

Pakistan – looking towards 2025: Drivers of democratic consolidation and stability

EUISS Seminar

Hotel Pullman Paris Tour Eiffel (18 avenue de Suffren, 75015 Paris)

Sunday 20-Monday 21 May 2012

PROGRAMME

Sunday 20 May

18:30 Welcoming remarks

Dinner

Debate - National actors and their interaction

Chair: Alvaro de Vasconcelos, Director, EUISS, Paris

Panel:

Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Chairman, Gallup Pakistan, Islamabad

Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Special Advisor International Affairs, Jang-Geo Group, Islamabad

The army in Pakistan has been able to sustain its disproportionate influence on national affairs by positioning itself as a pillar of national stability, but other actors still need to play a more prominent role to ensure democratic consolidation. Pakistan has a vibrant and diverse civil society involved in activities ranging from education provision to human rights advocacy. The role of national political actors is changing due to rising demands for a more effective federal system and for alternatives to the traditional feudalistic political parties. Continuous focus on extremist groups and ideologies often associated with Islamism, risks obscuring enduring efforts towards democratic consolidation. This panel will try to understand internal developments, trends and interactions within Pakistani society, ranging from constitutional institutions to informal networks, from an increasingly pluralistic media to independent citizen journalists.

Monday 21 May

9:15 – 9:30

Introductory Remarks

9:30 – 11:00

Session One - Law and order

Chair: Alvaro de Vasconcelos, Director, EUISS, Paris

Panel:

Dr. Samina Ahmed, South Asia Project Director, International Crisis Group, Islamabad

Dr. Stephen Cohen, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC

Among Pakistan's main challenges are the persistence of ungoverned areas, the continuation of militant and criminal violence throughout the country, and the cooperation between some patronage networks and the government. The level of government accountability, and thus its legitimacy, is low, despite recent successes by the judiciary in asserting its independence. The militarisation of law and order has occurred as a consequence of these unresolved problems, which in turn generate new challenges. Thorough Security Sector Reform, in the broadest sense, may be needed. What roles are played by the police and the judiciary and how can they be strengthened? What are the achievements, or the prospects of achievement, in this context?

11:30 – 13:00

Session Two – Demographic and economic prospects

Chair: Dr. Mathew Burrows, Counsellor and Director, Analysis and Production Staff, National Intelligence Council, Washington, DC

Panel:

Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani, Chairman, Gallup Pakistan, Islamabad

Polly Nayak, Independent Consultant

The Pakistani government has demonstrated its inability to reduce social inequalities in spite of considerable economic growth. With one of the poorest records on literacy and education in the developing world, Pakistan has failed to prepare its citizens to join the modern economy. As in many developing countries, the informal sector is huge, constituting perhaps a third of the total economy. With Pakistan's population expected to increase by 27% by 2025, a new youth bulge can potentially increase existing social tensions and instability if young Pakistanis are unable to find productive employment. This, in turn, may have a spill over effect in the region. What are the prospects for Pakistan achieving economic success and stability by 2025? What impact does the large informal economy have on the country's stability? How can the country address the challenges of education and job creation? What is the impact on the national budget, in terms of untapped revenue? What influence do external actors have on economic stability?

14:30 – 16:00

Session Three – Political Islamic trends in Pakistan and the impact of external developments

Chair: Arnaud d'Andurain, In charge of Asia, Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Paris

Panel:

Dr. C. Christine Fair, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Muhammad Amir, Director, Pak Institute for Peace Studies, Islamabad

Pakistan is being shaped by the evolution of Islam in Pakistan and beyond. What are the emergent trends in Islamist ideology? To what extent are more extreme views of Islam taking root? What are the internal factors shaping political Islam in Pakistan? What are the factors external to Pakistan – in the region and further afield – that shape the potential for the growth of extreme Islamic views? How is the Arab democratic wave, and the emergence of new Islamist parties in the Southern Mediterranean, influencing or likely to influence Pakistani politics in the future?

16:30 – 18:00

Session Four - The region and the influence of other external actors

Chair: Robert Williams, National Intelligence Officer for South Asia, National Intelligence Council, Washington, DC

Panel:

Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, Special Advisor International Affairs, Jang-Geo Group, Islamabad

Luis Peral, Senior Research Fellow, EUISS, Paris

Pakistan is influenced by the conflict in Afghanistan as much as it influences the conflict. The people in the border regions share ancient cultural and historical ties and are now facing common dilemmas as the US administration's designation of the FATA region as the epicentre of international terrorism has extended war operations to the Pakistani side of the border. Pakistan is also affected by the tensions between the two Asian superpowers, with its own *rapprochement* to China having exacerbated its endemically complicated relations with India. What is the impact of external actors, state and non-state, regional and international, on Pakistani stability? Will the situation leading to increasing military action in the FATA be reversed? What are the chances, and the obstacles, of India and Pakistan finding a common understanding?

18:00

Concluding Remarks – Luis Peral