

**MOST IMMEDIATE**  
**BY SPECIAL MESSENGER / EMAIL**

No. 12(75)/2003-ASA (IL-I)  
Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
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Islamabad, the 02<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024


Subject: **Pak-UK Enhanced Strategic Partnership (ESP)**

Dear Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith M/o Foreign Affairs U.O No.13/1/2022-(E-IV) dated 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 on the subject cited above.

2. The views/comments on relevant portion of the draft may be submitted at email: [asailmost@gmail.com](mailto:asailmost@gmail.com) at the earliest.

Encl: **As above**

  
**(Saima Siddique Tariq)**  
Deputy Scientific Adviser (IL-I)  
Tel: 9203639

- ✓ 1. **The Rector,**  
COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI),  
Islamabad.
2. **The Rector,**  
NUST,  
Islamabad.
3. **The Chairman,**  
PSF,  
Islamabad.
4. **The Director General,**  
PSQCA,  
Karachi.

Copy to:

- APS to JSA(IL), MoST.

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*FNA, please.*

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**Most Immediate  
By Special Messenger**

Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Islamabad

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**Subject: Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Partnership (ESP)**

Bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom are covered by the institutional mechanism and framework known as "Enhanced Strategic Dialogue" (ESD). ESD was established in 2011 at the Foreign Minister Level and so far, four rounds have been held. It is in our interest to elevate Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership (ESP) encompassing the entire gamut of areas of mutual interest. In this regard, an Inter-Ministerial meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 chaired by Additional Secretary, Europe:

2. British side has now shared a draft for the Enhanced Strategic Partnership with the Pakistan side.
3. Ministries are requested to share their views/comments/concurrence on the enclosed draft latest by 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 for early finalization of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership draft.

Enclosed: As above

  
**(Malik Muhammad Asim)**  
Director (Europe-III)  
Ph: 951-9208272

Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Human Rights, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Aviation, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology, Islamabad  
Chairman, Board of Investment, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Islamabad  
Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Islamabad

Ministry of Foreign Affairs' U.O No. Note. UK-13/1/2022-(E-IV) dated 20 December, 2023

Handwritten notes: 24/12/23, 67, 154

SECRETARY (MOS) 6838, 2-12-23

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As of 19.12.2023

## UK-Pakistan Enhanced Strategic Partnership

The Government of the United Kingdom and Pakistan already have a close bilateral relationship. Under this proposed Enhanced Strategic Partnership (ESP), Pakistan and the United Kingdom commit to deepen and strengthen a long term, forward-looking partnership for peace, development, and prosperity. We will work together, and through multilateral fora and international organizations, including the Commonwealth, to support our shared bilateral objectives.

### Objectives

The objectives of the Enhanced Strategic-Partnership (ESP) are to:

- Bring together our joint work across multiple priorities and portfolios;
- Create a forum to enhance our ambition and overcome challenges;
- Provide a framework for regular Ministerial engagement.

### Structure

The UK and Pakistan will launch the ESP at an in-person UK Foreign Secretary – Pakistan Foreign Minister meeting. Prior to formal agreement, thematic leads will convene relevant line ministries of the Government of Pakistan and the British High Commission in Islamabad to develop a detailed set of deliverables under each pillar. Progress will be monitored and driven forward through regular ministerial engagement. The Prime Ministers of Pakistan and the United Kingdom support this Enhanced Strategic Partnership and will seek opportunities for direct engagement in line with strategic requirements.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Foreign Minister	Annual	To review annual progress
Relevant Ministers	As agreed upon agenda/timing	To unlock high-level challenges and make strategic decisions

Official level governance will be overseen by a lead SRO from the British High Commission Islamabad, the Pakistani High Commission London, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office.

### Areas for inclusion

Our partnership will comprise four pillars. Initial examples of the work that could be included are set out below.

## **1. UK – Pakistan Defence and Security Partnership**

The UK and Pakistan have a shared interest in promoting stability, avoiding conflict, and tackling terrorism. Deep Military-to-Military and security cooperation underpin the objectives of this pillar. Specific deliverables include:

- Senior Mil-Mil engagement, including high-level visits, regular defence staff talks;
- An Annual Regional Stabilization Conference on bilateral and global challenges to promote longer-term regional stability;
- Arms Control & Strategic Stability dialogue to improve understanding and alignment on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament;
- An Annual Counter Terrorism Dialogue to enhance our cooperation in tackling common threats, including from Afghanistan;
- Professional military education and capacity building, initially focused on counter IED training, improving trauma capabilities and countering illicit maritime activity;
- Cooperation on defence sales.
- Dialogue on aviation security

## **2. UK – Pakistan People to People Partnership**

Strong people-to-people links between the UK and Pakistan present opportunities and risks for both countries. We will work together to deepen cultural links, develop institutions, strengthen our migration relationship and tackle transnational crime, including through:

- Support for arts and creative industries, with a focus on heritage, music, film and fashion;
- Facilitating partnership between sports institutions and associations;
- ✓ • Higher education delegation visits, institutional partnerships and teacher training;
- UK exams and scholarships;
- Stronger partnerships to improve laws, institutions and policy on governance, equality and human rights;
- A letter of intent to formalize justice and home affairs cooperation;
- A Migration Dialogue to cover legal migration routes, returns, visas and organized immigration crime;
- Implementation of the Pakistan-UK Readmissions Agreement;
- Cooperation on cases of individuals deprived of their nationality;
- ✓ • An MoU to formalize cooperation on smuggling of illicit commodities between Pakistan's Federal Board of Revenue and the UK's Home Office;

- Establishment of a Cultural Coordination Committee;
- Establishment of a Consular Affairs Committee;
- Strengthened cooperation to tackle criminality, including the transfer of prisoners, extradition and the sharing of data and criminal records;

### **3. UK – Pakistan Development Cooperation and Green Growth Partnership**

We will build on the UK and Pakistan's longstanding development relationship, and expand the range of our collaboration particularly in the areas of health, education and climate through:

- A Health Policy Dialogue to address universal health coverage, demography challenges and ending preventable deaths;
- Improved access to family planning, information and services;
- Joint work on Global Health Initiatives, including Global Fund for Aids, TB and Malaria (GFATM), Global Alliance for Vaccination (GAVI) and Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI);
- ✓ • An Education Partnership focused on strengthening systems designed to provide equitable access to quality education, with a particular focus on minorities and girls at primary and secondary levels;
- ✓ • A UK-Pakistan Dialogue on Climate Change covering adaptation resilience, clean energy, climate finance and policy engagement in global climate negotiations;
- Mobilising climate finance to promote climate resilience, innovative investments, and demonstrating leadership on green finance;
- Joint work under the Sustainable Markets Initiatives to review how best to track climate commitments and pursue science and technology cooperation;
- Technical assistance to strengthen water governance by improving the capacity of water institutions at deferral and provincial levels;
- ✓ • Collaboration on science, innovation and technology, including through the UK's International Science Partnership Fund;
- Cooperation in Genome Sequencing;
- Cooperation in Joint Ventures in Health Sector;
- Establishment of a Science & Technology Council.

### **4. UK – Pakistan Prosperity and Trade Partnership**

The UK and Pakistan will both benefit from a deeper trade and investment partnership with its foundation in a stronger, more stable Pakistani economy. This pillar will deliver through:

- A UK-Pakistan Ministerial Trade Dialogue to strengthen bilateral trade by tackling trade barriers, increasing market access and supporting business wins in key sectors;
- Increasing use of the UK Developing Countries Trading Scheme, allowing tariff free access to the UK market of approximately 94% of Pakistan's current exports;
- Promoting sound macroeconomic management, domestic resource mobilization, and private sector led growth through ODA supported programmes, including technical assistance on revenue mobilization, green investment facilitation and export competitiveness.
- Use of the British Investment Partnerships Toolkit including investments in Pakistan through UK-backed financial facilities such as British International Investment (BII), UK Export Finance (UKEF) and Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) instruments.;
- Free Trade Agreement;
- Trade Roadmap;
- Investment Treaty;
- Institutionalization of B2B interaction.

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