmental cooperation to diversify relations in emerging fields.

Pakistan continued its efforts and remained engaged politically and economically with Africa. The renewed efforts, coupled with economic objectives, have boosted Pakistan’s overall trade with Africa by 7 percent in 2022. One of the most promising advancements in trade has been noticed in Pakistan’s trade relations with Ethiopia. In 2019, trade between Pakistan and Ethiopia was valued at USD 35 million, which has

surpassed USD 80 million in 2022, reflects an increase more than 100 percent. African economies need sustained supply of improved quality of all types of merchandise and thus eager to build stronger relations with countries of Asia to achieve self-sufficiency in manufacturing, mining, maritime resource extraction and food security sectors.

### Recommendations

- ❖ Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Water and Power Development Authority and Pakistan Alternative Energy Board may come up with joint investment projects in exploiting renewable energy sources to address ongoing energy crisis in Africa.
- ❖ Pakistan has been importing oil and energy products, mostly from Middle Eastern neighbors, worth USD 20 billion. Pakistan may sign concessional deals with Sudan, South Sudan, Chad and Mauritania to build energy infrastructure and import proven oil and gas resources for national consumption.
- ❖ Commencement of oil imports from Africa will increase our choices, reduce energy bill, build new ties with Africa as well as strengthen national energy security in Pakistan.
- ❖ Pakistan, being a reliable old partner in peacekeeping and peacebuilding exercises, may involve in building security, intelligence and defense relations with African countries and contribute in promoting peace and stability in Africa.
- ❖ Pakistani projects like Billion Tree Tsunami may be synergized with AU environmental programs to win international acclaim to improve global environment.



Shozab Abbas,  
Ambassador of Pakistan  
to Ethiopia





## Pak-Nigeria Relations Case Study of Bilateral Relations

By Dr. Ismail Adaramola Abdul Azeez

**B**oth Pakistan and Nigeria share similarities in several realms like, economic growth as well as in the conduct of their foreign policies. Both are members of the commonwealth, United Nations, G 8 Countries and are considered among the world's developing States. Pakistan is one of those nations, which has gained more popularity due to the increased politics in this region. Pakistan and Nigeria have made considerable advancement in the industrial sector yet they are mainly agricultural countries. Pakistan produces wheat, rice, cotton, sugarcane and maize. The main products of Nigeria are groundnuts, cotton, cocoa and rubber. The principal export items of Pakistan are rice, cotton, textiles and leather goods, while one of the principal export items of Nigeria include petroleum, and is the seventh largest oil producing State, while Pakistan is a net importer of crude petroleum. As regards the direction of trade, imports and exports of both the countries are heavily oriented towards Western countries, especially the United States of America.

**Pakistan and Nigeria have made considerable advancement in the industrial sector yet they are mainly agricultural countries**

Pakistan and Nigeria bilateral relations can be viewed in terms of national integrity and sovereignty. In the context of Pakistan, the contentious sovereignty issues include: Wars with India, Kashmir

question, nuclear position, the status of Pakistan in the Muslim World and the War on terror. On the other hand, Nigeria and Pakistan have similarities with Pakistan with regard to the fighting terror, among others.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Federal Republic of Nigeria established diplomatic and bilateral relations in the 1960s, since then, the relationship between the two countries has been warm, cordial and beneficial. Both countries think alike on major political, economic and social issues of international concern. The two countries are members of international organizations, such as the Commonwealth, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), World Trade Organization (WTO) Developing 8(D-8) and organization of Islamic conference (OIC), the United Nation (UN) and the committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Pakistan and Nigeria fully support the institutions of stable democracy in the promotion of global peace and security. The fact that Nigeria has maintained cordial diplomatic relations with Pakistan, at the international level, the two countries have both supported the rights of nations to self-determination and have extended support to other nations in this regard. The future prospects for Pakistan need to be explored and the Nigerian Government is working hard to enhance trade and economic volume between Nigeria and Pakistan. However, they need to be improved by taking full advantage of available opportunities and bringing these relations to new heights by the establishment of

business-to-business contacts, launching of joint ventures, utilizing all resources, potentials and each other's experiences at optimal level. The Nigerian government has seen the need to remove hurdles, especially problems that have been faced by the business community of the both countries on priority basis. The issue of price non-competitiveness should be resolved as soon as possible The Nigerian Chamber of Commerce assured that there will be no problem for Pakistan's Businessmen in visa issuance and invited them to make investments in potential sectors in Nigeria. The NCC stressed the impediments in the way of mutual trade needed to be addressed by joint mechanisms. Both sides restated the desire to deepen cooperation in the areas of defense and counter-terrorism in future.

**Pakistan and Nigeria bilateral relations can be viewed in terms of national integrity and sovereigntys**

Pakistan and Nigeria both share the same colonial legacy, therefore, the political systems of these two sisters countries resemble each other. Historically, the relations between the two states started long time ago, even though both have cooperated vis a vis military training, and many Nigerian students are studying in Pakistani universities in various academic fields.



Dr. Ismail Adaramola Abdul Azeez,  
Assistant Professor International  
Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI)





## Pakistan - A Story of a Dream Come True

By Dr. Bashir Bahar

**D**uring the spring semester, -2023, Prof. Dr. Hathal ibn Momoud Alotaibi, President of the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI), met with all teachers of various nationalities. The meeting brought together teachers of different nationalities, including Egyptians, Sudanese, and Algerians, respectively. When each professor kindly introduced himself and his nationality, the attendance was large, so I waited until it was my turn, when I surprised everyone with a unique and resounding definition, I said, “I was born in Sudan, but I have been made in Pakistan,” which indicates that I am the product of the various opportunities that Pakistan has provided - and is still doing - for African researchers.

Africa is attracting the world's attention with its growing population of youth and entrepreneurs, dynamic economies with the largest free trade areas, diverse ecosystems and vast natural resources. On the political and diplomatic front, it is one The major scientific opportunity, which I took advantage of here, was that I achieved the continuation of my life's dream of obtaining a PHD in Media Studies. I started my academic studies at the University of Karachi, graduating from the Faculty of Arts (Department of Mass Communication) and then I continued my postgraduate studies

to obtain two master's degrees, one in Media (Public Relations) and Translation Studies as well. What I must not forget to mention is that myself and my fellow students of different African nationalities have found a diverse and foreign-loving environment. Different cultural factors have always had an effect on Pakistan's foreign policy. The Pakistani nation also has the right to protect and show its culture like other countries and above all an educational policy that is open to all. It is important that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) does open opportunities to facilitate the scientific research process and provide scholarships for the foreign researchers.

**The economic, political and strategic outlook of Pakistan and the continent of Africa under the slogan: “Engage Africa Initiative” is what the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan is doing in terms of opening investment opportunities for all countries, especially African countries**

The second opportunity that I achieved after completing my studies is that I contracted with the Islamic University to teach at the Faculty of Social Sciences for the position of Teaching/Research. I studied at the Islamic University for three years and then moved on to

Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh as a visiting professor with the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Translation Studies. Here I want to highlight what I have witnessed during my years of residence in Pakistan. Pakistanis have always worked with me to develop and keep pace with its openness to the outside world. The economic, political and strategic outlook of Pakistan and the continent of Africa under the slogan: “Engage Africa Initiative” is what the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan is doing in terms of opening investment opportunities for all countries, especially African countries, and discovering business opportunities in order to facilitate free trade opportunities between foreign investors and their Pakistani counterparts.

Last but not least, on this celebration of Africa Day, I want to convey my special wishes to Pakistan and its great people by saying that undoubtedly the conduct of Pakistan's foreign policy has been built on a strong structure of “Freedom of Trade, Business & Profession, therefore, I wish the growing ties between Pakistan and various African nations more success.



Dr. Bashir Bahar,  
Assistant Professor at  
Department of Translation &  
Interpretation, IIUI, Islamabad

# An Ethiopian Perspective on Pakistan-Ethiopia Ties



By Ambassador Jemal Beker

Undoubtedly, wars, pandemics, information warfare and economic conflicts have dealt a fatal blow to globalization, but these challenges present a unique opportunity to Africa to position itself as a knowledge and science driven economy by harnessing its demographic dividends.

Beyond any doubt, knowledge and science driven development is vital for socio-economic well-being of the people. The quest for the prosperity of Africa that has immense potential to become the best destination for tourism, business, trade and investment due to its mineral rich land, large demography and deep-rooted democracy.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, there has been a remarkable improvement in the governance style of African countries and political stability has become a hallmark of the continent with more democratic accountability and transparency within the governments.

The continent has 40 percent of the world's gold and up to

90 percent of its chromium and platinum. The largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium in the world are in Africa. It holds 65 percent of the world's arable land and ten percent of the planet's internal renewable fresh water source.

**Africa will emerge as an icon of prosperity and will be shaping the future of the entire globe in the current century. Hence, it is important for countries like Pakistan to increase its presence in this continent through enhanced bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation**



By 2050, a quarter of the world's populations will be in Africa, which will shape our planet's future. Africa's unprecedented population growth will have an impact on geopolitics, global trade, work force, and all other sectors.

The current century belongs to Africa but most importantly, it needs to establish pan-African research infrastructure to conduct research for discovery of solutions to the global challenges like climate change, poverty and unemployment.







There should be pan-African centers in the continent, which could translate that research into policy making which would eventually boost the socio-economic progress of entire Africa.

The research infrastructure must include institutions to promote understanding of science and technology among the people that is crucial to improve the livelihood of the entire continent's population.

Africa will emerge as an icon of prosperity and will be shaping the future of the entire globe in the current century. Hence, it is important for countries like Pakistan to increase its presence in this continent through enhanced bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.

Pakistan needs to implement its 'Engage Africa Policy' in an effective way and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia can play a key role in this regard.

Ethiopia is a gateway to Africa and has recently established

its mission in Pakistan for strengthening political, security, economic, social, and cultural ties through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation.

It merits the attention that the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have made history together by organizing a 100-members trade delegation to Ethiopia for establishing close connections among the business community of the two countries.

**Ethiopia has played a leading role in pan-Africa since the colonial period and still has a strong legacy in shaping the political, socio-economic and regional integration**

The FDRE Embassy takes pride in taking a lead in achieving this milestone in the bilateral relations of the two countries within the six months of its establishment.

It is also important to note that both the countries have established institutional linkages to boost bilateral, regional and multilateral

cooperation for strengthening political, security and economic, social, and cultural ties.

Ethiopia has played a leading role in pan-Africa since the colonial period and still has a strong legacy in shaping the political, socio-economic and regional integration.

Ethiopia is the founding member of the League of Nations, UN, OAU, African intercontinental free Trade Agreement and ensures free movement of people, goods and services across the continent and the owner of the largest Pan-Africa Airlines is Ethiopian Airlines.

Hence, connecting with Ethiopia means connecting with the whole of Africa, which is destined to lead the world with its dynamic, hardworking, committed and dedicated human resource, knowledge economy and visionary leadership.



Ambassador Jemal Beker, Ambassador of Ethiopia in Pakistan



# Exploring Pakistan's Natural Gems as a Somali

By Mohamed A Hersi (Farooq)

**A**s an African Somali student who has spent over half a decade in Islamabad, Pakistan pursuing my Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in International Relations and Politics, I can confidently say that my experience in this country has been nothing short of amazing. Throughout my stay, I had the opportunity to explore different parts of Pakistan, including its beautiful mountains, wonderful monuments, historical landmarks, and cultural diversity. In this article, I will shed light on my experience and urge other students, especially those from Africa, to take advantage of the excellent education system, friendly weather, and affordable lifestyle that Pakistan has to offer.

One of the most noteworthy aspects of my stay in Pakistan has been the surrounding natural beauty. The



Margalla Hills in Islamabad offer breathtaking views and serve as a perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. During weekends and holidays, my friends and I go hiking and camping in the hills, enjoying the fresh air and beautiful

scenery. We also visited other mountain ranges like the Himalayas and Karakoram, which were truly awe-inspiring.



Aside from the natural wonders, Pakistan is also home to a wealth of historical landmarks and monuments. The Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad, for instance, is one of the most beautiful mosques in the world and a great symbol of Islamic architecture. I also visited the ancient city of Taxila, which was once an important center of Buddhist learning and culture. The well-preserved ruins around the city were a testament to Pakistan's rich history and cultural heritage.

**The well-preserved ruins around the city were a testament to Pakistan's rich history and cultural heritage**



As an international relations and politics student, I am also drawn to Pakistan's political landscape. The country's vibrant democracy and diverse population provided me with a unique perspective on governance and diplomacy. I had the opportunity to attend various conferences and seminars on topics such as peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and human rights. These events helped me to understand the complex challenges facing Pakistan and the broader region and provided me with invaluable networking opportunities.

**In addition to the beautiful scenery and rich history, what I appreciate most about Pakistan is its cultural diversity. The country is home to dozens of different languages and ethnic groups, each with its unique traditions and customs**

In addition to the beautiful scenery and rich history, what I appreciate most about Pakistan is its cultural diversity. The country is home to dozens of different languages and ethnic groups, each with its unique traditions and customs. As a Somali student, I have found many similarities between the cultures of Pakistan and Somalia, which have always made me feel at home. I have also been able to learn about the cultures of other countries in South Asia, such as India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, which broadened my horizons and enriched my experience.



One of the most memorable experiences during my stay in Pakistan was also attending and participating in various wedding ceremonies. The weddings in Pakistan are truly unique and offer a colorful and joyous celebration of love and union. I had the opportunity to attend weddings in different parts of the country, each with their distinct customs, music, and food. The wedding I attended with two of my friends in Kalar Kahar Tehsil, Punjab, was particularly exceptional, with energetic dances,

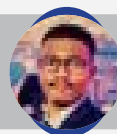
melodious music, and beautifully decorated venues. It was fascinating to see how the wedding traditions in Pakistan differ from those in Somalia and East Africa, and I appreciate the opportunity to learn and experience such cultural diversity.

Living in Pakistan was affordable as well, especially compared to other study destinations. The cost of living in Islamabad is relatively low, and the city offers a wide range of accommodation options, from budget-friendly guesthouses to luxury hotels. The food is also affordable, and Pakistani cuisine is delicious and diverse, with a range of flavors and spices.



The weather in Islamabad is also a plus point, especially for those coming from African countries with hot climates. The city's weather is generally pleasant, with mild winters and warm summers. This makes it an excellent study destination for those who want to escape extreme weather conditions and enjoy a more temperate climate.

In conclusion, my experience in Pakistan as an African, Somali student has been enriching and rewarding. I had the opportunity to explore the country's natural wonders, historical landmarks, and diverse cultures, while also gaining valuable knowledge in my field of study. I urge other students, especially those from Africa, to consider Pakistan as a study destination. The country offers excellent education, affordable living, friendly weather, and a unique cultural experience. It is truly a great opportunity to explore the cultural diversity in South Asia and complete your studies. I can confidently say that Pakistan will always hold a special place in my heart, and I hope more students can experience the beauty and hospitality of this wonderful country.



Mohamed A Hersi,  
M.Phil. Student at International Islamic  
University in Islamabad

# Engaging the African Region

## A Perspective from Zimbabwe on Enhancing Pakistan's Exports in the African Continent

By Ambassador Murad Baseer



**T**he Engage Africa Policy, an economic diplomacy tool, can be made more effective by linking it to the Look Africa Policy by the Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad. Both Ministries need to work together in order to succeed in the African continent. In this regard, a more holistic and an all-encompassing Government approach is needed where all stakeholders are involved. Keeping in view the current developments in the African continent, engagement with Africa should be reoriented on the motto “Partners in peace, partners in development & prosperity”.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Harare, Zimbabwe is concurrently accredited to the Republic of Angola, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, therefore this brief write up is mainly focused on the Southern African region. All of these countries mentioned above are more or less similar markets and somewhat follow a similar approach to international trade. Manufacturing base is virtually non-existent in this part of the world; the agriculture sector does

show recovery, but the required political will, with exception to Zimbabwe, is meek in this region. All of these nations heavily rely on foreign funding for developmental programs due to weak or in some cases nonexistent tax revenues while most Government to Government (G2G) trade is highly dependent on credit. Staple diet and lifestyles are significantly different from that of Pakistan.

### Engagement with Africa should be reoriented on the motto “Partners in peace, partners in development & prosperity”

Keeping in view the above peculiar characteristics of our area of jurisdiction, the Embassy of Pakistan believes that every product, particularly those at the low end and of everyday use, will find a buyer in these markets as long as three constraints are overcome which are as follows:

- ◆ Integrated Financial/Banking/

Payment system which allows quick, cheap and reliable payments without transaction limits.

- ◆ Cheap and Quick Logistics setup that allows insurance throughout the goods transfer. Majority of the products pouring into the land locked Zimbabwe and adjoining countries is through South Africa and to some extent from Mozambique port which is the closest. Freight charges to these countries have increased significantly in recent times, especially after COVID-19. Somehow develop dedicated shipping lanes that can bring in Pakistan products timely into this untapped market. Its time to explore the Beria port in Mozambique for trade in the Southern African Region.

- ◆ Strong and responsive Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM) which provides assurance and protection to parties from frauds.

The African continent as a whole and the southern African region in particular has witnessed two types of economic ingress that has resulted in initiating some socio-economic development in the Southern African region, namely:

- ◆ The Chinese model through Chinese Multinational companies (MNCs) through large G2G projects.

- ◆ The Indian model through its existing diaspora which provides oversight of the whole supply chain. (This mode is most cost effective and most suitable for Pakistan as we have a number of Pakistani



diaspora who may be incentivized to play a role in enhancing Pakistan's exports).

In view of the above, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan needs to work in tandem with the Ministry of Commerce, Federal Board of Revenue and Customs authorities, Ministry of Ports and Shipping and the State Bank of Pakistan. The involvement of the overseas Pakistani business community residing in these African countries can make a huge difference as they are better aware of the ground realities and market potential. The integration, engagement and incentives if provided to this business diaspora living in these South African nations will provide an enhanced leverage for increasing Pakistan's exports to the region. Despite being a late entrant in the African market, Pakistan can still get its due share if a cohesive policy is adopted by involving all the stakeholders.

In this regard, it is imperative that the focus of our diplomatic missions should be more oriented towards Economic Diplomacy, which is the need of the hour. There is an urgent need to restructure our embassies in Africa. Pakistan needs to have trade-oriented missions so that it can have a better footprint in Africa. Smaller and responsive trade-oriented missions can offset the cost of newer Missions in Africa. Being part of the Belt Road Initiative, which intends to reach out to the markets of Middle East and Africa, Pakistan must utilize and seek China's support in seeking access to the Southern African market through Mozambique as its ports are strategically located close to the Southern African region. Pakistani businesses and companies should focus on the low-end product market across the spectrum keeping in mind the low purchasing power in these countries.

## Countries on the east coast of Africa, the land-locked southern Africa region offer untapped potential for Pakistani products as these markets are not saturated and present better opportunities for Made in Pakistan

### Way Forward

There has to be a complete change of mindset about Africa. The decision makers in the government and in the private sector are skeptical about doing business in Africa for varied reasons. A positive mindset is needed to objectively look at Africa and its potential if Pakistan's exports are to be increased backed by concrete policies of all the stakeholders.

This can be done by Restructuring/organizing/empowering Embassies, thus making them lean and responsive, cutting red-tapism. Train Diplomats as trade officers and leading to merger of Foreign Affairs and Commerce thus re-calibrating towards Economic Diplomacy.

Pakistan's Embassies should be spread throughout Africa to ensure responsiveness, so that the market ground realities can be catered for and understood properly. Concurrent accreditations cannot do not justice and work unless there is physical presence on ground.

In order to make a significant difference, resources from larger embassies around the world should be evenly spread across the African region to control the expenditure on the national exchequer.

Countries on the east coast of Africa, the land-locked southern Africa region offer untapped potential for Pakistani products, as these markets



are not saturated and present better opportunities for Made in Pakistan.

Moreover, the developmental path of the African Free Continental Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is also an opportunity for Pakistani companies and businesses to invest in varied sectors in these countries, which will bring foreign exchange profits to Pakistan. (Popular Group in Angola and Lucky Group in DR Congo are success stories of Pakistani companies achieving successes in Africa.)

Attention should be paid to factoring in Pakistani and even Muslim diaspora who have inhabited the African continent since long and are mostly into private businesses.

The majority of the Southern African landlocked countries are cash-based economies, the focus should be on being present in the market. Preference should be given to bringing in Pakistani products and sold through warehouses in a joint venture. Availability of products on the shelves will enable recognition and furthering Pakistan's exports.

Dedicated shipping lanes to Beira port in Mozambique can provide Pakistani companies an opportunity to cater for the Southern African regional market needs on time.



Murad Baseer,  
Ambassador of Pakistan  
to Zimbabwe

# Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy-Opportunities in Challenging Times: A South African Perspective

By Ambassador Mthuthuzeli Madikiza

South Africa and Pakistan enjoy cordial diplomatic relations that span almost three decades - while informal people-to-people relations extend much further into the past. South Africa is Pakistan's biggest trading partner in the African Continent, with almost one-quarter of the total trade between Pakistan and Africa being with South Africa. South Africa's total trade with Pakistan for 2022 stood at US\$816million.

South Africa's exports to Pakistan are dominated by commodities, but also cover a wide range of sectors including, mining, minerals, textiles, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing. In 2022, exports mostly consisted of mineral products, iron and steel, chemicals (top three categories) capital goods, mining equipment and food.

## **South Africa is Pakistan's biggest trading partner in the African Continent**

Pakistan's exports to Africa include cereals, cotton, bedding, made-up textile, sugar, confectionery, man-made salt, sulfur; beverages, pharmaceutical products, optical photographic, plastics paper and paperboard, and machinery.

High-level visits between the two countries include former President Nelson Mandela's visit during May 1999, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation (i.e. "Deputy Foreign Minister"), Ebrahim Ebrahim in November 2012, and Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula



in March 2017. Mr Gohar Ayub Khan, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, visited South Africa - in January 1998, Mr. Syed Naveed Qamar, Pakistani Minister of Defence, in September 2012, while President Mamnoon Hussain attended the funeral of former President Mandela in December 2013.

◆ Nelson Mandela had a special affinity to Pakistan as it is one of the few countries which he visited twice - the first time already in 1992, shortly after his release from Apartheid captivity and then in his capacity as President of the African National Congress. Pakistan presented Nishan-e-Pakistan, the country's highest civil award, to Mandela during the visit.

Similarly, a Bilateral Air Services Agreement and a Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income are in force between the two countries. Other bilateral instruments in the pipeline for conclusion, include a MoU on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotics Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals.



Most recently, an Agreement on the Establishment of a Joint Commission - to be chaired by the respective Deputy Foreign Ministers - was signed in Pretoria, South Africa on 25th November 2021. The Fifth Session of the South Africa-Pakistan Joint Commission is scheduled to be held during the latter part of 2023.

**Launch of the Ministry of Commerce “Look Africa Policy Initiative” signaled an understanding that Africa offers massive potential for improving Pakistan’s economic prospects**

While there is significant scope for even better trade, investment and people-to-people exchanges between the respective countries, the August 2017 launch of the Ministry of Commerce “Look Africa Policy Initiative” signaled an understanding that Africa offers massive potential for improving Pakistan’s economic prospects.

The Fifth South Africa Investment Conference was held in Johannesburg on 13 April 2023 to profile the strengths and comparative advantages that South Africa offers to investors and trade partners in a period of growing African integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area. Pakistan is among those countries identified as a potential source of investment, including, in joint ventures.

Africa is a big continent, three times the area of China, three times the area of Europe, three times the area of the United States of America. If Africa were one economy, its combined GDP of US\$3.4 trillion would be the fifth largest in the world after USA, China, Japan and Germany and ahead of the UK, India, etc. (World Bank data, 2020).

The UN predicts that by 2050, there will be 2.5 billion Africans - one quarter of the global population - and also the youngest. Thus, Africa is generally considered the next big growth market: home to the youngest population in the world, promising to be a major market over the next three decades.

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), which became operational on 1 January 2021, aims to significantly boost intra-Africa trade,



particularly trade in value-added production and trade across all sectors of Africa’s economy. There are now increased and diversified opportunities to promote trade and foreign direct investment, create businesses and spur entrepreneurship within the AfCFTA market.

In March 2023, 54 of the 55 AU Member States have signed the Agreement, while 46 (84%) have ratified the Agreement - they have legally accepted obligations to open their markets, to reduce barriers to trade and investment, and to adhere to the single set of rules for trade and investment across Africa.

**The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), which became operational on 1 January 2021, aims to significantly boost intra-Africa trade, particularly trade in value-added production and trade across all sectors of Africa’s economy**

The establishment of a unified African market creates a cooperative and collaborative environment that facilitates trade, movement and overall accessibility to African markets, goods and services, firstly, by regulating export taxes and duties charged and secondly by facilitating movement of goods and people.



Mthuzeli Madikiza,  
Ambassador of South Africa  
in Pakistan.



# Pakistan-Africa Relations

By Naela Chohan

Since independence, Pakistan's founding fathers were cognizant of the importance of relations with Africa; hence, most of Pakistan's resident missions in various African countries were established in the early 1950s. Being the first muslim country to gain independence from the British Raj, a driving force was the creation of strong bonds with fellow Muslim countries, particularly in Africa, along with African member-countries of the Commonwealth. With these main foreign policy objectives, Pakistan began to extend moral and diplomatic support for liberation (decolonization) movements on the African continent, particularly in countries that were either Muslim-majority or British colonies. Eminent ambassadors were appointed to several African countries, who in turn laid strong foundations not only for bilateral ties but also for institutional development across Africa. These efforts also served to give Africa a voice in the international arena.

Subsequently, as the governments in Pakistan changed, the focus on Africa shifted hence the

achievements could not benefit the country. In the late 1960s Pakistan garnered the additional limelight that accompanied the creation of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) of which it was a founding member. Following the OIC's impetus, Pakistan opened many new missions across the African continent. However, many of these missions were closed down by subsequent governments under the pretext of "financial constraints." Although in effect, closing missions is much costlier than opening new embassies. Such contradictory messages emanating from Pakistan did not allow it to capitalize on the goodwill that Pakistan had gained in Africa.

## Since independence, Pakistan's founding fathers were cognizant of the importance of relations with Africa

Furthermore, most of the MOUs/ agreements signed between Pakistan and African countries required implementation by various line ministries. Lamentably, a general practice observed in Pakistan over decades has been that institutions

have worked in silos, and so most agreements signed were not implemented, due to lack of coordination and follow-up as a result, Pakistan could not accrue the requisite benefits from agreements signed with African counterparts. To illustrate the point, some of the Joint Ministerial Conferences (JMCs) have not had a single session since their establishment.

In 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) proposed a "Look Africa Policy," with the aim to build and consolidate comprehensive ties with key African partners. However, it could not achieve the desired results due to limited /almost negligible implementation. There were a few exceptions, as when the President of Pakistan at the time, paid a visit to Nigeria and participated in the funeral ceremony of Nelson Mandela, which held positive symbolic value. Africa Day was celebrated in MOFA for the first time and the President of Pakistan also hosted a dinner reception for the resident African ambassadors in 2017 at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Thereafter, the Ministry of Commerce came up with the "Look Africa" economic policy in 2019. This was reinforced by the "Engage Africa"



policy posited by MOFA. Both these initiatives have placed Africa back in focus under the auspices of a more holistic and targeted approach for reinforcing Pakistan's political and economic relations with Africa within a sustainable and long-term framework, making it a full-spectrum approach to revive, review and reinvigorate relations with Africa.

The Engage Africa policy has included several positive measures, including:

- ◆ Opening five missions in Africa,
- ◆ Holding three sessions of Pakistan-Africa Trade & Development Conference, which have already positively impacted our overall trade with the continent despite Covid-19
- ◆ Assigning 5 commercial wings / Trade offices to Africa
- ◆ Appointing Honorary Consuls in countries
- ◆ An MoU on "Strategic Partnership" with East African countries (EAC) is being finalized
- ◆ Partnership with regional organizations including IGAD, ECOWAS, SACU, and AfCFTA are being considered
- ◆ Establishing a full-fledged division in MOFA to deal with African countries. TDAP has also taken a similar step
- ◆ Reviewing the Pakistan Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) for Africa with the purpose of further enhancements in technical assistance
- ◆ Advancing a research-based approach through the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) which also hosts seminars, webinars, and roundtables to highlight prospects of further strengthening Pakistan's relations with Africa

◆ An "Africa Fund" of PKR 100 million has been established to promote goodwill in Africa

◆ Commemorations such as the Pak-Africa Day, which have been celebrated in all Pakistan missions in Africa (except Mauritius) in June (2021)

◆ Conceptualizing a Business Africa Forum 2.0, an initiative of MOFA

◆ Annual consultations between A. S (Africa) , MOFA and DG-JSHQ have been agreed, in principle

#### The Way Forward

◆ It is imperative to have consistency and continuity in policy ,irrespective of change in governments

◆ More frequent high-level exchanges

◆ The JMCs, Bilateral Consultations and other such mechanisms should be at a functional level with concerned Additional Secretaries leading, rather than at the Ministerial-level where they rarely have time to spare to attend such meetings, hence leading to gaps in consultative mechanisms

◆ Regular participation in each other's trade shows

◆ Enhance linkages between respective Chambers of Commerce and industries / Business Councils with regular exchange of high-powered business delegations

◆ Holding of Trade Development Conferences and Single-Country Exhibitions in the African region on a regular (biannual) basis

◆ Linking with African free market instruments e.g. ECOWAS, SACU, EAC and AfCFTA

◆ Linkages between think-tanks to create better understanding and awareness of each other's

perspective on matters of mutual interest, in which CAMEA can play an important role

◆ A proper trade information database should be established in TDAP/ PITAD giving details of products that each African country is exporting & importing, as well as on Pakistan's export and import products. It should be available online to enable business communities of Pakistan and African counterparts to get quick information on market demand and trade complementarity, along with a better awareness of each other's interests for trade promotion

## The African students getting education/training in Pakistan should be cultivated to promote Pakistan's image

◆ Cultural exchanges, including fashion, food, music, and movies, should be encouraged

◆ Joint ventures in radio, TV and film-making would further contribute to a better understanding of each other's culture and bringing our peoples together

◆ The African students getting education/training in Pakistan should be cultivated to promote Pakistan's image.

◆ Promotion of Tourism, particularly Eco-Tourism would be mutually beneficial

◆ Cooperation in the fields of defense would be beneficial, particularly through close coordination between MOFA and JSHQ.



Naela Chohan,  
Former Ambassador of  
Pakistan to Australia

# Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy



Perspective from Tunisia

By Ambassador Tahir Hussain Andrabi

Pakistan has always enjoyed popular support and goodwill in Africa and this legacy predates the birth of Pakistan. Africa's anti-colonial activism considered the Pakistan Movement as its moral equivalent. Muslim Diaspora from the Subcontinent in East and South Africa contributed to the cause of the All-India Muslim League. On the eve of Pakistan's independence, Tunisia's founding father Habib Bourguiba (1903-2000), then exiled to Cairo, sent a telegram to Quaid-e-Azam, expressing good wishes for "prosperity and power" of Pakistan and that creation of Pakistan "brings great hope to all peoples". Pakistan reciprocated this warmth by championing the independence of African countries in the 1950s-60s through its leadership role at the United Nations-steered 'Decolonization' process.

With this rich legacy, Africa has been receptive to Pakistan's concerns and interests. However, this positive relationship has mostly played out at the United Nations and other multilateral forums. African votes for Pakistan at the UN General Assembly account for our recurring memberships of the UN Security Council and the UN Human Rights Council. Peacekeeping is a major point of converging interests between Africa and Pakistan. Pakistan is among top

troop-contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, mostly stationed on the African continent. African countries are pivotal in 'G-77 and China', a negotiating bloc of around 130 developing countries at the UN set up in 1964 by Pakistan and others; which Pakistan has presided over a number of times, as recent as 2018 in Geneva, 2022 in New York and 2023 in Vienna.

## 'Engage Africa' is also about building linkages with universities and academics in Tunisia

Pakistan's 'Engage Africa policy', launched in 2019, aims at expanding political, economic, trade, cultural and people-to-people linkages with African countries. Even though 'Engage Africa' policy did not entail any specific allocation of resources to the Pakistan Embassy in Tunis, efforts are being made to leverage the momentum generated in Islamabad to instill dynamism into our ties with Tunisia. Specific dividends in the area of political, security, trade and education are discernable.

In terms of expanding political ties, the Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) process



between the Foreign Ministries of Pakistan and Tunisia at the level of Foreign Secretary-Secretary of State was revived. The two rounds of BPC yielded greater understanding of each other's positions and perspectives. Tunisian Foreign Minister Othman Jernadi visited Pakistan in March 2022. This was the first visit by a Tunisian Foreign Minister to Pakistan in twenty-two years. Tunisia's non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council in 2020-21 buttressed these positive developments in the bilateral relations. At the Security Council, Tunisian delegations contributed positively to the meetings on Jammu and Kashmir held in the aftermath of India's





action of 5 August 2019 in Indian-Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan-Tunisia ties in the security-defense field also witnessed a forward movement. Pakistan Naval Chief Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi visited Tunisia in February 2022 - first by any Service Chief from Pakistan to Tunisia. In follow up of the visit, the two naval forces identified a number of programs in training, exercises and port calls. Delegations from Pakistan's Military and Defense Production attended Tunisia's International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition (IADE) in 2020 and 2022; showcasing our defense hardware not just for Tunisia but also for the larger African market. In 2021, a Pakistani naval ship made a port call at La-Guollette naval base in Tunis.

Pakistan trade and commercial relations with Tunisia have also expanded. Pakistan's exports to Tunisia increased by 126% in 2021-22. Pakistan's textile and garment manufacturers participated in Tunisian largest textile fair in Sousse in 2021 to build ties with local importers. On the policy side, Commerce Ministries of the two countries are negotiating a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). PTA with Tunisia will deepen our bilateral trade. In order to build economic linkages with Tunisian hinterland, this year Pakistan's Honorary Consulate in Sfax was opened, in the second largest city of Tunisia located in the country's south. Pakistan Honorary Consul in Sfax is a distinguished entrepreneur and President of 'Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts' (UTICA)-Sfax chapter. Proposals to set up Honorary Consulates in Djerba and Tunis are also under consideration.

'Engage Africa' is also about building linkages with universities and academics in Tunisia. With

Tunisia's oldest Zaitouna University (ZU), efforts are underway to disseminate Allama Iqbal's thoughts in the country. In 2019 and 2022, the Embassy and ZU co-organized International Symposiums on Allama Iqbal with participation from a wide cross-section of academics, intellectuals and students. In 2022, the Embassy with ZU published a book titled "Allama Iqbal - Al-Istishraq wa al-Mustashrikon" (Allama Iqbal - Orientalism and Orientalists), containing research papers and articles on noted Arab scholars on the subject. In March 2023, the Embassy co-organized a Study Day at ZU titled, "Comparison of Reformist Thoughts of Allama Iqbal and Sheikh Fadel Ben Ashour - similarities and differences" (Sheikh Fadel was an eminent Tunisian scholar/intellectual of the 20th century). Parallel to the initiative on Iqbaliyat, efforts are being made to build linkages with Pakistani and Tunisian universities in fields of IT, Law and Management.

### Despite promising prospects, Pakistan's Engage Africa policy faces a multitude of challenges – both from within Pakistan as well from Africa

Despite promising prospects, Pakistan's Engage Africa policy faces a multitude of challenges - both from within Pakistan as well from Africa. Adverse political situations in a given country obviates sustained implementation of certain engagement projects. Similarly, lack of cohesion within domestic stakeholders also



creates bottlenecks. Pakistan's economic hardships with decline in manufacturing and shrinkage of export surplus deprives the traders their hard-earned market niche in Africa. Resource crunch in Pakistan also depletes funding for projects under the 'Engage Africa' rubric.

Major global players like the US, Japan and China have regular summit-level engagements with Africa. Last year, Japan held its eighth Tokyo International Conference on Development in Africa (TICAD) in Tunis. Other countries are also scaling the ladder. Since 2008, India has been holding triennial Summit-level meetings with Africa. Medium-sized countries from East Asia and Latin America, comparable to Pakistan, are expanding trade and investment footprints in Africa because of their marketable products and loans/funding facilities. All these countries are able to forge substantial and meaningful engagement with Africa on their economic prowess. Pakistan needs to overcome its cyclic economic downturns to tap enormous opportunities in Africa for mutual benefit to both sides and for long-term viable engagement with the entire Continent.



Tahir Hussain Andrabi, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Tunisia



# Pakistan & Africa

## Nations Share the Fundamental Values of Human Dignity and Freedom

By Amir Jahangir

Pakistan maintains diplomatic relations with several African countries and has a history of engagement with the continent. Pakistan has diplomatic missions in several African countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe.

Pakistan has initiated the “Engage Africa Policy”, which is boosting bilateral relations with all African countries. Pakistan is looking at each African country with unique prospects and opportunities to engage at economic and strategic diplomatic levels.

Pakistan has provided humanitarian aid and assistance to African countries in times of need, including during natural disasters and health crises.

Pakistan has also provided technical assistance and training to African countries in fields such as agriculture, education, health, and infrastructure development.

### **PAKISTAN HAS PROVIDED HUMANITARIAN AID AND ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN TIMES OF NEED, INCLUDING DURING NATURAL DISASTERS AND HEALTH CRISES**

In the wake of the changing global scenario, Pakistan has increased its focus on the African region. Africa is an untapped market for Pakistan’s exports. Pakistan does engage in trade and investment with African countries. The main exports from Pakistan to African countries include textiles, rice, and

pharmaceuticals, while Pakistan imports raw materials and minerals from African countries.

Pakistan has also participated in peacekeeping operations in several African countries under the auspices of the United Nations. Pakistan has the singular honor of being the highest contributor to the “blue berets” for the UN peacekeeping forces in Africa. Pakistani peacekeepers have been deployed to countries such as Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Sierra Leone.

Pakistan’s trade volume with Africa reached a historic level of \$6 billion in 2021. However, the trade balance has heavily been tilted in the favor of Africa since 2015. According to ITC’s Trade map, imports were recorded at \$4.5 billion in 2021 as opposed to \$2.6 billion last year, posting a robust growth of 70.5%.



Pakistan has also historically been a strong supporter of the decolonization and independence movements in Africa. During the 1950s and 1960s, Pakistan provided diplomatic and moral support to several African countries in their struggle for independence. Some of the African countries that Pakistan supported during this period include:

- ❖ Ghana: Pakistan played an active role in supporting the independence movement in Ghana, providing both moral and material support to Ghana's first President, Kwame Nkrumah.
- ❖ Tanzania: Pakistan supported Tanzania's independence movement by providing financial assistance to the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), which was led by Julius Nyerere.
- ❖ Kenya: Pakistan supported Kenya's independence movement by providing moral and diplomatic support to the Kenya African National Union (KANU), which was led by Jomo Kenyatta.
- ❖ Zambia: Pakistan provided support to the Zambian independence movement by recognizing the United National Independence Party (UNIP) as the legitimate representative of the Zambian people.
- ❖ Uganda: Pakistan supported Uganda's independence movement by providing financial assistance and diplomatic support to the Uganda People's Congress (UPC), which was led by Milton Obote.

Pakistan played an important role in supporting Uganda's independence movement and ensuring Uganda's representation at the United

Nations during the 1960s.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Pakistan provided support to the Ugandan nationalist movement, which was seeking independence from British colonial rule. Pakistan's Prime Minister at the time, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, was a vocal supporter of African independence movements and believed in promoting the rights of colonized peoples.

### WHAT PAKISTAN ENJOYS WITH THE AFRICAN NATIONS IS CREDIBILITY AND TRUST, BASED ON MUTUAL RESPECT AND HISTORICAL COMRADESHIP

When Uganda gained independence in 1962, Pakistan provided significant assistance to the new country in its early years. Pakistan provided technical assistance and training to Ugandan officials and helped to build up Uganda's government institutions and infrastructure.

Pakistan played a key role in helping Uganda to secure representation in the United Nations. In 1962, The British government canceled the official documents including the passports of the delegation that was supposed to represent Uganda at the United Nations sessions. Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations along with Dr. Viqar Ahmed Hamdani, Minister Plenipotentiary made sure to get the Uganda delegation into the UN sessions. While Syed Amjad Ali, as the Finance

Minister (and later Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN), helped and facilitated Uganda's admission to the UN. Ambassador Ali played a key role in securing international support for Uganda's position on issues such as decolonization and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Pakistan managed to get the Ugandan delegation and officials Pakistani passports, allowing them to attend United Nations sessions as Pakistani citizens.

This landmark support is still acknowledged by the Ugandan diplomats and the foreign office by displaying the passport issued by Pakistan, at the office of the State Minister for international affairs of the Republic of Uganda.

In addition to the above, over the last 20 years, 47 African countries have sent more than 1500 students to study under Pakistan's Special Training for Africa Program (STAP). These just a few countries have been mentioned briefly with whom Pakistan has collaborated proactively.

What Pakistan enjoys with the African nations is credibility and trust, based on mutual respect and historical comradeship. The African countries support Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, where illegal subjugation and occupation by India have been condemned at all levels. Over time, Pakistan has evolved its relationship with the African nations on the fundamental values of human dignity and freedom.



Amir Jahangir,  
Head of Mishal Pakistan

# Experience in Pakistan as an African

By Mohammad Abddi



**M**y journey to Pakistan started when I heard the country's name for the first time being discussed during a high school class on nuclear powers in the world. The teacher had suddenly explained that there is an Islamic nuclear state as well, namely Pakistan. I decided to go and see Pakistan after this. As I was aspiring for a career in the legal field; I came to know about a prestigious university, which was located in Pakistan- my alma mater; the International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIUI). I enrolled into LLB (Hons) Shariah and Law, an outstanding degree program in which I gained knowledge of Islamic Law and

Common law comparatively. My journey started in July 2016 and came to an end in January 2023 with millions of unforgettable memories and fruitful experiences. What I call 'golden' six and half years of my life provided me with an international exposure, which groomed my personality as both a professional lawyer and successful businessman.

**I call 'golden' six and half years of my life provided me with an international exposure, which groomed my personality as both a professional lawyer and successful businessman**

The experience in Pakistan was very distinct. Pakistan is home to several stunning and historic locations. The cultural diversity that is deeply ingrained in Pakistan is beyond comparison. Hospitality, cultural heritage, and talent among the people of Pakistan are matchless. After spending so much time, for me Pakistan is akin to my home Somalia. The delightful weather and beauty of my beloved city Islamabad are similar to Bosaso. Similarly, Karachi is Mogadishu for me. Hundreds of generous friends and worthy teachers will always be near to my heart and I will fondly remember them as those people, who truly helped me to become an international lawyer. I was very impressed by the management sciences faculty of IIUI. With the mentorship of them and certain friends, I entered into the business world and explored the business opportunities in Pakistan. I started trading and gradually became an exporter from Somalia, Kenya and Tanzania to other countries. Due to this, I was able to launch my own seafood company called Deepsea Bounty Ltd.

In a nutshell, I would say that the unforgettable and glorious chapter of Pakistan in my life's book will be the most valuable part of my whole life.



Mohammad Abddi, Alumnus of International Islamic University, currently working in Ethiopia



# Did You Know?

- ❖ Pakistan has relations with many African countries, those date back to their movements of independence.
- ❖ Pakistan has resident missions in 19 African countries.
- ❖ Pakistan and Africa share many cultural, political and religious leaders.
- ❖ Pakistan was once a leading country that opposed apartheid. Pakistani passport consisted of a stamp that read “every country except apartheid Africa.”
- ❖ Nelson Mandela visited Pakistan twice and even addressed a joint sitting of the parliament.
- ❖ Tanzania has a large Pakistani-descent population.
- ❖ Nigeria and Pakistan have enjoyed great relations in culture, trade, medicine, technology, education, and military exchanges.
- ❖ Various protocols on the advancement of educational, Information Technology and cultural exchanges and trade have been signed between Kenya and Pakistan.
- ❖ The Pakistan launched “Engage Africa Initiative” in 2019 with an aim to strengthen and revive its partnership with Africa.
- ❖ Under Pakistan’s Special Training for Africa Program (STAP) 47 African countries have sent 1500 students to study over the last 20 and more years.
- ❖ Pakistan is among the highest contributor to the “blue berets” in Africa for the UN peacekeeping forces.
- ❖ Pakistan has helped in establishing Somalia’s National Identification and Registration System.



# Addressing the Challenges of Food Security in the Sahel

By Ambassador Shahid Kamal



In the framework of its partnership with Africa, COMSTECH has enlarged the framework of its cooperative activities in areas of environment and climate change with focus on Sahel and West Africa. COMSTECH has also established collaborative partnerships with several institutions from the Sahel/West African region as people in this vast region are confronted with challenges of climate change, soil degradation, access to water and biodiversity loss.

The Sahel region of West Africa is facing a food and nutrition crisis. High food prices, conflict and displacement have driven millions of people into hunger and malnutrition. Deteriorating food situation in the Sahel has been caused by multiple factors including drought, desertification, land degradation, and the impacts of climate change, conflict, and Covid-19 pandemic.

In view of the unprecedented food crisis in the Sahel and to strengthen cooperation with OIC member countries in West Africa, COMSTECH has organized an International Training Workshop on the topic of “Addressing the Challenges of Food Security in the Sahel” from 15 to 19 May 2023 at the AGRHYMET Regional Centre, Niamey, Niger.

This important initiative by COMSTECH is in collaboration with Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS); in

**T**he Ministerial Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) of the Organization of Islamic Organization (OIC), based in Islamabad, Pakistan is pursuing a policy of concerted outreach to Africa. In support of its active engagement with Africa, COMSTECH is broadening its cooperation in multiple sectors with the continent.

COMSTECH has initiated several key initiatives to deepen its cooperation with African countries which include: Health Africa Program in ophthalmology and neurology, establishment of laboratories and institutions in Gambia, Uganda, Chad, and Sudan. Similarly, COMSTECH scholarships and fellowships

for African Least Developed Countries (LDCs), COMSTECH country specific programs with Sudan, Somalia and Mauritania and Virology and vaccine technology training programs have been initiated.

**COMSTECH has also established collaborative partnerships with several institutions from the Sahel/West African region as people in this vast region are confronted with challenges of climate change, soil degradation, access to water and biodiversity loss**



Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) in Rabat, Morocco, and Islamic Organization of Food Security (IoFS) in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The workshop is in continuation of COMSTech's initiatives to intensify cooperation with the OIC member countries in West Africa. COMSTech participated in a seminar hosted in May 2022 by the Sahel Coalition in Brussels, Belgium and LifeWatch ERIC, an e-Science European infrastructure on the theme of developing science capacity for the Sahel and West African nations in areas of biodiversity, food production and food security.

Subsequently, COMSTech Forum for Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER) organized an international seminar on "Solutions to Combat Food Insecurity and Malnutrition in the Sahel" which was held in September 2022 at the Global Science Summit during the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). In March 2023, COMSTech Forum facilitated a meeting on the sidelines of the Africa-Europe Science Collaboration and Innovation Platform (AERAP) in Brussels of experts from the Sahel region and Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands on promotion of science collaboration.

Challenges of food and nutrition security in the Sahel offer the opportunity to address the root causes of food insecurity and to develop food and agricultural systems that are less dependent on external shocks. This requires greater focus on the need to enhance agricultural productivity, develop resilient agriculture, reduce food loss and waste, and undertake measures to find solutions for promoting sustained food security.

The five day workshop will target



experts and policy makers working on agricultural matters from 13 OIC member countries and provide lectures, hands on training and interactive sessions followed by two days of consultations and field visits. Participating countries include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

**The workshop will also focus on climate-smart agriculture practices to increase food production and enhance food system resilience to climate change**

The training will be on sustainable solutions to combat food insecurity and malnutrition. It will empower experts and policy makers in West Africa to make better decisions on adopting agro-ecological practices and sustainable actions to improve agricultural productivity through sustainable use of water resources, enhanced agriculture

productivity and new crop breeding technologies.

The workshop will also focus on climate-smart agriculture practices to increase food production and enhance food system resilience to climate change. Attention will be on adoption of sustainable land and water management practices, agricultural technologies to drought tolerant crop varieties, improving post-harvest management practices, adoption of resilient agricultural technologies and drought-tolerant crop varieties.

The upcoming international workshop initiated by COMSTech on food security in the Sahel at the Regional Centre in Niamey, Niger with participation of 13 OIC member countries from West Africa will further strengthen the bonds of friendship and solidarity and open new areas to enhance cooperation with African nations.



Ambassador Shahid Kamal, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to Germany



# Exploring the Rich Flavors of African Cuisine

By Arhama Siddiq



**A**frican cuisine has a long and rich history that varies depending on the region and cultural traditions. It is incredibly diverse and encompasses a wide variety of dishes that are enjoyed throughout the continent and beyond. Africa is home to over 3,000 different ethnic groups, each with their own unique cuisine and culinary traditions. Some African countries, such as Ethiopia, have their own unique calendar and time system, which has led to the development of unique food customs and traditions. African cuisine has influenced many other cuisines around the world, particularly in the Caribbean and the Southern United States, where dishes such as jollof rice and gumbo have become popular.

One of the most important crops in African cuisine is grains, particularly millet, sorghum, and maize. These grains are used to make a variety of dishes, including porridges, stews, and bread. In West Africa, for example, fufu is a popular dish made from pounded cassava, yams, or plantains that are formed into balls and served with soup or stew.

Meat is also an important part of African cuisine, particularly in areas where hunting and livestock rearing are common. Grilled or roasted meats, such as beef, goat, and chicken, are often served with sauces or marinades made from spices and herbs. Vegetables and fruits are also important components of African cuisine, and they are often used to

create flavorful stews and soups. In East Africa, for example, a popular dish called ugali is made from maize flour and served with a vegetable stew. Seafood is also an important part of African cuisine in areas located along the coast, and dishes such as fish stew and grilled prawns are popular in West and East Africa.

It is important to note that the history of African cuisine has been influenced by factors such as colonization, trade, and migration, which have brought new ingredients and cooking methods to the continent. Today, African cuisine continues to evolve and adapt to changing cultural and economic conditions, while also retaining its rich culinary traditions and heritage.

*A famous African dessert that is easy to make is Malva Pudding, a sweet and rich cake-like pudding that is made with apricot jam and served with a sweet sauce.*

Malva pudding is believed to have originated in South Africa during the 17th century when the Dutch East India Company was present in the Cape of Good Hope. The pudding's name, "malva," comes from the Afrikaans word "malvalekker," which means marshmallow, due to its soft and spongy texture. The Cape Dutch settlers, who were also influenced by the British, began to experiment with ingredients available in South Africa, such as apricot jam, to create a new type of pudding that would be unique to their region.

Malva pudding quickly became a favorite dessert among the South African people and was often served at special occasions and celebrations. It was also commonly served in South African restaurants and cafes, and soon became a signature dessert of the country.

Today, Malva pudding remains a popular and beloved dessert in South Africa, and has gained popularity around the world.





Here is a simple recipe for Malva Pudding:

## Ingredients:

### For the Pudding:

- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. of baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. of salt
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 2 tbsp. of butter, melted
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup of milk
- 1 tbsp. of white vinegar
- 1/2 cup of apricot jam
- 1 tsp. of vanilla extract

### For the Sauce:

- 1/2 cup of heavy cream
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1/4 cup of butter

### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease a 9x9 inch baking dish.
2. In a medium bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt.
3. In a separate bowl, mix together the sugar, melted butter, and beaten egg.
4. Add the milk, white vinegar, apricot jam, and vanilla extract to the sugar mixture, and stir well.
5. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, and stir until just combined.
6. Pour the batter into the prepared baking dish, and smooth the top with a spatula.
7. Bake for 30-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
8. While the pudding is baking, make the sauce. In a small saucepan, heat the heavy cream, sugar, and butter over medium heat, stirring constantly, until the sugar has dissolved and the butter has melted.
9. When the pudding is done, remove it from the oven and poke holes in the top with a fork.
10. Pour the sauce over the pudding while it is still warm, and let it soak in for a few minutes.
11. Serve the Malva Pudding warm with custard or ice cream.

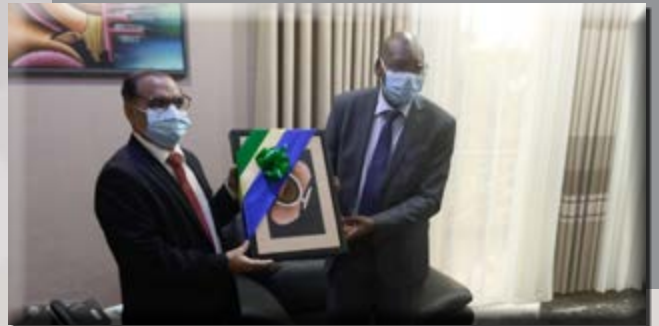


Arhama Siddiqa,  
Researcher at CAMEA

















# “Facts about Africa and Pakistan’s relations with African states”

- ❖ Africa is the second largest continent in the world.
- ❖ Africa has 54 sovereign countries with 3,000 distinct ethnic groups.



- ❖ Around 2,000 different languages are spoken in Africa.
- ❖ Nigeria is one of the world’s most linguistically diverse countries, with about 500 different languages being spoken in the country.



- ❖ The River Nile in Africa is the longest river in the world.
- ❖ 23 Africans have received the Nobel Peace Prize. The list includes Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Kofi Annan and the most recent Denis Mukwege.



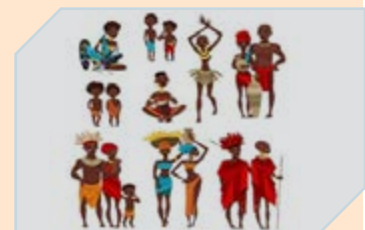
- ❖ The biggest land mammals on the earth are African elephants.
- ❖ Africa is the only continent that extends from the northern temperate zone to the southern temperate zone.



- ❖ Nigeria ranks as the fifth largest exporter of oil, ahead of Iraq and Kuwait.
- ❖ 30% of the Earth’s resources are located in Africa.



- ❖ Nigeria has the highest twin birth rate in the world.
- ❖ 40% of the global population will be African by the year 2100.
- ❖ Africa has the world’s highest child-dependency ratio (73 children under the age of 15 for every 100 people of working age.)





A SNAPSHOT OF

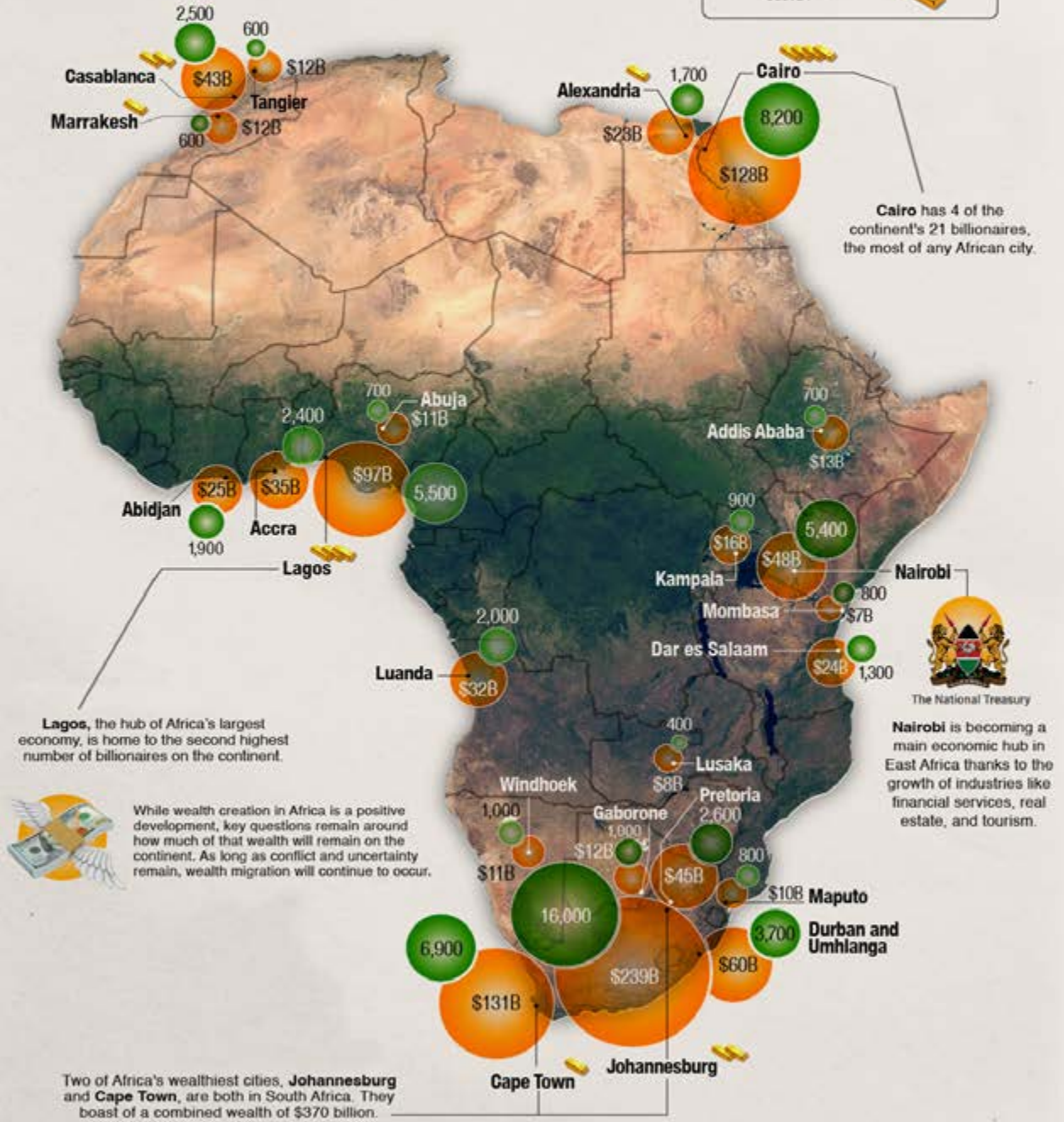
# WEALTH IN AFRICA

Total private wealth in Africa is currently worth \$2.1 trillion, according to the Africa Wealth Report 2022. Though the growth of total wealth was flat over the past decade, the rise of megacities and diverse new wealth-creation sources are expected to fuel wealth creation in coming years.

How to read this:



WHERE IS WEALTH MOST CONCENTRATED WITHIN AFRICA?



Source: Henley & Partners (Africa Wealth Report 2022)



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COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING Anshool Deshmukh, Nick Routley | ART DIRECTION + DESIGN Sam Parker

# Timeline of Pakistani Missions Established in Africa

