



## ISLAMABAD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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### MEDIA COVERAGE

## “Intra-Afghan Dialogue: A New Hope?”

March 3, 2020

### 1. **BUSINESS RECORDER** — PAKISTAN'S PREMIER FINANCIAL DAILY —

March 12, 2020

### Afghan peace process: Experts for collective efforts to keep ‘spoilers’ at bay



Former diplomats and experts on Afghan Affairs on Tuesday emphasized the need for collective efforts to prevent “spoilers” from derailing the peace process, and insisted that a stable political setup in a peaceful Afghanistan was more important than a Pakistan-friendly government in Kabul.

Ambassador Riaz Ahmad Khan (retired), former foreign secretary, Ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain (retired), Pakistan's former ambassador to Afghanistan, and Ambassador Ayaz Wazir (retired), former ambassador to Afghanistan, were speaking at a symposium on “Intra-Afghan Dialogue: A New Hope”, organised by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI).

Discussing 'The US-Taliban Peace Agreement: An Analysis and Future Prognosis', Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan (retd) hoped that external actors would allow space to Afghan factions to work on their differences. He highlighted that just like many other talks before the Doha agreement, it was unclear whether this one would culminate into something positive. Riaz agreed with Ambassador Abrar Hussain that a stable government in Kabul and durable peace in Afghanistan was more important than a Pakistan-friendly government. He added that if there was a peaceful and stable Afghanistan it would benefit Pakistan.

On the notion of "strategic depth", Riaz said there was no such thing as "strategic depth". He added that former army chief General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani had also clarified that there was no "strategic depth", where he had also stated that what Pakistan wanted was a friendly government in Afghanistan.

"I think, this is not the right approach, we should stop it. Because a stable government in Kabul and a peaceful Afghanistan is more important than anything else," Riaz said, adding that "We should keep our eyes on the objective, which is taking the peace process forward." On the Durand Line, he said that the issue was taken up with the Taliban when they were in the power in Kabul who stated that they believed that it was not an issue for them and there should be no borders between brotherly Muslim countries. "I think, this is no more an issue between the two countries...it is a de facto boundary," Riaz added.

On the border issue, Ambassador Ayaz Wazir (retd) said Afghanistan had never violated the Durand Line, adding that Afghan leadership recognised it as an internationally-recognised border between the two countries but they refrained from admitting it through public statements for the sake of their internal politics.

<https://www.brecorder.com/2020/03/12/579299/afghan-peace-process-experts-for-collective-efforts-to-keep-spoilers-at-bay/>

March 11, 2020

## **Pakistan Needs Circumspect Role In Afghan Peace Process: Former Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan**

Former Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan Wednesday said that Pakistan needed to be circumspect in playing its role in Afghan peace process as it was daunting and challenging task to bring stability and end violence in Afghanistan



ISLAMABAD, (APP - UrduPoint / Pakistan Point News - 11th Mar, 2020 ) :Former Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan Wednesday said that Pakistan needed to be circumspect in playing its role in Afghan peace process as it was daunting and challenging task to bring stability and end violence in Afghanistan.

Addressing a symposium on 'Intra-Afghan Dialogue ; A New Hope' organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here, he said Pakistan should be prudent in its policy decisions while dealing Afghan dialogue process and avoid unnecessary drum beating of the agreement between Taliban and the Afghan government.

Riaz said Afghan dialogue matter with its substance where contributions, power sharing, local control of territory and structure of Afghan Army relied on US funding. "The Afghan Army is not a professional Army like Pakistan Army as the force ethnically dominated by Tajiks cannot operate in Pashtun dominated area," he pointed out. There were many challenges in resolving the Afghan crisis post US withdrawal from the region as affections within the factions of Afghan government and that of Taliban which failed to provide a clear leadership in the process, he added.

"Pakistan has crucial role in Afghan peace process due to its geographical positions and population overlap which should be tackled smartly as nothing can offset this advantage of Pakistan", he added Ambassador (R) Riaz noted that the US and Russia could help peace process if a powerful national coalition had emerged in Afghanistan which had not come up yet.

Former Ambassador to Afghanistan Ibrar Hussain said Iran and Russia were also among the major stakeholders in the peace process where both the parties had serious reservations on the peace process. "Iran due to its association with Northern Alliance and Taliban's adversary due to ethnic and religious differences has its concerns on the rise of Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan," he added.

Russia, he said had concerns over increase in terrorism due to intelligence reports of Daesh and other terrorist outfits in the region. Former Ambassador to Afghanistan Ayaz Wazir said there was mistrust between Afghan government and Taliban which should be reduced to make the peace deal successful which at present appeared as without any logical conclusion.

He added that after consensus whatever government came into power in Kabul would have no option but to have friendly ties with Islamabad. President IPRI, Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique highlighted the takeaways of the discussion and said Pakistan should be vigilant in playing its role in Afghan dialogue whereas a proper roadmap for the process was necessary. He pointed out that economic integration, global partners' incorporation was significant for the successful revival of peace and stability in the region.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pakistan-needs-circumspect-role-in-afghan-pea-861177.html>



### 3. DIPLOMATIC NEWS AGENCY

March 11, 2020

## Afghans to be masters of their fate; beware of spoilers: experts say



ISLAMABAD, MAR 11 (DNA) – The United States-Taliban peace agreement signed in Doha, despite its significance, cannot be deemed substantial enough for creating sustainable peace in war-ravaged Afghanistan. Afghanistan is home to various ethnicities and has witnessed a history of insurrections and presently, lack of cordial relations exist amongst different political entities of the country with no common agendas to converge on.

Afghan soil has also been used as a hotbed of proxy warfare by India which could very well jeopardize the intra-Afghan dialogue. Peace settlement cannot materialize if all stakeholders in Afghanistan do not accept the legitimacy of their political opponents.

Various political groups might appear to be a motley crew, but they are the only way forward to form a grander National Unity Government. There are no victors and losers in this peace agreement between the US and the Taliban. These were some of the conclusions of the Symposium on “Intra-Afghan Dialogue: A New Hope” organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute here in the capital today.

Eminent speakers included former Pakistani ambassadors and diplomats. The speakers highlighted peace in Afghanistan may not suit New Delhi's ambitions for regional hegemony and can cause them to continue intervening in the politics and decision-making of the country.

The diplomats cautioned that Afghan politicians must be wary of issuing irresponsible statements which may derail efforts to find a solution to this 20-year old conflict. An intra-Afghan dialogue is the only hope for millions of citizens as well as the refugees hoping to return to their homeland. Such a scenario still seems implausible, but is not entirely impossible.

Discussing "The US-Taliban Peace Agreement: An Analysis and Future Prognosis", Ambassador (R) Riaz Muhammad Khan hoped that external actors would allow space to Afghan factions to work on their differences. He highlighted that just like many other talks before the Doha agreement, it is unclear whether this one will culminate into something positive. Outlining the "Complexities of Peace and Conflict Dynamics in Afghanistan: Future Scenarios and Pakistan's Response", Ambassador (R) Ayaz Wazir opined that there is mistrust between Afghans themselves, and until all Afghans forego personal interest and make public interest key for political dispensation, it will be difficult to achieve results.

Afghan peace process should not be hostage to spoilers' agenda. There has been a clean disconnect between Taliban and Afghan government's understanding which has been bridged partially through the post agreement Joint declaration after addressing the sensitivities of President Ashraf Ghani.

It was pointed out that presence of Daesh also poses a grave challenge to the peace and stability of Afghanistan, as there could be an exodus of hardline militants associated with the Taliban and other insurgent outfits, who reject negotiations with the US and the government in Kabul. They could join ISIS. The recent attack on a ceremony attended by Abdullah Abdullah, marking the death anniversary of ethnic Hazara leader, Abdul Ali Mazari, was claimed by ISIS on their news website Amaq.

The attack, killing over 30 citizens, manifests how ISIS needs to be declared a common enemy as there could be a surge in terrorist attacks in order to magnify the trust deficit, and as a consequence any possibility for a settlement, could evaporate. All parties, especially the US, must also remain vigilant of any regional players, especially India, which might play the role of a spoiler.

On the issue of "Intra-Afghan Dialogue and the Role of Pakistan and Regional Powers," Ambassador (R) Ayaz Wazir insisted that there should be no interference from Pakistan and whatever the Afghans agree upon Islamabad should be the first to recognize and respect it.

Ambassador (R) Syed Abrar Hussain highlighted that Pakistan wants a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, and stressed that no external power should meddle in Afghanistan's affairs and Afghans should solve their problems in accordance with their own traditions.

Earlier, President IPRI Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique, welcoming senior diplomats, academicians, and correspondents of various media outlets, briefly pointed to possible future scenarios including Afghanistan falling into a civil war as well as undergoing institutional transition and forming a representative government.



He opined that Pakistan wishes to see a peaceful and stable Afghanistan that is essential for economic integration and prosperity of the region. He hoped that Intra- Afghan dialogue will lead to establishment of a consensus of political dispensation in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan.=DNA

<http://www.dnanews.com.pk/afghans-masters-fate-beware-spoilers-experts-say/>

#### 4. *Daily* Islamabad POST

March 11, 2020

### **Afghans to be masters of their fate; beware of spoilers: experts say**

ISLAMABAD, MAR 11 (DNA) – The United States-Taliban peace agreement signed in Doha, despite its significance, cannot be deemed substantial enough for creating sustainable peace in war-ravaged Afghanistan. Afghanistan is home to various ethnicities and has witnessed a history of insurrections and presently, lack of cordial relations exist amongst different political entities of the country with no common agendas to converge on.

Afghan soil has also been used as a hotbed of proxy warfare by India which could very well jeopardize the intra-Afghan dialogue. Peace settlement cannot materialize if all stakeholders in Afghanistan do not accept the legitimacy of their political opponents. Various political groups

might appear to be a motley crew, but they are the only way forward to form a grander National Unity Government. There are no victors and losers in this peace agreement between the US and the Taliban.

These were some of the conclusions of the Symposium on “Intra-Afghan Dialogue: A New Hope” organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute here in the capital today. Eminent speakers included former Pakistani ambassadors and diplomats. The speakers highlighted peace in Afghanistan may not suit New Delhi’s ambitions for regional hegemony and can cause them to continue intervening in the politics and decision-making of the country.

The diplomats cautioned that Afghan politicians must be wary of issuing irresponsible statements which may derail efforts to find a solution to this 20-year old conflict. An intra-Afghan dialogue is the only hope for millions of citizens as well as the refugees hoping to return to their homeland. Such a scenario still seems implausible, but is not entirely impossible.

Discussing “The US-Taliban Peace Agreement: An Analysis and Future Prognosis”, Ambassador (R ) Riaz Muhammad Khan hoped that external actors would allow space to Afghan factions to work on their differences.

He highlighted that just like many other talks before the Doha agreement, it is unclear whether this one will culminate into something positive. Outlining the “Complexities of Peace and Conflict Dynamics in Afghanistan: Future Scenarios and Pakistan’s Response”, Ambassador (R) Ayaz Wazir opined that there is mistrust between Afghans themselves, and until all Afghans forego personal interest and make public interest key for political dispensation, it will be difficult to achieve results. Afghan peace process should not be hostage to spoilers’ agenda. There has been a clean disconnect between Taliban and Afghan government’s understanding which has been bridged partially through the post agreement Joint declaration after addressing the sensitivities of President Ashraf Ghani.

It was pointed out that presence of Daesh also poses a grave challenge to the peace and stability of Afghanistan, as there could be an exodus of hardline militants associated with the Taliban and other insurgent outfits, who reject negotiations with the US and the government in Kabul.

They could join ISIS. The recent attack on a ceremony attended by Abdullah Abdullah, marking the death anniversary of ethnic Hazara leader, Abdul Ali Mazari, was claimed by ISIS on their news website Amaq.

The attack, killing over 30 citizens, manifests how ISIS needs to be declared a common enemy as there could be a surge in terrorist attacks in order to magnify the trust deficit, and as a consequence any possibility for a settlement, could evaporate. All parties, especially the US,



must also remain vigilant of any regional players, especially India, which might play the role of a spoiler.

On the issue of “Intra-Afghan Dialogue and the Role of Pakistan and Regional Powers,” Ambassador (R) Ayaz Wazir insisted that there should be no interference from Pakistan and whatever the Afghans agree upon Islamabad should be the first to recognize and respect it. Ambassador (R) Syed Abrar Hussain highlighted that Pakistan wants a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, and stressed that no external power should meddle in Afghanistan’s affairs and Afghans should solve their problems in accordance with their own traditions.

Earlier, President IPRI Ambassador Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham bin Saddique, welcoming senior diplomats, academicians, and correspondents of various media outlets, briefly pointed to possible future scenarios including Afghanistan falling into a civil war as well as undergoing institutional transition and forming a representative government.

He opined that Pakistan wishes to see a peaceful and stable Afghanistan that is essential for economic integration and prosperity of the region. He hoped that Intra- Afghan dialogue will lead to establishment of a consensus of political dispensation in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan.=DNA

<https://islamabadpost.com.pk/afghans-to-be-masters-of-their-fate-beware-of-spoilers-experts-say/>



5. SABAH صباح

March 11, 2020

## US-Taliban peace agreement cannot be deemed substantial enough for creating sustainable peace in war-ravaged Afghanistan: Experts



ISLAMABAD, March 11 (SABAH): The experts have said that the United States-Taliban peace agreement signed in Doha, despite its significance, cannot be deemed substantial enough for creating sustainable peace in war-ravaged Afghanistan. Afghanistan is home to various ethnicities and has witnessed a history of insurrections and presently, lack of cordial relations exist amongst different political entities of the country with no common agendas to converge on. Afghan soil has also been used as a hotbed of proxy warfare by India which could very well jeopardize the intra-Afghan dialogue. Peace settlement cannot materialize if all stakeholders in Afghanistan do not accept the legitimacy of their political opponents. Various political groups might appear to be a motley crew, but they are the only way forward to form a grander National Unity Government. There are no victors and losers in this peace agreement between the US and the Taliban.

These were some of the conclusions of the Symposium on “Intra-Afghan Dialogue: A New Hope” organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute in Islamabad on Wednesday. Eminent speakers included former Pakistani ambassadors and diplomats. The speakers highlighted peace in Afghanistan may not suit New Delhi’s ambitions for regional hegemony and can cause them to continue intervening in the politics and decision-making of the country. The diplomats cautioned that Afghan politicians must be wary of issuing irresponsible statements which may derail efforts to find a solution to this 20-year old conflict. An intra-Afghan dialogue is the only hope for millions of citizens as well as the refugees hoping to return to their homeland. Such a scenario still seems implausible, but is not entirely impossible.

Discussing “The US-Taliban Peace Agreement: An Analysis and Future Prognosis”, Ambassador (retd) Riaz Muhammad Khan hoped that external actors would allow space to Afghan factions to work on their differences. He highlighted that just like many other talks before the Doha agreement, it is unclear whether this one will culminate into something positive.



Outlining the “Complexities of Peace and Conflict Dynamics in Afghanistan: Future Scenarios and Pakistan’s Response”, Ambassador (retd) Ayaz Wazir opined that there is mistrust between Afghans themselves, and until all Afghans forego personal interest and make public interest key for political dispensation, it will be difficult to achieve results. Afghan peace process should not be hostage to spoilers’ agenda. There has been a clean disconnect

between Taliban and Afghan government’s understanding which has been bridged partially through the post agreement Joint declaration after addressing the sensitivities of President Ashraf Ghani. It was pointed out that presence of Daesh also poses a grave challenge to the peace and stability of Afghanistan, as there could be an exodus of hardline militants associated with the Taliban and other insurgent outfits, who reject negotiations with the US and the government in Kabul. They could join ISIS. The recent attack on a ceremony attended by Abdullah Abdullah, marking the death anniversary of ethnic Hazara leader, Abdul Ali Mazari, was claimed by ISIS on their news website Amaq. The attack, killing over 30 citizens, manifests how ISIS needs to be declared a common enemy as there could be a surge in terrorist attacks in order to magnify the trust deficit, and as a consequence any possibility for a settlement, could evaporate. All parties, especially the US, must also remain vigilant of any regional players, especially India, which might play the role of a spoiler.

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Ambassador (retired) Syed Abrar Hussain highlighted that Pakistan wants a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, and stressed that no external power should meddle in Afghanistan’s affairs and Afghans should solve their problems in accordance with their own traditions.

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<http://www.sabahnews.net/english/archives/26504>

## 6. The Pakistan Post

March 11, 2020

### **Pakistan Needs Circumspect Role In Afghan Peace Process: Former Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan**



Former Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan Wednesday said that Pakistan needed to be circumspect in playing its role in Afghan peace process as it was daunting and challenging task to bring stability and end violence in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, (UrduPoint/Pakistan Point News – 11th Mar, 2020): Former Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan Wednesday said that Pakistan needed to be circumspect in playing its role in Afghan peace process as it was daunting and challenging task to bring stability and end violence in Afghanistan.

Addressing a symposium on ‘Intra-Afghan Dialogue ; A New Hope’ organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here, he said Pakistan should be prudent in its policy decisions while dealing Afghan dialogue process and avoid unnecessary drum beating of the agreement between Taliban and the Afghan government.

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There were many challenges in resolving the Afghan crisis post US withdrawal from the region as affections within the factions of Afghan government and that of Taliban which failed to provide a clear leadership in the process, he added.

“Pakistan has crucial role in Afghan peace process due to its geographical positions and population overlap which should be tackled smartly as nothing can offset this advantage of Pakistan“, he added Ambassador (R) Riaz noted that the US and Russia could help peace process if a powerful national coalition had emerged in Afghanistan which had not come up yet.

Former Ambassador to Afghanistan Ibrar Hussain said Iran and Russia were also among the major stakeholders in the peace process where both the parties had serious reservations on the peace process.

“Iran due to its association with Northern Alliance and Taliban’s adversary due to ethnic and religious differences has its concerns on the rise of Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan,” he added. Russia, he said had concerns over increase in terrorism due to intelligence reports of Daesh and other terrorist outfits in the region.

Former Ambassador to Afghanistan Ayaz Wazir said there was mistrust between Afghan government and Taliban which should be reduced to make the peace deal successful which at present appeared as without any logical conclusion. He added that after consensus whatever government came into power in Kabul would have no option but to have friendly ties with Islamabad.

President IPRI, Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique highlighted the takeaways of the discussion and said Pakistan should be vigilant in playing its role in Afghan dialogue whereas a proper roadmap for the process was necessary.

He pointed out that economic integration, global partners’ incorporation was significant for the successful revival of peace and stability in the region.

<https://thepakistanpost.net/pakistan-needs-circumspect-role-in-afghan-peace-process-former-ambassador-riaz-mohammad-khan/>

7.

March 11, 2020

## افغان سیاستدانوں کو غیر ذمہ دارانہ بیانات جاری کرنے سے محتاط رہنا چاہیے: ماہرین

راجہ فرقان احمد | بدھ 11 مارچ 2020



اسلام آباد: (راجہ فرقان احمد) اسلام آباد پولیسی ریسرچ انسٹی ٹیوٹ نے "انٹرا افغان مذاکرات: ایک نئی امید" کے عنوان سے سمپوزیم کا انعقاد کیا جس میں سابق سفیر ریاض محمد خان، ایاز وزیر اور سید ابرار حسین نے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کیا۔ سفارت کاروں کے مطابق جنگ زدہ افغانستان میں پائیدار امن کے قیام کیلئے امریکہ اور طالبان کے درمیان امن معاہدے کو اہمیت کی نظر سے نہیں دیکھنا چاہیے۔ کئی دہائیوں سے اس زمین سے وابستہ لوگوں کو سیاسی بلچل، خانہ جنگی اور غیر ملکی فوجی مہموں کی وجہ سے امن و سکون نہیں ہوا ہے۔ اس وقت ملک کے مختلف سیاسی

اداروں کے مابین خوشگوار تعلقات کا فقدان ہے۔ افغان سرزمین کو بھارت کے طرف سے پراکسی جنگ کے لیے بھی استعمال کیا جاتا رہا ہے۔ مقررین نے روشنی ڈالی کہ اگر افغانستان کے تمام اسٹیک ہولڈرز اپنے سیاسی مخالفین کے جواز کو قبول نہیں کرتے تو امن قائم نہیں ہو سکتا۔ اسی طرح اشارہ کیا گیا کہ آئی ایس آئی اس داعیش کی موجودگی سے افغانستان کے امن و استحکام کو ایک بہت بڑا خطرہ درپیش ہے۔ امریکہ کو بھی ہندوستان کے عزائم سے چوکنا رہنا چاہیے۔ سفارت کاروں نے متنبہ کیا کہ افغان سیاستدانوں کو غیر ذمہ دارانہ بیانات جاری کرنے سے محتاط رہنا چاہیے جو اس بیس سالہ پرانے تنازعے کو حل ہونے سے روک سکتا ہے۔ لاکھوں شہریوں کے ساتھ ساتھ افغان مہاجر اپنے وطن آنے کی امید کر رہے ہیں۔

<http://aksriyat.com/showstory.php?id=4206>

## 8.

March 13, 2020

### **IPRI symposium endorses Intra-Afghan Dialogue for peace in Afghanistan**

Islamabad: Speakers were of the opinion that an intra-Afghan dialogue is the only way forward to solve disputes among all groups of Afghanistan. They cautioned that Afghan politicians must be wary of issuing irresponsible statements which may derail efforts to find a solution to this 20-year old conflict. There was consensus among the participants that peace and stability was main challenge after US withdrawal from the Afghanistan.

Addressing a symposium on ‘Intra-Afghan Dialogue ; A New Hope’ organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) here, Former Ambassador Riaz Mohammad Khan said that Pakistan has crucial role in Afghan peace process due to its geographical positions and population overlap which should be tackled smartly as nothing can offset this advantage of Pakistan. Ambassador (R) Riaz said that the United States and Russia could help peace process if a powerful national coalition had emerged in Afghanistan which had not come up yet.

Former Ambassador to Afghanistan Ibrar Hussain said Iran and Russia were also among the major stakeholders in the peace process where both the parties had serious reservations on the peace process.

“Iran due to its association with Northern Alliance and Taliban’s adversary due to ethnic and religious differences has its concerns on the rise of Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan,” he added.

Former Ambassador to Afghanistan Ayaz Wazir said there was mistrust between Afghan government and Taliban which should be reduced to make the peace deal successful which at present appeared as without any logical conclusion. He added that after consensus whatever government came into power in Kabul would have no option but to have friendly ties with Islamabad.

President IPRI, Vice Admiral (R) Khan Hasham Bin Saddique highlighted the takeaways of the discussion and said Pakistan should be vigilant in playing its role in Afghan dialogue whereas a proper roadmap for the process was necessary. He pointed out that economic integration, global partners’ incorporation was significant for the successful revival of peace and stability in the region.

<http://thefortress.com.pk/ipri-symposium-endorses-intra-afghan-dialogue-for-peace-in-afghanistan/>



## 9.

March 13, 2020

### **Symposium on ‘Intra-Afghan dialogue: a new hope’**

Islamabad : Former ambassador Riaz Muhammad Khan has observed that just like many other talks before the Doha Agreement, it is unclear whether this will culminate into something positive. Ambassador Riaz was speaking at a symposium on ‘Intra-Afghan dialogue: a new hope’ organised here by Islamabad Policy Research Institute. Riaz Khan hoped that external actors would allow space to Afghan factions to work on their differences.

Former ambassador Ayaz Wazir said that there is mistrust between Afghans themselves, and until all Afghans forego personal interest and make public interest key for political dispensation, it will be difficult to achieve results. He cautioned that Afghan peace process should not be hostage to spoilers’ agenda. There has been a clear disconnect between Taliban and Afghan governments understanding which bridged partially through the post-agreement Joint declaration after addressing the sensitivities of President Ashraf Ghani.

Ayaz Wazir insisted that there should be no interference from Pakistan and whatever the Afghans agree upon Islamabad should be the first to recognise and respect it. Former ambassador Syed Abrar Hussain stressed that Pakistan wants a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, and stressed that no external power should meddle in Afghanistan’s affairs and Afghans should solve their problems in accordance with their own traditions.

Vice-Admiral (r) Khan Hasham bin Saddique, President IPRI, in his address of welcome said that Pakistan wishes to see a peaceful and stable Afghanistan that is essential for economic integration and prosperity of the region. He hoped that Intra-Afghan dialogue will lead to establishment of a consensus of political dispensation in accordance with the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/amp/628286-symposium-on-intra-afghan-dialogue-a-new-hope>