



中國傳媒大學  
COMMUNICATION UNIVERSITY OF CHINA



Institute for a Community  
with Shared Future  
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## **Pakistan and Tajikistan Diplomatic Relations:** **Building Blocks for Future Cooperation and Joint Ventures**



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Tajikistan is one of the fastest-growing countries in Central Asia in terms of economy and national development. Tajikistan's economy has experienced a fast recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. According to official estimates, real GDP grew by 8.7 percent year over year in the first half of 2021 after growth slowed to 4.5 percent in 2020. Tajikistan achieved higher economic growth by increasing the export of precious metals and a considerable pickup in domestic demand. Under the dynamic and prudent leadership of President Emomali Rahmon, the country has been experiencing great socioeconomic development along with wider regional engagements. Since the last two decades, Tajikistan has enhanced its regional and global outreach due to the visionary policies and plans of Excellency President Emomali Rahmon. In this aspect, highlighting Pakistan and Tajikistan relations in the wake of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties is significant.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan were established on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1992. In 1993, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan opened its Embassy in Tajikistan and its activity



began in early 1994. The bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and Pakistan is growing uninterruptedly. During the twenty-seven years of relations, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan six times had official and state visits to Pakistan. The recent meeting between Prime Minister of Pakistan, Excellency Imran Khan and President

Emomali Rahmon has also provided a new impetus to the bilateral relations with agreements of cooperation in diverse areas of mutual interests. The position of the two countries is close or similar on recent international and regional issues. Tajikistan and Pakistan have close co-operation in international and regional organizations. The bilateral legal framework consists of more than 56 agreements and intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary treaties.

### Bilateral Relations vis-à-vis Economic Cooperation:

A series of economic activities have been increasing between Tajikistan and Pakistan. In 2015, during the state visit of President Emomali Rahmon to Pakistan, a Joint Council of Tajik-Pakistani entrepreneurs was established and its first



meeting was held in Islamabad. In addition, the Business Forum of Pakistani Entrepreneurs was held in Dushanbe in 2017, aimed at promoting joint co-operation between domestic and foreign businessmen, attracting investors and expanding trade cooperation with Pakistan.

It is noteworthy that the Pakistani Minister for Water and Energy has paid three working visits to Tajikistan in 2014, 2016 and 2017, respectively. Tajikistan and Pakistan intend to expand the CASA-1000 project, allowing to supply additional 1000 megawatts of cheap and environmentally clean electricity. For the implementation of the guidelines



of Tajikistan and Pakistan leadership, the relevant authorities of the two countries have been working to increase trade turnover in recent times. In this aspect, Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Emomali Rahmon signed a joint declaration in Islamabad on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. Both states are agreed to further deepen their bilateral relations in diverse fields with a special focus on promoting trade and economic cooperation.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Foreign trade turnover of the RT only:	4988,8	5316,2	4326,2	3929,6	3972,9	4222,9	4523,7	4557,8	3082,4
Foreign trade turnover with Pakistan from it:	92,7	89,5	64,5	55,5	41,3	62,5	56,3	25,8	18,9
Output	24,6	19,0	23,2	30,3	16,7	10,1	10,4	14,2	5,9

Import	68,1	70,5	41,3	25,2	24,6	52,4	45,9	11,6	13
Pakistan's share in the RT with%	1,8	1,7	1,5	1,4	1,0	1,5	1,2	0,7	0,6

### *Trade turnover between Tajikistan and Pakistan*

#### Defence and Security Cooperation:

Joint collaboration in the military and defence sectors is also high between Tajikistan and Pakistan. In this direction, on December 23, 2009, the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries was signed in the field of military and technical-military cooperation, which was aimed at developing cooperation, including the exchange of military forces, participation of officers of the Ministry of Defense in the seminars, meetings and conferences scientific, exchange of information and opinions on the situation in the region and the world, invitation of military observers for participation in military recruitment, organization of training sessions for both sides of the party for professional development and others. For strengthening bilateral cooperation in this important area, Pakistan has been providing assistance to Tajikistan's officers in training and education in military academies. Over the years, significant visits of the military personnel were held between Pakistan and Tajikistan to



enhance the sphere of defence and security cooperation. Undoubtedly, there is a dire need to upgrade the security architecture of Central-South Asia in contemporary times. Thus, cooperation in counter-terrorism and improving security collaboration would pave the way to counter common challenges with a shared approach.

### Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation:

The inter-parliamentary collaboration between Pakistan and Tajikistan was started in 2006. On that time, Pakistani parliamentary group paid an official visit to Tajikistan, followed by another visit by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Pakistani Parliament House delegation in 2007. Similarly, in 2013, Shukurjon Zuhurov, Chairman of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan and his accompanying delegation paid an official visit to Pakistan. The delegation representing Tajikistan took part in the General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO), which was held between 10-13 February 2013 in Pakistan. As a part of the delegation's visit to Pakistan, a series of fruitful and productive meetings were held between the Chairman of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Speakers of the Parliaments of Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Afghanistan.

Furthermore, from May 31 to June 3, 2021, the 2nd General Conference of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO) took place in Islamabad along with other country's high official delegation attendees, the representing delegation from Tajikistan headed by the Chairman of the Majlisi

Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of Tajikistan Mr. Mahmatoir Zokirzoda attended in the Conference. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, His Excellency President Emomali Rahmon also paid an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The visit had given a new impetus to stimulate inter-parliamentary cooperation between the two countries, especially to promote diplomatic ties.

### Joint Collaboration in Tourism, Culture, and Scientific Domains:

The Joint Statement of Tajikistan and Pakistan on the promotion of partnership from June 2014, states that the parties expressed their interest in the regular exchange of artistic groups



and agreed to increase the turnout of the peoples. Since 2014, both countries are indulged in fruitful activities to promote cultural exchanges, tourism and scientific collaboration. It is still a long voyage to enhance cooperation in these domains. Nevertheless, colossal efforts have been made by both states in order to foster integration in diverse domains.

The year 2022 marks the anniversary of 30 years of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Tajikistan. Both states have been enjoying cordial relations as well as supporting each other on every regional and international platform. Thus, the robust partnership has paved the way for future collaboration and joint ventures.

## Joint Publication of the Book ‘The Tajiks in the Mirror of History’:

On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pakistan-Tajikistan relationship, a milestone has been achieved by launching a book authored by His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan. The book was translated and published in Pakistan by CGSS and University of the Punjab, Lahore in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan. The book holds



much significance for the researchers and scholars as it is a great contribution in order to learn about Tajikistan’s history, culture, people, language, and customs. One can get a detailed knowledge of Tajikistan by reading this book.

We are very glad on this occasion that the book will potentially contribute to understand the socio-economic and political dynamics of Tajikistan. Moreover, such joint initiatives indeed pave the way for strengthening partnerships in many domains, including academia.