



CENTRE for AEROSPACE & SECURITY STUDIES

Press Release

**Abandoning Afghanistan will be a Mistake:
*National Security Advisor Dr Moeed Yusuf***



Pakistan’s National Security Advisor ***Dr Moeed Yusuf*** has said that abandoning Afghanistan again by the international community will be a mistake. He was delivering the keynote address at an international webinar organized by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad on ‘*Future of Afghanistan and Regional Stability: Challenges, Opportunities & Way Forward.*’ Dr Moeed Yusuf said that the world needs to constructively engage Afghan Taliban in order to prevent governance collapse and avert another refugee crisis. He said Pakistan was coordinating with the world to have a stable and peaceful Afghanistan. Dr Yusuf said that after the Soviet-Afghan Mujahideen conflict in Afghanistan, the Western world committed catastrophic mistakes, including abandoning Afghanistan and sanctioning its “most allied of allies” and Pakistan was the only country which bore the brunt of abandonment of Afghanistan and the subsequent War on Terror. Terrorism has cost Pakistan more than 80, 000 lives, USD 150 billion and caused displacement of around 3.5 million people.





Dr Long Xingchun, President Chengdu Institute of World Affairs in China said that neighboring countries have to play the leading role in rebuilding Afghanistan and Pakistan is the most important country in this regard. He said that CPEC should be extended to Afghanistan and Gwadar port can play a big role in strengthening Afghan economy. He stated that major powers should not intervene in Afghanistan's internal affairs and must respect its sovereignty. He also said that Afghanistan is rich in natural resources and there are plenty of investment opportunities in the country.

Russian geopolitical expert **Leonid Savin** said that the recent take-over by Afghan Taliban has changed the regional political dynamics and this will have an impact on global politics. He said Russia can recognize the new government if China recognizes it first. However, he emphasized that future cooperation with regional players such as Pakistan, China, Iran and Central Asian countries will be beneficial and Moscow is not interested in interacting with Western countries regarding Afghanistan.



Professor **Dr Fazl-ul-Hadi Wazeen** of Salam University, Kabul said that the international community should not corner Afghanistan and give the new government a chance to rule while Afghan Taliban must also keep their promises, adopt a reconciliatory approach and refrain from the use of force. He said Afghans and international community should work together to convert the emerging challenges into opportunities.

Dr Syed Qandil Abbas from Quaid-i-Azam University said that both Pakistan and Iran expect an inclusive permanent Afghan government in future. He said after the decline of Afghan Taliban, Tehran viewed the US presence in Afghanistan with concern but the recent take-over of Afghan Taliban has created a different dynamic. He said that the current interim government is not inclusive which has included only three non-Pushtun individuals, out of a total of 34 and Iran expects a greater accommodation of non-Pushtun people if a civil war is to be avoided in future in Afghanistan.





Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan (Retd), Acting President Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) chaired this international webinar. In his *Concluding Address*, he urged the world to give peace a chance in Afghanistan and the region, after trying everything else in the past. He expressed deep concern at the lack of understanding and commitment by the international community towards the sufferings of the Afghan people. Air

Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan also stressed that the regional countries have a common interest in a peaceful and stable Afghanistan while regional connectivity projects such as CPEC could be the harbinger of economic well-being and prosperity for the whole region. Therefore, it is essential to support Afghanistan through immediate food relief and other critical humanitarian supplies, diplomatic recognition, unfreezing their foreign financial assets and reconstruction.

The webinar was moderated by **Syed Muhammad Ali**, Director Nuclear & Strategic Affairs at CASS. He said that Afghanistan has remained a victim of conflicts and abandonment. Now the Afghan people deserve international help to rebuild a stable nation-state, in return for a security commitment by the new Afghan government that Afghanistan's territory will not be used against any other country.