

UNIT 12

Section 6 Pakistan and International Affairs

Pakistan and International Organizations

In this unit the students will be able to:

- Elaborate the significance of the UN's role in promoting the welfare of developing and conflict-affected countries in terms of addressing issues related to human rights, religious freedom, peacekeeping, access to food and healthcare, education, poverty reduction, and economic progress.
- Critically review Pakistan's status, role, and contribution in different scenarios of global importance in regional organizations (EU and ECO).
- Discuss the impact of global monetary institutions on the development of countries, with a specific focus on the current state of the IMF and its efforts to assist Pakistan in addressing its economic challenges.

The United Nation's Role in Improving Welfare in Developing and Conflict-Affected Countries

The United Nations plays a crucial role in promoting the welfare of developing and conflict-affected countries through different initiatives. It addresses human rights, religious freedom, peacekeeping, access to food and healthcare, education, poverty reduction, and economic progress.



1. Human Rights

On December 10, 1948, the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations defends human rights worldwide through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) monitor and report on human rights violations. It also helps countries improve their human rights records and help victims of rights breaches. The United Nations promotes a culture of human rights, respect, and protection by establishing international standards and keeping nations accountable.

2. Religious Freedom

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16, 1966 and entered into force on March 23, 1976. The UN promotes religious freedom through ICCPR. It ensures the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. It also makes recommendations to guarantee respect for religious diversity and freedom. This is critical in conflict-affected countries where religious persecution is prevalent.

3. Peacekeeping

UN peacekeeping deployments serve an essential role in stabilizing conflict-affected areas. These operations safeguard civilians, monitor ceasefires, disarm combatants, and facilitate the execution of peace treaties. UN peacekeepers play an essential role in decreasing violence and promoting stability by acting as a buffer between opposing parties. They assist in creating conditions conducive to long-term peace. The UN has conducted successful peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, Namibia, Tajikistan, Liberia, Haiti, and Kosovo.

4. Access to Food and Health Care

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) ensure food and healthcare access. The World Food Programme (WFP) combats hunger and food insecurity by providing emergency food aid and boosting food production systems in poor nations. WHO aims to enhance health systems, control disease outbreaks, and ensure access to critical health services. It tries to improve overall health outcomes.

5. Education

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes education for all, focusing on literacy, teacher training, and inclusive education. UNESCO ensures

that education is a fundamental human right and a prerequisite for developing sustainable communities. The United Nations also supports projects such as the Global Education First Initiative (GEFI), which prioritizes education in global development objectives.

6. Poverty Reduction

The UN's efforts to end poverty are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goal 1 (No Poverty). The UN seeks to provide social safety nets, strengthen governance, and expand economic possibilities through programs like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These initiatives are essential for raising living standards and decreasing poverty in developing and conflict-affected nations.

7. Economic Progress

The UN encourages global trade, investment, and collaboration to support economic development. It assists nations in establishing an atmosphere that is favorable for financial growth by supporting policy advice and infrastructure development. The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other specialized bodies provide assistance to improve trade possibilities and economic resilience.

Comprehensive Impact

The UN's integrated strategy tackles the issues developed and conflict-affected nations must deal with. The United Nations establishes a comprehensive framework for sustainable development and peace by concurrently focusing on education, poverty alleviation, economic growth, and promoting human rights, religious freedom, peace, and access to essential services. This all-encompassing assistance contributes to developing resilient societies that can triumph over hardship and achieve stability and prosperity. The UN plays a critical role in fostering an international environment that supports the growth of developing and conflict-affected nations and guarantees that no one is left behind on the path to peace and development.

Addressing Critical Issues in Conflict-Affected Countries: Examples of UN Interventions

The UN handles issues about human rights, religious freedom, peacekeeping, access to food and healthcare, education, poverty reduction, and economic advancement in the following conflict-affected countries:

1. Syria

In March 2011, popular discontent with President Bashar al-Assad led to large-scale protests and pro-democracy rallies across Syria, as part of the wider Arab Spring protests in the region. Numerous protests were violently suppressed by security forces in deadly crackdowns ordered by Assad, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths and detentions, many of whom were civilians. The Syrian revolution transformed into an insurgency with the formation of resistance militias across the country, developing into a full civil war by 2012. The major parties that supported the Syrian government were Iran, Russia and Lebanese militia Hezbollah. Syrian rebel groups received political, logistic and military support from the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Britain, France, Israel and the Netherlands. The atrocities occurring in the town of El-Houleh on 25 May 2012 and in the province of Hama on 6 June 2012 prompted heightened international attention to the situation.

Several UN bodies, including the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly, and the Security Council, responded to the escalating crisis in Syria. In August 2011, the Human Rights Council created the Commission of Inquiry on Syria to monitor gross violations of Human Rights. This body, along with the General Assembly, consistently put forth resolutions condemning rights abuses and calling upon the Syrian Arab Republic to put an end to its attacks on civilians.

A notable example is Resolution 79/185, which addresses the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic. This resolution, adopted on December 17, 2024, was part of the 79th session of the General Assembly.

The Security Council also became increasingly engaged with the situation in Syria. On 14 April, the Council authorized 30 unarmed observers to report on the implementation of the ceasefire through its adoption of Resolution 2042 and on 21 April 2012, the UN Supervision Mission in Syria was established under Resolution 2043. Furthermore, the Security Council offered its support to the Six-Point Plan spearheaded by the UN-Arab League Special Envoy Kofi Annan, which was considered the best opportunity to resolve the conflict.

The Syrian Revolution achieved its main goal of achieving the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 after Assad fled to Moscow. The Fall of Damascus ended the Assad regime as Prime Minister of Syria Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali handed over power to the revolutionaries in December 8, 2024.

2. South Sudan

The root causes of the Sudan Civil War are deeply embedded in historical, social, and economic factors. Issues of governance, religious identity, and resource allocation fueled and perpetuated conflicts. This Civil War was a multi-sided civil war in South Sudan fought from 2013 to 2020, between forces of the government and opposition forces. Two civil wars were fought in Sudan - the first from 1955 to 1972 and the second, 1983 to 2005 - between the central government and the southern regions, which led to the independence of South Sudan in 2011, killed 1.5 million people.

The Civil War caused rampant human rights abuses, including forced displacement, ethnic massacres, and killings of journalists by various parties. The United Nations (UN) has been involved in South Sudan's conflict through peacekeeping missions, humanitarian support, and efforts to promote development.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was established in 2011. It conducted patrols by land, air, and water, and protected and sheltered civilians on peacekeeping bases to protect them from violence. This mission supported the peace process and efforts to return refugees and internally displaced people.

UNMISS has provided lifesaving support to vulnerable populations and has supported the health sector, including preparedness and response to epidemics, malnutrition, and maternal and child health. This mission has supported the transition from conflict to recovery and electoral preparations and efforts to ensure that the electoral process is credible and successful. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 9 January 2005 between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan ended Second Sudanese Civil War, which had started in 1983.

3. Yemen

The Yemeni civil war is an ongoing multilateral civil war that began in late 2014 mainly between the Rashad al-Alimi-led Presidential Leadership Council and the Mahdi al-Mashat-led Supreme Political Council, along with their supporters and allies. Both claim to constitute the official government of Yemen. The civil war began in September 2014 when Houthi forces took over the capital city Sanaa, which was followed by a rapid Houthi takeover of the government. According to the UN, over 150,000 people have been killed in Yemen, as well as estimates of more than 227,000 dead as a result of an ongoing famine and lack of basic needs of life. The UN accomplishes this by working to prevent conflict, helping parties in conflict make peace, deploying peacekeepers, and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish. Since the establishment of the Office of the Special Envoy in 2012, the United Nations has provided support for the Yemeni-led political transition process and has promoted inclusive participation, including of previously marginalized groups, such as women, youth, the Houthis and Southern Hiraq. The additional funds will support humanitarian partners to continue to reach millions of vulnerable Yemenis, as well as refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen. Security Council Resolution 2722 (2024) was adopted in January and demanded that all attacks in the Red Sea must cease.

4. Central African Republic (CAR)

The Central African Republic Civil War is an ongoing civil war in the Central African Republic (CAR) involving the government, rebels from the Séléka coalition, and Anti-balaka militias. The United Nations (UN) has played a role in helping to end the conflict in the Central African Republic (CAR) by its various agencies. The UN has supported various peace agreements, often in collaboration with regional actors. In 2019, Khartoum Agreement brokered by the African Union (AU) and supported by the UN, this was a major peace deal signed between the CAR government and 14 armed groups.

The UN Human Rights Council addresses human rights abuses. MINUSCA(United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission)which was established on April 10, 2014, protects religious communities and promotes interfaith dialogue to reduce tensions. This mission also protects civilians, supports the peace process, and facilitates humanitarian assistance. The WFP (World Food Program) provides food assistance, and the WHO(World Health Organization) supports health initiatives to combat malnutrition and disease. UNICEF and other agencies run educational programs to ensure school access for children affected by conflict. The UNDP supports community-based recovery and livelihood programs to foster economic resilience.

5. Afghanistan

The United States went to Afghanistan in 2001 to wage a war. On September 11, 2001. Al-Qaida planned and executed such a horrific attack because their Taliban hosts had given them safe heavens in Afghanistan. The US aimed to destroy Al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban regime from power, but also sought to prevent the Northern Alliance from taking control of Afghanistan, believing the Alliance's rule would alienate the country's Pashtun majority. In February 2020, the United States and the Taliban reached a deal, known as the Doha Agreement, under which the United States agreed to withdraw all US forces from Afghanistan by May 2021.

Between 2022 and 2025, Afghanistan has experienced a period of significant political, social, and

economic upheaval. The US and NATO combat mission ended leading to a drawdown of foreign troops and a subsequent rise in Taliban influence. The country's economy has seen periods of growth, but it remains fragile, and poverty remains widespread. Human rights, particularly those of women and girls, have been severely eroded since the Taliban takeover in 2021, with the imposition of strict laws and restrictions on education, employment and movement.

The United Nations (UN) has been involved in Afghanistan since 1946 and helped establish a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

The UN's role in Afghanistan has been carried out through the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). UNAMA was established in 2002 by the UN Security Council.

UNAMA's responsibilities were managing relief, recovery, and reconstruction activities. This mission also helped in holding elections, providing political and strategic advice for the peace process and helping to execute the Bonn Agreement. It monitors human rights breaches and promotes civilian protection and religious freedom so that Minorities like Hazaras and Sikhs could be protected from persecution.

UNAMA assists peacekeeping and reconciliation initiatives by encouraging negotiations between warring parties. The UN's role in Afghanistan has also been carried out through other UN agencies, including UNICEF and UNDP.

- ☐ The World Food Programme (WFP) provides food help during conflicts and droughts, while the World Health Organization (WHO) promotes healthcare and polio eradication.
- ☐ UNICEF and other UN agencies support education, particularly for girls and children in remote locations.
- ☐ The UNDP prioritizes poverty reduction and economic progress through sustainable development projects, infrastructural upgrades, and empowerment efforts. These instances highlight the UN's diverse approach to solving.

6. Kashmir

The Kashmir conflict is one of the long-standing issues in the UN. The United Nations has been involved in the Kashmir issue since 1947, shortly after the partition of British India and the subsequent conflict between India and Pakistan over the region. Here are key aspects of the UN's involvement and steps taken to address the critical issues in Kashmir:

UN Resolutions:

The first significant UN intervention occurred in 1948 when India took the issue to the UN Security Council. This led to Resolution 47, which called for a ceasefire, the withdrawal of Pakistani and Indian troops and plebiscite to allow the people of Jammu and Kashmir to decide their future. The plebiscite, however, was never held due to India's bigotry attitude.

Human Rights Concerns:

Reports of human rights violations by Indian military forces, including restrictions on freedom of movement, communication blackouts, and allegations of excessive use of force, have been highlighted by various organizations and UN agencies. In 2018 and 2019, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued reports on the situation in Kashmir, calling for an independent investigation into alleged abuses.

Mediation Attempts

The UN and other international actors have attempted to mediate between India and Pakistan. However, these efforts have been limited due to India's attitude. The UN has consistently called for peaceful dialogue and adherence to international norms to resolve the dispute. The Indus Water Treaty (1960) was also a successful mediation attempt by the World Bank between India and Pakistan.

Focus on Humanitarian Relief

UN agencies like UNICEF, UNHCR, and others provide aid and support to communities affected by the conflict, including refugees and displaced persons in Kashmir.

Current Situation

The status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a significant transformation since the revocation of Article 35A and Article 370 on August 5, 2019 by the Government of India.

Article 370 had granted special autonomous status to Jammu and Kashmir. Its revocation effectively removed the state's special status under the Indian Constitution. Article 35A allowed the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir legislature to define "permanent residents" and provide them with special rights and privileges. Its removal means Indian citizens from other states now have the same rights as Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir residents regarding property ownership and employment.

7. Palestine

The Palestinian issue is one of the longest-standing conflicts on the UN agenda, deeply rooted in territorial disputes, political tensions, and humanitarian crises. The United Nations (UN) has been actively engaged in addressing critical issues in Palestine through resolutions, peacekeeping efforts, humanitarian assistance, and advocacy. Below is an overview of the UN's role and actions concerning Palestine:

Partition Plan (1947):

- The UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, proposing the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city. This led to the establishment of Israel in 1948, but Arab states and Palestinian leaders rejected it.

Creation of UNRWA (1949):

- The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established to provide assistance, education, and healthcare to Palestinian refugees displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

Ongoing Occupation (Post-1967):

- Following the Six-Day War with Arabs, Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and other territories. The UN has since passed numerous resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories and the recognition of all states' rights in the region.

Humanitarian Crisis:

- The blockade of Gaza, coupled with periodic conflicts, has led to severe humanitarian challenges, including a lack of access to clean water, electricity, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

Human Rights Violations:

- Allegations of human rights abuses, such as the use of excessive force, arbitrary arrests, and restrictions on movement, are regularly reported by UN agencies and human rights organizations.

Current Situation

Since October 7, 2023, the situation in Palestine particularly in Gaza is horrible. According to Al Jazeera News, by April 28, 2025 over 62,000 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been injured. Health and food infrastructures have been destroyed by continuous air strikes of Israeli war planes. Gaza has become 'famine-stricken' due to blockade of aid by Israel.

Peacekeeping and Mediation

The UN has supported peace initiatives, such as the Madrid Conference, the Oslo Accords, and the Quartet on the Middle East (UN, US, EU, Russia), to facilitate dialogue and negotiations.

Role of the United Nations in Resolving Conflicts

The United Nations has faced significant criticism for its failures in resolving the conflicts in Palestine and Kashmir, both of which remain unresolved despite decades of UN involvement. In Palestine, the inability to enforce key resolutions, such as the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied territories (Resolution 242) and the cessation of illegal settlements, highlights the UN's lack of enforcement power, particularly in the face of geopolitical divisions within the Security Council. Similarly, in Kashmir, the UN's early resolutions, including the call for a plebiscite to determine the region's future, remain unimplemented due to the absence of a robust mechanism to ensure compliance. In both cases, the UN's actions have often been undermined by global power politics, regional complexities, and its reliance on voluntary cooperation from member states, leading to criticism that it has been more of a platform for discussion than a force for tangible resolution. The UNSC often faces deadlocks due to vetoes by permanent members, particularly the United States, on resolutions critical of Israel. Continued settlement expansion and violence by Israel in Palestine complicate efforts for a negotiated solution. The blockade of Gaza and restrictions in the West Bank hinder the delivery of humanitarian aid and development initiatives. Many UN resolutions remain unimplemented due to the absence of enforcement mechanisms and the issue's political sensitivity. The UNSC's permanent members often have divergent views. It limits unified action by the UNSC. The inability to implement past resolutions, including the plebiscite, has undermined the UN's credibility in resolving the conflict.

Pakistan's Status, Role, and Contribution in Regional Organizations (EU and ECO)

Pakistan's Role and Contributions in the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) is a regional intergovernmental organization that

includes European, Caucasias, Central and South Asia countries. As a founding member, Pakistan has played an essential role in shaping the ECO's objectives. Here's a critical analysis of Pakistan's status, role, and contributions to the ECO.

Status within ECO

Pakistan is one of the ten member states of the ECO. Its mandate promotes economic, technical, and cultural cooperation among member states. Pakistan's strategic location and significant economic potential make it a key player within the ECO framework. The Forum was founded as the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) in 1964 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Turkey. It was renamed the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in 1985.

Role and Contributions

1. Economic Integration and Trade Promotion.

Regional commercial measures: Pakistan has pushed for regional integration in trade and actively participated in boosting intra-regional trade. The ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) aims to lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers among member states to increase trade.

Infrastructure Development: Pakistan has contributed to infrastructure initiatives that promote regional connectivity. The ECO Container Train, which runs from Islamabad to Istanbul via Tehran, exemplifies Pakistan's initiatives to improve regional transportation and trade.

2. Energy Cooperation.

Energy Projects: Pakistan has participated in several energy projects under the ECO framework, including attempts to share and develop energy resources. Pakistan's energy sector, especially natural gas, is critical to regional security and cooperation.

CASA-1000 Project: Although mostly under World Bank supervision, the CASA-1000 project, which aims to transfer electricity from Central Asia to South Asia, is consistent with ECO's objectives. Pakistan's participation demonstrates its commitment to regional energy cooperation.

3. Cultural and Technical Cooperation.

Cultural Exchange: Pakistan has actively promoted cultural exchanges and tourism among the ECO countries. By organizing cultural events and encouraging people-to-people encounters, Pakistan has helped to enhance regional cultural relations.

Technical Help: Pakistan gives technical help and expertise in education, research, and technology to other ECO member states. This cooperation promotes regional growth and capacity building.

4. Addressing Regional Challenges

Counter-terrorism Efforts: Pakistan has played a vital role in regional security measures. Pakistan supports regional stability and security through collaborative counter-terrorism efforts and intelligence sharing within the ECO framework. In 2024 Pakistan hosted SCO summit and it's agenda focused on enhancing regional economic cooperation and counter terrorism.

Disaster Management: Pakistan has also participated in regional disaster management initiatives helping develop cooperation mechanisms in disaster risk reduction and response.

Critical Analysis of the role of Pakistan in ECO

While Pakistan has made significant contributions to the ECO and enhanced its trade and transport links and build stronger ties with ECO member countries. But various difficulties and opportunities for improvement remain. Despite ECO agreements, implementation is typically delayed due to political barriers. Pakistan and the other member states must focus on practical execution. Member states must follow through on commitments which can hinder economic integration. Pakistan must overcome its domestic economic issues to contribute to and benefit from regional cooperation better. Regional tensions and instability, notably Afghanistan-related issues, can impact the ECO's operations. The success of ECO programs depends on Pakistan's involvement in promoting regional peace and stability.

While Pakistan has progressed in infrastructure development but continued investment and improvement in transport and communication networks are necessary to control regional trade and connectivity between member states.

Pakistan's Multifaceted Involvement in the ECO Framework

Overall Pakistan's status, function, and contributions to the Economic Cooperation Organization are extensive and diverse. Pakistan has contributed significantly to advancing ECO objectives by boosting trade, energy cooperation, cultural exchange, and resolving regional security problems. The ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) headquarters is in Islamabad. It promotes scientific and Technological collaboration. Pakistan has actively supported ECO projects and ECO Railway initiatives (e.g., Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul railway corridor). To fully reap the benefits of this regional cooperation, Pakistan and other member states must solve implementation issues, economic inequality, and political instability. Increased collaboration and dedication can result in more robust regional economic integration and development.

Pakistan's Status, Role, and Contribution to the European Union (EU):

The European Union (EU) was officially established on November 1, 1993. Despite not being a member of the European Union (EU), Pakistan maintains a multidimensional relationship with the bloc, including political, economic, security, and cultural exchanges. Pakistan's relationship with the European Union (EU) includes economic cooperation, political engagement, and development assistance. Here's a critical analysis of Pakistan's standing, role, and contributions:



Flag of the European Union

1. Economic Cooperation

Pakistan and the EU enjoy healthy trade relations. The EU is one of Pakistan's main trading partners, with significant exports of textiles, clothing, and agricultural goods. The Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) status awarded to Pakistan has played a critical role in increasing its exports to the EU. The GSP+ status has significantly boosted exports and benefited Pakistan's economy. Pakistan must comply with international accords on labor rights, human rights, and environmental norms to maintain its position. Noncompliance may result in the loss of these benefits.

2. Political Engagement

Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the European Economic Community were established in 1962. In June 2019, Pakistan and the EU signed the Strategic Engagement Plan (SEP) to build a partnership rooted in shared values and principles. Pakistan and the EU hold regular political discussions to address bilateral, regional, and global issues. These dialogues provide opportunities to address human rights, governance, and counterterrorism. These discussions help to align Pakistan's policies with international norms and improve diplomatic ties. There are frequent complaints of Pakistan's human rights and governance difficulties, which can strain political relations.

3. Development Assistance

The EU gives Pakistan significant development aid for education, rural development, and governance. It has funded numerous tasks to improve societal structure and capacity building. Under the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for 2021-27, the EU allocated EUR 265 million in grant funding to Pakistan for 2021-2024. EU aid has also supported important projects that promote education and healthcare facilities in underdeveloped regions. Productive use of aid demands transparency and efficient governance mechanisms, and Pakistan faces challenges due to corruption and bureaucratic incompetence.

4. Human Rights and Governance

The EU has continuously emphasized the significance of human rights and good governance. Pakistan's adherence to these norms is crucial for preserving trade benefits and development funding. Compliance can lead to long-term economic gains and enhanced international standing. Restrictions on free speech, minority rights, and judicial independence warrant serious revisions.

5. Counter-Terrorism and Security

Pakistan and the EU work together on security and counterterrorism measures. This involves intelligence exchange, counter-radicalization initiatives, and attempts to combat illegal trafficking. Collaborative security activities promote regional stability and contribute to global security. The Pakistani security situation, which includes domestic insurgencies and geopolitical issues, challenges these attempts.

6. Environmental Cooperation

The European Union (EU) contributes significantly to environmental cooperation with Pakistan through various projects and programs. This collaboration spans several areas, including climate change mitigation and sustainable development. EU-supported environmental projects help Pakistan mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable practices. Pakistan must strengthen its environmental policies and enforcement mechanisms to tackle climate challenges effectively.

Overall, Pakistan's relationship with the European Union has diverse economic, political, and developmental aspects. While this collaboration has many advantages, such as economic growth, development aid, and increased security, it also faces significant hurdles. These include assuring compliance with international standards, addressing governance challenges, and using development support optimally. By tackling these difficulties, Pakistan may strengthen and expand its engagement with the EU, contributing positively to global and regional stability and growth.

Pakistan's Status, Role, and Contribution to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

Pakistan holds a significant position in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) as a full member, contributing actively to its objectives of fostering regional cooperation, security, and economic development. Its role and contributions can be summarized as follows:

1. Pakistan's Status within the SCO

Pakistan became a full member of the SCO in June 2017, alongside India, during the Astana Summit. Before this, Pakistan had observer status since 2005. Full membership has enabled Pakistan to collaborate with regional powers, particularly China and Russia.



2. Strategic Role

Geostrategic Importance:

Pakistan is a bridge for connectivity projects, including China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship BRI project, underscores Pakistan's role in enhancing regional economic integration within the SCO framework.

Counterterrorism:

Pakistan plays an active role in the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO, contributing to countering terrorism, extremism, and separatism in the region. As a country heavily impacted by terrorism, Pakistan brings practical experience and collaboration opportunities to SCO's counterterrorism initiatives.

Afghanistan Stabilization:

Pakistan advocates for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan, aligning with SCO's objectives of addressing regional security and preventing instability in Central and South Asia.

3. Economic Contribution

Trade and Connectivity:

Pakistan promotes regional trade and economic integration through initiatives like CPEC, which enhances connectivity between SCO member states and other regions. Its Gwadar Port offers landlocked Central Asian states access to global markets, strengthening trade routes under the SCO umbrella.

Energy Cooperation:

Pakistan's energy demands and its role as a potential transit country for energy pipelines, such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline, align with SCO's energy security goals.

4. Diplomatic and Cultural Engagement

Dialogue and Multilateralism:

Pakistan actively participates in SCO summits and working groups, emphasizing multilateralism and regional cooperation. It has been vocal about promoting dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution among member states, including India and China.

Cultural Exchange:

Pakistan contributes to SCO's cultural programs, promoting people-to-people connections, tourism, and heritage exchanges within the region.

Pakistan's role in the SCO highlights its commitment to regional cooperation despite challenges, contributing to the organization's stability, connectivity, and collective progress goals in Eurasia. Through active engagement, Pakistan seeks to bolster its diplomatic influence and align its policies with the shared goals of peace, development, and cooperation among SCO members. On 15-16 October 2024, the twenty-third meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Islamabad. Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, chaired the meeting. The summit focused on economic and trade cooperation, environmental initiatives, and socio-cultural links.

Pakistan and BRICS

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is an important emerging market economic and political bloc. Pakistan is not a member of BRICS, but it has expressed interest in engaging with the group due to its growing significance on the global stage. However, Pakistan is not a member of BRICS; its strategic location, strong and close ties with China, and aspirations for regional connectivity and economic development position it as a potential partner for engagement with the bloc. This will require addressing domestic challenges and fostering diplomatic initiatives with BRICS members.

Impact of Global Monetary Institutions on the Development of Countries

Global monetary institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, play crucial roles in the economic development of countries, particularly in providing financial assistance, policy advice, and technical expertise to address macroeconomic challenges. These institutions aim to stabilize economies, promote sustainable growth, reduce poverty, and foster economic cooperation.



Role of the IMF

1. Financial Assistance

The IMF provides financial support to countries facing balance of payments problems, helping them stabilize their economies. These programs can help countries restore economic stability, regain market confidence, and lay the foundation for sustained growth.

2. Policy Advice and Technical Assistance

The IMF advises member countries on economic management, fiscal policies, monetary policies, and structural reforms. It also provides technical assistance and training to help countries strengthen their institutional capacity and implement sound economic policies.

3. Surveillance

The IMF monitors global economic trends through surveillance activities and assesses member countries' economic and financial policies. This surveillance helps identify risks and vulnerabilities, providing early warning signals to prevent economic crises.



IMF's Efforts to Assist Pakistan

Economic Challenges in Pakistan

Pakistan faces significant economic challenges, including large fiscal deficits, high inflation, a balance of payments crisis, and a heavy debt burden. These issues are exacerbated by structural problems such as tax evasion, low tax revenues, inefficient public enterprises, corruption, and energy sector deficiencies.



IMF Programs in Pakistan

The IMF has been involved with Pakistan through several lending programs to stabilize its economy and promote structural reforms. Pakistan joined the IMF on July 11, 1950, as a newly established country facing fiscal problems since its creation in 1947. In 1958, for the first time, Pakistan went to the IMF for bailout.

Impact of IMF Assistance on Pakistan

Positive Impacts:

- 1. Economic Stabilization:** IMF aid has stabilized Pakistan's economy, restored market confidence, and prevented a possible balance of payments catastrophe.
- 2. Reform Implementation:** The IMF program has led to significant economic reforms, especially in fiscal management and the energy sector.
- 3. Strengthening Institutions:** The IMF's technical support and policy advice helped develop Pakistan's economic institutions and governance.
- 4. Financial Support and Loans:** They provide crucial financial resources to needy countries, enabling them to invest in infrastructure, health, education, and other critical sectors.
- 5. Policy Guidance:** They offer technical assistance and policy advice to promote sustainable economic growth and development.
- 6. Capacity Building:** These institutions help build institutional capacity by training local officials and providing expertise in various areas of economic management.
- 7. Debt Relief:** They can facilitate debt relief initiatives, helping heavily indebted countries manage and reduce their debt burdens.

Negative Impacts:

- 1. Austerity Measures:** IMF programs sometimes impose austerity measures, which can cause societal unrest and political issues.
- 2. Debt Sustainability:** Continued borrowing from the IMF raises concerns about the country's high external debt and its sustainability in the long term.
- 3. Implementation Risks:** Successful IMF programs rely on effective reform implementation, which can be hindered by political instability and administrative inefficiency.
- 4. Sovereignty Concerns:** The influence of global monetary institutions can sometimes be perceived as an erosion of national sovereignty, as countries must comply with externally imposed policies.
- 5. Inequality:** Critics argue that the policies promoted by these institutions sometimes exacerbate inequality within countries, benefiting the wealthy while harming the poor.

Therefore, global monetary institutions such as the IMF are essential in assisting the economic development of countries facing substantial economic issues. Pakistan has relied heavily on the IMF's financial aid and policy support to resolve its economic crisis, stabilize the economy, and promote critical structural reforms. However, these efforts' effectiveness depends on the country's ability to implement and sustain the recommended policies. Global monetary institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), play significant roles in shaping the economic development of countries, particularly those facing financial difficulties. Their influence can be seen in several ways.

EXERCISE

Answer the following questions by choosing the best answer A, B, C or D.

1. **The UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on:**
(a) December 10, 1946 (b) December 10, 1947
(c) December 10, 1948 (d) December 10, 1949
2. **Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) was founded in:**
(a) 1964 (b) 1965
(b) 1966 (d) 1967
1. **IMF is a global monetary institution that helps countries in:**
(a) disaster management (b) economic development
(c) sports (d) regional stability
4. **UNESCO is an organization for :**
(a) climate change (b) agriculture development
(c) education and science (d) child health
5. **Pakistan joined the IMF on:**
(a) 1947 (b) 1948
(c) 1949 (d) 1950
6. **The EU is an international organization comprising:**
(a) African Countries (b) Western Countries
(c) Eastern countries (d) European Countries
7. **Economic stability comes with:**
(a) educated citizens (b) political stability
(c) changing norms (d) charismatic leader
8. **The UNO's fundamental aim is:**
(a) To maintain international peace and Security
(b) To assist states in trouble
(c) to check human violence
(d) to help states in natural calamity.
9. **in 2024, Pakistan will get its Bailout Package for the:**
(a) 21st time (b) 22nd time
(c) 23rd time (d) 25th time
10. **The UNO has ----- Organs:**
(a) 3 (b) 4
(c) 5 (d) 6

Answer the following questions briefly.

1. OHCHR stands for?
2. What are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights functions?
3. What is Pakistan's role in the ECO?
4. Why is the IMF Bailout Package essential for Pakistan?
5. What is the aim of the FASA-1000 Project?
6. What are the main objectives of ECO?
7. Why has Pakistan remained dependent on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for economic support?

Answer the following questions in detail.

1. How do global monetary institutions impact the economy of a country? Give Examples.
2. Write a detailed note of Pakistan's role in SCO.
3. Why does the UNO not solve the Kashmir and Palestine problems? Explain your answer with reference to examples.
4. Explain the UNO's role in the Afghan Problem.
5. OIC is essential for the Muslim World. Justify.

Learning Activities:

- (i) Explore the website "<https://www.un.org>" to learn about the history of the UNO.
- (ii) Class presentation to discuss the importance of International Organizations.

Divide the class into groups and assign the task:

- (i) Importance of OIC
- (ii) Importance of Kashmir for Pakistan
- (iii) A debate "is China - Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a game-changer for Pakistan's economy?" Conduct a debate activity between both groups.

Project

Divide the class into groups and assign the task:

- (i) Importance of OIC
- (ii) Importance of Kashmir for Pakistan
- (iii) A debate for both groups for more suggestions for the economic development of Pakistan.

GLOSSARY

- **Integration:** the process or action of combining two or more things in an effective way
- **Collaboration:** the action of working with someone to produce something; alliance
- **Prerequisite:** necessary condition; required
- **Conducive:** good for; helpful to
- **Marginalized:** treat(a person, group, or concept) as insignificant or peripheral

Sr. #	Year	Era	Amount (USD)
1	1958	Iskandar Mirza Era	\$25 million
2	1965	Ayub Khan Era	\$37.5 million
3	1972	Post-Bangladesh War	\$84 million
4	1973	Bhutto Era	\$75 million
5	1980	Zia-ul-Haq Era	\$1.27 billion
6	1988	Post-Zia Era	\$516 million
7	1993	Benazir Bhutto Era	\$1.3 billion
8	1997	Nawaz Sharif Era	\$1.6 billion
9	2001	Musharraf Era	\$1.3 billion
10	2008	Post-Musharraf Era	\$7.6 billion
11	2013	Nawaz Sharif Era	\$6.6 billion
12	2019	Imran Khan Era	\$6 billion
13	2023	Shehbaz Sharif Era	\$3 billion
14	2024	Shehbaz Sharif Era	\$ 7 billion

List more words and write their meaning that you find difficult in this chapter
