



# FOSTERING COMPREHENSIVE PAKISTAN- NIGERIA COOPERATION

Report of the NIPS-NIIA Roundtable  
on Pakistan-Nigeria Relations



# **FOSTERING COMPREHENSIVE PAKISTAN-NIGERIA COOPERATION**

**Report of the Roundtable on Pakistan-Nigeria Relations: Avenues  
for Cooperation**

**By**

**NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS)**

**&**

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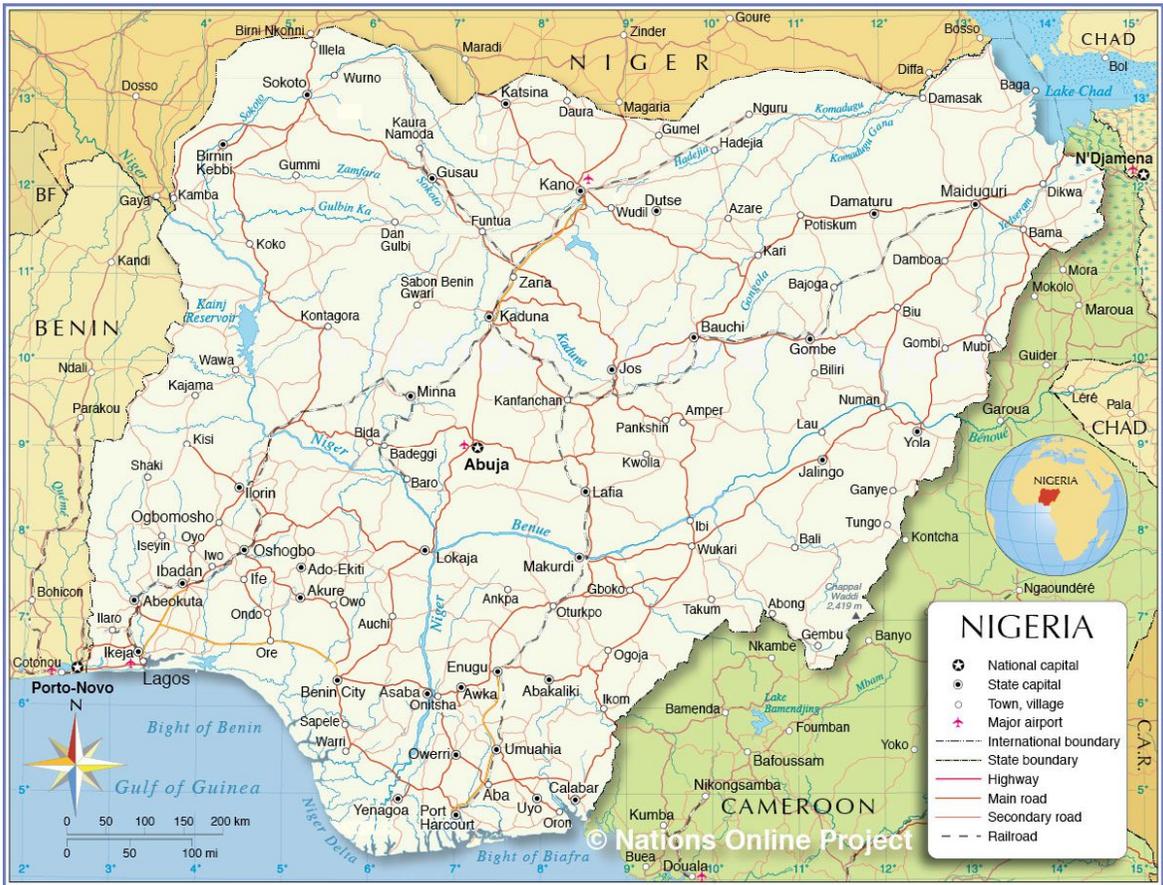
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# Pakistan



# Nigeria



Source: <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/nigeria-political-map.htm>.

## Executive Summary

NUST Institute of Policy Studies (NIPS) and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) co-organized the high-level roundtable on promoting comprehensive Pakistan-Nigeria cooperation on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. The occasion brought together eminent experts, think tank leaders, and senior analysts from Nigeria and Pakistan. The participants discussed the possibilities for the pragmatic development of the broad-based and multidimensional bilateral cooperation, consisting of mutual strategic developing planning, economic connectivity and trade expansion, new industrial cluster development, science-based regional development, innovation and entrepreneurship promotion, higher education, human capital formation, defence and security partnership, diplomatic coordination, inclusive multilateralism, climate change mitigation and adaptation, soft power building, and cultural exchanges, between the two key regional powers of the contemporary international system. The report represents a critical account of the collective views of the experts put forward during the roundtable, and shared by participants via email following the roundtable.

The following recommendations emerged from the roundtable deliberations:

1. Nigeria and Pakistan should consider the synchronization of their strategic development plans, such as the 2050 Long-Term Vision for Nigeria (LTV-2050) and the Long-Term Plan for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (2017-2030), and create suitable coordination mechanisms for long-term bilateral development integration.

2. Pakistan and Nigeria should undertake a range of different but related efforts to increase economic connectivity and bilateral trade. In this regard, both countries should focus on enhancing bilateral trade in their respective traditional areas of focus, as well as consider the development of new sectors, and foster trade in these sectors of future.
3. Nigeria and Pakistan should jointly foster high-tech development through promoting the development of new industrial clusters like special economic zones, high-tech development zones (SEZs), free trade zones (FTZs), industrial parks, science and technology parks (STPs), research parks, innovation districts (IDs), technology incubators, and other areas of innovation.
4. In higher education cooperation and human capital formation, Pakistan and Nigeria should focus on joint degrees, joint research, increased bilateral student and scientific mobility, joint building of large national research infrastructures, increased numbers of R&D personnel, and joint investments in tech startups in Nigeria and Pakistan.
5. Nigeria and Pakistan should consider cooperation in smart phone production and indigenous automobile manufacturing, including electric vehicle development.
6. Pakistan and Nigeria should consider the establishment of a joint defence committee or commission to steer long-term defence and security cooperation and coordination.
7. Nigeria and Pakistan should consider increased diplomatic coordination and consultations within the United Nations System and other international organizations for enhancing regional and global peace and stability, and promoting inclusive multilateralism.

8. Pakistan and Nigeria should optimally leverage BRI, and consider trilateral China-Nigeria-Pakistan cooperation, especially, for poverty alleviation and high-speed high-quality development. In this regard, both countries should also fully utilize development cooperation opportunities offered by China's recent Global Development Initiative (GDI).

9. Nigeria and Pakistan should formulate bilateral cooperation for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as sustainable development. This cooperation should focus on developing renewable energy, rural and urban resilience, smart urbanization, water supply and water management improvement, disaster management, public health, and climate finance.

10. Pakistan and Nigeria should explore the possibility of joint soft power building, and work together to increase people-to-people exchanges like student exchanges, scholarly exchanges, artistic and literary exchanges, bilateral cultural production, media exchanges, professional exchanges and the development of their respective tourism potential.

# **Fostering Comprehensive Pakistan-Nigeria Cooperation**

## **1. Introduction**

Nigeria and Pakistan are two key postcolonial regional powers located in two critical regions of Africa and Asia, that is, West Africa and South Asia. Both countries find themselves passing through an analogous stage of development, characterized by high growth potential, low to medium actual annual growth, middle income economy with heavy focus on primary production, a burgeoning and diverse population with overall modest levels of human capital formation, a fitful record of industrialization with checkered growth of secondary and tertiary sectors, and a fast-paced, but largely spontaneous, urbanization that is unpegged to domestic industrialization trends.

In recent decades, both countries have had to spend significant amount of resources and security planning on combating terrorism and dealing with other forms of domestic instability. This has negatively impacted the overall growth trajectories of Nigerian and Pakistani economies. As major regional powers in critical geostrategic regions, Nigeria and Pakistan have also had to smartly navigate the fluid and wide-ranging competition among global powers as well as other great powers. This has made them fairly practiced in dealing successfully with global powers and great powers. A common outcome of this historical geostrategic experience has been the realization on the part of both countries of the importance of positive intra- and inter-regional engagement among regional powers, coupled with fair and balanced relations with small powers. Both countries believe in non-weaponized bilateralism and multilateralism. This means working actively to promote equitable North-South exchange and fair South-South

cooperation in various international, continental, and regional organizations and forums, of which Nigeria and Pakistan are members.

Possessing multiple complementarities, both countries have traditionally enjoyed friendly relations. These relations have been marked by mutual trust, goodwill, and high potential for mutual cooperation. Various social, economic, political, security, and structural challenges, with which most regional powers are beset in the contemporary era, have also prevented so far the actualization of an elaborate bilateral cooperation between Nigeria and Pakistan. However, the awareness at the highest levels in Abuja and Islamabad of the need for broadening and deepening the bilateral relationship is an encouraging sign, that augurs well for the future of Pakistan-Nigeria friendship.

## **2. Overarching Vision for Nigeria-Pakistan Cooperation**

The vision of Nigeria-Pakistan cooperation should be to develop a comprehensive model of inclusive, coordinated, and consultative mutual cooperation that: allows them to promote high-quality bilateral and multilateral cooperation within and outside their home regions; prioritizes pragmatism, autonomy, and interdependence; prevents the emergence of bilateral strategic codependency; enables both to graduate expeditiously to the next higher historical stage of development from the one at which both currently find themselves; helps them transform, qualitatively and quantitatively, multiple resources and endowments needed for continuous and uninterrupted national development and growth; consists of not only own development, but also shared and connected regional development in which other willing countries can participate; provides them with the

resources to create shared mechanisms and common institutions for growth and development; allows them to utilize established platforms for multilateral cooperation gainfully, and establish new platforms, if need be, in areas and sectors in which platforms do not exist; promotes non-adversarial foreign policy objectives based on the minimization of power politics; assists them in navigating, together and individually, challenges and opportunities issuing from the systemic competition among global powers and great powers; consists of promoting fair and equitable North-South and South-South exchange in clear contradistinction to the historical patterns of unequal exchange between the more developed and the less developed nations; helps them establish positive engagement with regional powers and small powers; leads for both to bilateral and multilateral trade diversification and expansion; empowers both to undertake sustained poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation and adaptation; and helps drive full-fledged development of the multidimensional capacities of their peoples without any distinction, whatsoever, of color, creed, ethnicity, and social status.

### **3. Major Areas of Cooperation**

The following areas of cooperation were considered essential in the roundtable deliberations for the development of a comprehensive and sustainable bilateral relationship.

#### **3.1. Bilateral Strategic Development Planning and Coordination**

There is a lot of room for mutual coordination and integration of the long-term strategies, policies, frameworks, roadmaps, and plans for the development of Nigeria and Pakistan. A bilateral forward strategic scoping and planning for development demands that the possibility of suitably synchronizing the 2050 Long-Term Vision for Nigeria (LTV-2050) and the Long-Term Plan (LTP) for China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (2017-2030) should be earnestly considered by the governments of Nigeria and Pakistan. For this purpose, a bilateral multi-sectoral joint working group can be set up, tasked with identifying areas of development cooperation as well as undertaking the synchronization of LTV-2050 and LTP-2030 for win-win outcomes. A high-level Pakistan-Nigerian coordination committee, analogous to the China-Pakistan Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) for CPEC, can be set up for guiding the development of long-term Pakistan-Nigeria mutual cooperation as part of a 20-year joint development framework till 2042.

### **3.2. Economy and Trade**

Pakistan and Nigeria share similarities in growth rates, population trends, trade patterns, remittances, and the overall economic structure. With massive service sectors and developing industrial sectors, both countries are poised to benefiting from increased economic cooperation and expanded bilateral trade. Pakistan and Nigeria are the 5th and 6th biggest potential consumer markets, respectively, in terms of population. They remittances also fall broadly within the same range. Pakistan received 29.4 billion US dollars in foreign remittances in 2020-21, while Nigeria was the recipient of projected 17.6 billion US dollars in 2021. Huge remittances endow both countries with huge consumer buying power. Both economies are dominated more or less by one top-heavy sector. In the case of Nigeria, oil and gas sector makes up about 10 percent of GDP, while petroleum export revenues account for around 86 percent of total export revenues. In the case of Pakistan, the textile sector contributes 8.5 percent to GDP, and accounts for 60 percent of total exports.

Pakistan is keenly exploring different trade diversification possibilities. Pakistan's Ministry of Commerce launched its Look

Africa Policy in 2017-2018 in order to enhance trade and connectivity with the African economies. The 2nd Pak-African Trade Development Conference was held in Lagos in November 2021. The event witnessed the participation of more than 100 leading Pakistani companies and enterprises in various sectors. While the bilateral trade is currently around 145 million US dollars, the goal of Pakistan and Nigeria is to increase the bilateral trade to at least 1 billion US dollars. It is also to be mentioned, that, post-Covid-19, Pakistani exports to Nigeria rose by at least 40 percent. In December 2020, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed an MoU for trade expansion and greater collaboration among the business communities of Pakistan and Nigeria.

Pakistan and Nigeria can benefit from each other's comparative advantages. Pakistan can benefit from the export of oil and other hydrocarbons which its developing economy needs. Nigeria, on the other hand, can benefit from increased quality Pakistani exports in cotton, textiles, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs including fruits and vegetables, sports goods, IT products and services, surgical instruments, and electronics.

Areas that also demand urgent attention are banking and financial cooperation and LNG imports and shipments from Nigeria. Nigeria is already the fourth largest LNG exporter globally. Pakistan can benefit from LNG import agreement with Nigeria in order to diversify its hydrocarbon imports.

Banking sectors of Nigeria and Pakistan are fairly developed with significant regional and international footprint. Pakistani banks should consider initiating and expanding operations in Nigeria and vice versa. Another issue that needs to be resolved is the foreign exchange restrictions for import imposed by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN),

as a result of which importers are constrained to making their own arrangements for import financing, making things difficult for Pakistani textile exporters to Nigeria. There is a need for bilateral agreements with improved quotas between both countries to facilitate bilateral trade. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) can come to a mutual agreement to facilitate Pak-Nigerian bilateral trade.

In order for both countries to progress to the next higher stage of development, escape the middle income trap, the commodity trap – and in the case of Nigeria, the resource curse – both countries need to diversify their economies and trade away from the traditional areas of focus to build new strengths in new sectors of future, especially science, technology, and innovation, and high-end services, at the same time that they further the technological modernization and sophistication of traditional growth sectors.

### **3.3. New Industrial Cluster Development**

In order for Nigeria and Pakistan to experience high-speed, high-quality development, both countries should prioritize the development of new industrial clusters like special economic zones, high-tech development zones (SEZs), free trade zones (FTZs), industrial parks, science and technology parks (STPs), research parks, innovation districts (IDs), technology incubators, and other areas of innovation. Nigeria is promoting the development of special economic zones as part of its plan to double the output of its manufacturing sector to 20 percent of GDP by 2025.

There are around 14 special economic zones currently operational in Nigeria. Pakistan has already planned the development of 9 priority SEZs, as part of industrial cooperation and development during the ongoing CPEC Phase II. There must be some indication of cooperation

between the two countries in SEZ development, as both countries would do well to collaborate on SEZ planning and development. Both can commit themselves to developing at least one joint SEZ between 2022 and 2026 at a suitable location in Pakistan, and set up a joint SEZ at an appropriate site in Nigeria between 2026 and 2030. Mutual consultations for these two Pak-Nigerian SEZs should be made part of the development planning and coordination outlined above in section 3.1.

Both countries are incidentally at the same initial level of science-based regional development with not more than 1 or 2 fully functional and operational science and technology parks working at a moderately advanced rate of development. As a specialized subset of new industrial cluster development, cooperative science park development can become a powerful means for both countries to promote innovation cooperation and coordination. This cooperation should be conducted at the level of government and at the innovative enterprise level, including startups and research organizations, or innovation coordination for S&T cluster formation by public or private, domestic or international networks and associations. A major part of the growth of emerging economies like Turkey and Iran is being driven by their science, technology and innovation (STI), especially STP, sectors. The exceptional industrial growth of newly industrialized nations like China and South Korea has been likewise augmented by large-scale development of multi-type new industrial clusters. A large portion of the growth of future will come from well-planned and successful science-based regional development efforts.

Both Nigeria and Pakistan can jointly conceive a plan to enable and incentivize the internationalization of their tech startups through enabling their entry into each other's science, technology and

innovation ecosystems and markets. Pakistan and Nigeria can consider the establishment of joint venture capital fund or any other appropriate innovation investment vehicle for jointly promoting the tech startups of the two countries.

Both countries have huge potential for smart phone development and manufacturing, electric vehicles and digital economy. Plans were already underway around June 2021 to initiate the mass production of “Made in Nigeria” smartphone by Nigeria’s Industrial Training Fund (ITF). SOLO Phone, a Nigerian digital content and smartphone company, has already established a reputation for quality experience-driven content and service delivery to Africans. Companies like Infinix, ITEL, Nokia, Oppo, Realme, Tecno, and Vivo, are mass-producing smartphones in Pakistan. In 2021, locally manufactured mobile phones in Pakistan hit 12.27 million, compared to the imports of 8.29 million mobile phone units.

Nigeria has successfully ventured into indigenous automobile manufacturing with the establishment of its domestic automotive giant, Innoson Vehicle Manufacturing Co. Ltd. Pakistan also possesses all the elements of virtually 100-percent indigenous automotive manufacturing. High-tech industrial development cooperation through the formation of new industrial clusters between Nigeria and Pakistan could speed up things for both the countries.

### **3.4. Higher Education and Human Capital Formation**

The higher education systems of both countries are at a moderately advanced stage of development in terms of enrolment, but are experiencing insufficient growth in terms of research and development. There are around 170 universities in Nigeria, whereas there are more than 140 universities in Pakistan. Top Pakistani and Nigerian universities are ranked in the same broad range of leading

300-600 universities of the world, according to various world university rankings. The higher education systems of both countries are mainly Anglophone, and accord a privileged status to graduates with research and teaching experience in the leading British, North American, Australian, and European universities. However, this trend is gradually changing, as leading universities from China and other advanced nations in Asia Pacific climb up the world university rankings.

The size of the higher education sector of the two countries in terms of tertiary enrolment is also similar, since there are around 2.6 million and 2.04 million tertiary students in Pakistan and Nigeria, respectively. Both countries are marked by low R&D expenditure, spending less than 1 percent of their GDP on research and development, indicating the low prioritization of research and innovation in the actual allocation of resources and fund disbursement.

Both countries do not have adequate large research infrastructures, defined by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) as massive S&T research-based facilities built by government funding, shared by the national S&T community for solving major and strategic future-oriented S&T problems and challenges in socioeconomic development and nation's security.

According to UNSECO, the total number of researchers per million inhabitants is around 336 in Pakistan, and around 39 per million inhabitants in Nigeria, substantially lower than the regional averages for Western Asia, Eastern and Southeastern Asia, and Northern Africa as well as middle income countries.

Both countries have experienced high rates of higher education outbound international mobility, as there were 58821 Pakistani and 76338 Nigerian outbound internationally mobile tertiary students in

2018. Increasing domestic tertiary enrolment and significant outbound international tertiary mobility show a high demand among young Nigerians and Pakistanis for quality higher education, a demand that has to be primarily met and satisfied domestically.

This mixed character and performance of higher education systems and human capital formation of Pakistan and Nigeria means that both countries are faced with significant opportunities and challenges in this domain. In addition to individual country plans for the advancement of higher education and world-class human capital formation, Nigeria and Pakistan can achieve some of their strategic development goals for higher education through forming bilateral intelligent and targeted higher education, S&T, and research-based partnerships.

These should include joint degrees, joint research, bilateral research mobility, shared large national research infrastructure building and utilization, and Pak-Nigerian public-private investment in the leading Nigerian and Pakistani S&T universities.

One sign of the bright future of entrepreneurship in both countries is their relative quantum of startup funding. Nigerian startups raised 1.37 billion US dollars in funding in 2021, the largest in the African continent, while Pakistani startups raised 365.87 million US dollars in the same year, the highest ever for Pakistan.

Both countries have demonstrated the real potential for leapfrogging to high innovation capabilities even without the presence of corresponding STI infrastructure. It is this leapfrogging potential embodied by the highly resourceful peoples of Nigeria and Pakistan that needs to be maximized by means of innovation collaboration and human capital formation partnership between Nigeria and Pakistan.

### **3.5. Defence and Security Cooperation**

Nigeria and Pakistan have maintained strong defence ties over the years. Both are committed to promoting and expanding bilateral defence and security cooperation in a sustainable manner into the future. Aimed at making their national defence self-reliant in the long-term, this cooperation should consist of increased defence trade, intelligence sharing, counterterrorism cooperation, expanded military education and training, joint military exercises, and joint defence production.

Pakistan's world-class military and advanced defence production industry can serve as the cornerstone of bilateral defence and security cooperation. As major regional powers in their respective regions, bilateral defence cooperation would enable the two friendly countries to better deal with challenges to peace, security, and stability in their regions.

### **3.6. Increased Diplomatic Coordination**

Nigeria and Pakistan are active and constructive players in the United Nations and other relevant international organizations like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Both countries are heavily committed to regional and global peace and stability. In recent years, both countries have figured among the top five contributors of peacekeepers to United Nations peacekeeping operations. Nigeria has stressed the resolution of Kashmir dispute through dialogue. Both Pakistan and Nigeria also support the two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Both countries have also called for an inclusive and representative government in Afghanistan after the US exit.

While both countries call for pragmatic and feasible reform of the United Nations Security Council, both can undertake greater consultations and coordination on their respective country positions on the proposed reforms. In addition to UN reforms, mutual coordination and consultation can also benefit both countries on the issues of common concern like terrorism, climate change, global trade imbalances, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, balanced Africa-Asia relations, international financial system and arrangements, global aid and debt obligations, and public health and coronavirus pandemic.

The need for bilateral diplomatic coordination is more pronounced in the contemporary era of intensified great-power competition in order to ensure that both Pakistan and Nigeria continue to avoid rigid bloc politics and promote inclusive multilateralism against narrow and exclusive multilateralism.

### **3.7. Leveraging Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**

CPEC, valued at about 62 billion US dollars, is the flagship corridor of BRI. Nigeria, for its part, is a key participant of BRI, and is among the top African destinations for the Chinese FDI, with China having pledged around 40 billion US dollars in investment in Nigeria. Pakistan and Nigeria have also shown interest in joining new international organizations led by China. For instance, Pakistan is already the member of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), while Nigeria is a prospective member.

Pakistan and Nigeria can seek avenues for greater cooperation within the five prongs of BRI, namely, policy coordination, connectivity of infrastructure and facilities, unimpeded trade, financial integration and closer people-to-people ties, and across BRI's eight fields of activities and action, namely, infrastructure connectivity, economic

and trade cooperation, industrial investment cooperation, energy resources cooperation, financial cooperation, cultural and people-to-people exchanges, ecological and environmental cooperation, and maritime cooperation. The possibility for trilateral China-Nigeria-Pakistan cooperation can also be explored within the overall framework of BRI. This trilateral cooperation should focus, among other things, on poverty alleviation in Nigeria and Pakistan. Both countries should also fully utilize development cooperation opportunities offered by China's recent Global Development Initiative (GDI).

### **3.8. Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development**

Both Nigeria and Pakistan are highly vulnerable to climate change. Climate change will cause increased temperatures, rise in sea level, droughts, desertification, deforestation, land degradation, other extreme weather events, fresh water scarcity, and biodiversity loss. It will also negatively impact livelihoods, food production, storage and distribution systems, urban infrastructures, public health system, and will lead to increased internal climate migration in both countries.

According to 2017 Climate Change Vulnerability Index, Nigeria was among the world's ten highly vulnerable countries. According to Germanwatch's Global Climate Risk Index 2021, Pakistan was ranked the 8th most affected country by extreme weather events. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected an increase in the number of people affected by flooding in Pakistan. ADB has forecast a possible increase of about 5 million Pakistanis, who will be exposed to extreme river floods between 2035 and 2044. According to the World Bank, around 6 percent landmass of Nigeria is projected to be severely degraded. A 2020 report by ActionAid and Climate Action Network – South Asia (CANSA) estimates that Pakistan will have approximately

2 million climate migrants by 2050. A 2021 World Bank report has estimated that total internal migrants in Nigeria could be as high as 9.4 million by 2050.

Overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of Pakistan and Nigeria are low, compared to big polluters. Pakistan's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are 400 million tonnes, but they could increase to 1603 million tonnes by 2030, while Nigeria's GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions stand at around 490 million tonnes, which could reach around 900 million tonnes, if Nigeria were to follow business-as-usual route.

Pakistan has agreed to voluntary nationally determined contributions (NDC) of 50 percent reduction in its projected emissions by 2030, of which 15 percent will be unconditional and 35 percent will be conditional. NDCs are non-binding national plans based on climate actions and targets for reductions in GHG emissions, aimed at contributing to the achievement of global targets laid out in the 2015 Paris Climate Accords. In its 2021 update of NDC, Nigeria has reaffirmed its 2015 unconditional contribution of 20 percent below business as usual by 2030, and 45 percent conditional contribution contingent on global support.

Climate change mitigation actions taken by the Government of Pakistan led to 8.7 percent emissions reduction between 2016 and 2018. Pakistan also plans to increase the share of renewable energy to 60 percent, and the share of electric vehicles to 30 percent by 2030. Protected areas cover in Pakistan is projected to increase from 12 percent to 15 percent by 2023. Nigeria, for its part, plans to increase power generation from 5.5 gigawatts to 30 gigawatts, with 30 percent coming from renewable energy by 2030, as part of its electricity vision 30:30:30.

Both countries need to collaborate on better and climate-friendly agricultural and livestock practices and technologies through advanced agricultural research, hybrid seed development, and low water-intensive seeds, as part of better climate change coping mechanisms.

Pakistan-Nigeria cooperation in climate change mitigation and adaptation should focus on renewable power generation, rural and urban resilience building, improvements in water supply and water management, disaster management, and the formulation of a collaborative action plan for the fast-track realization of UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to formulate such an action plan, Nigeria and Pakistan should leverage their flagship BRI role in Africa and Asia, respectively, for the establishment of a multilateral green SDG partnership platform in collaboration with China to mobilize adequate climate finance to address the scarcity of resources, finance, technology, and capacity building.

### **3.9. Soft Power Building**

The current trend of intensified great-power competition in the current interstate system has increased the likelihood of conflict. This increased tendency will impact regional powers and small powers across the world. More than ever, it has become necessary to complement hard power with soft power for smart power deployment. There is a need to increase the power of attraction to reduce the power of coercion in the contemporary international system.

While the primacy of military strength and economic heft cannot be underestimated, countries need to focus more on promoting their cultures, values, and policies. Therefore, building soft power is

perhaps more important in the evolving multipolar era than an exclusive focus on hard power assets.

As key regional powers, Nigeria and Pakistan can lead collaborative soft power building in their respective regions to prevent intrastate and interstate aggression and conflict. It is important to note here that soft power has both significant domestic as well as international functions.

### **3.10. People-to-People Exchanges**

There is a huge scope for increased people-to-people exchanges between Nigeria and Pakistan through student exchanges, sports exchanges, academic exchanges, artistic and media exchanges, and professional exchanges. High outbound internationally mobility of Pakistani and Nigerian tertiary students can be leveraged to promote bilateral student and scientific mobility. Similarly, the governments and private sectors of Nigeria and Pakistan can promote sports competition and tournaments in popular sports like football, boxing, hockey, basketball, and athletics.

Pakistani youth is particularly fond of different types of martial arts. Nigeria can explore the possibility of introducing *Dambe*, the traditional martial arts of the Hausa people from Nigeria. Similarly, Pakistan can explore the possibility of taking one or two matches of some future edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) to Nigeria. The possibility of joint film and drama production between Nigerian and Pakistani production companies can also be explored mutually. It should be noted that successful South-South globalization will increasingly demand such joint endeavors for greater horizontal understanding among diverse cultures.

Tourism can bring people from both countries closer. In addition to being a potential source of massive revenue generation, it can also

enhance bilateral cultural harmony. Both countries should make concerted efforts to promote multi-type tourism and increased awareness of tourism opportunities, based on the availability of different types of tourism in Pakistan and Nigeria.

Both countries should also make efforts to promote Nigerian literature in Pakistan and Pakistani literature in Nigeria. One possible way forward in this regard could be joint literary festivals and book fairs in Nigeria and Pakistan.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The following recommendations emerged from the roundtable deliberations.

1. Nigeria and Pakistan should consider the synchronization of their strategic development plans, such as the 2050 Long-Term Vision for Nigeria (LTV-2050) and the Long-Term Plan for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (2017-2030), and create suitable coordination mechanisms for long-term bilateral development integration.
2. Pakistan and Nigeria should undertake a range of different but related efforts to increase economic connectivity and bilateral trade. In this regard, both countries should focus on increasing bilateral trade in their respective traditional areas of focus, as well as consider the development of new sectors and promote trade in these sectors of future. Bilateral banking and financial cooperation should also be promoted.
3. Nigeria and Pakistan should jointly foster high-tech development through promoting the formation of new industrial clusters like special economic zones, high-tech development zones (SEZs), free trade zones (FTZs), industrial parks, science and technology parks (STPs), research parks, innovation districts (IDs),

technology incubators, and other areas of innovation. Both countries can consider setting up one joint SEZ between 2022 and 2026 in Pakistan, and one joint SEZ in Nigeria between 2026 and 2030. Pakistan and Nigeria should also explore the possibility of the joint development of science parks.

4. Pakistan and Nigeria should drive the cooperative development of their higher education systems and promote high-quality human capital formation. This cooperation should focus on joint degrees, joint research, increased bilateral student and scientific mobility, joint building of large national research infrastructures, increased numbers of R&D personnel, and joint investments in tech startups in Nigeria and Pakistan.

5. Nigeria and Pakistan should consider cooperation in smart phone mass production and indigenous automobile manufacturing, including electric vehicle development.

6. Pakistan and Nigeria should foster increased defence and security cooperation centered on defence trade expansion, joint defence production, joint military education and training, intelligence sharing, counterterrorism cooperation, and joint military exercises. Increased defence diplomacy should also form the focus of defence cooperation. The formation of a joint defence committee or commission can be considered to steer the long-term defence and security cooperation and coordination.

7. Nigeria and Pakistan should consider increased diplomatic coordination and consultations, within the United Nations System and other international organizations for enhancing regional and global peace and stability, and promoting inclusive multilateralism.

8. Pakistan and Nigeria should optimally leverage BRI and consider trilateral China-Nigeria-Pakistan cooperation, especially, for poverty alleviation and for high-speed high-quality development.

9. Nigeria and Pakistan should formulate bilateral cooperation for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as sustainable development. This cooperation should focus on developing renewable energy, rural and urban resilience, smart urbanization, water supply and water management improvement, disaster management, public health, and climate finance. Both countries should also accelerate the changes and transitions in their national energy mix to renewable energy.

10. Pakistan and Nigeria should explore the possibility of joint soft power building and consider increased people-to-people exchanges like student exchanges, scholarly exchanges, artistic and literary exchanges, bilateral cultural production, media exchanges, professional exchanges and the rapid bilateral development of their tourism potential.

## **5. Conclusion**

There was a consensus among the roundtable participants that comprehensive bilateral cooperation was important for achieving high growth rate, transforming national factor endowments, helping Pakistan and Nigeria navigate the common challenges of growth and development, and becoming newly industrialized nations. The experts stressed that bilateral cooperation had to prioritize science, technology and innovation as strategic support force for development, and focus on overcoming different contradictions, asymmetries, and gaps in their social, economic, political, and cultural domains to escape middle income and commodity traps in the pursuit of continued balanced and connected development.

## Profiles of Speakers

### **Professor Eghosa Emmanuel Osaghae**

#### **Director General, NIIA**

Professor Osaghae is a Professor of Political Science and Director General of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA). Between 2004 and 2018, he was the Vice Chancellor of Igbinedion University, Okada, Nigeria. Professor Osaghae was the 2019 Claude Ake Chair at Uppsala University and Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden, and is a Fellow of the Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Studies in South Africa. He was the 2017 Van Zyl Slabbert Professor of Politics and Sociology at the University of Cape Town and the 2014 Emeka Anyaoku Chair of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London. Professor Osaghae was Leader of the Ford Foundation-funded Programme on Ethnic and Federal Studies and Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Ibadan (2001-2004), Professor and Head of the Department of Political Studies at the University of Transkei, South Africa (1994-1998). He has also been a Visiting Professor/Fellow/Distinguished Senior Scholar at the Carter Centre of Emory University USA (1989), University of Liberia (1989/90), Salzburg Seminar, Austria (1993), University of Cape Town South Africa (1994), the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala Sweden (1994), University of Ulster, Northern Ireland (1999, 2000), Northwestern University USA (2002, 2004), University of Cambridge UK (2003), a number of universities and research institutes in India (2005, 2009), Dartmouth College USA (2005) and Yale University USA



(2009). He was a Rockefeller 'Reflections on Development' Fellow (1989/90), and most recently a MacArthur Fellow. Professor Osaghae was Chair of the Panel on Quality Assurance Assessment, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (2011-2012), and currently serves on the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters.

### **Professor Ashfaque Hasan Khan**

**Principal, School of Social Sciences & Humanities; Director General, NIPS**

Professor Khan is currently the Principal of NUST School of Social Sciences and Humanities. He has been the Special Secretary Finance/Director General, Debt Office and Economic Adviser Ministry of Finance, Islamabad, Spokesperson of the Government of Pakistan on Economic Issues, Director and Vice Chairman of the Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company Ltd. and Director of the United Bank Limited and Pak-Libya Holding Company.

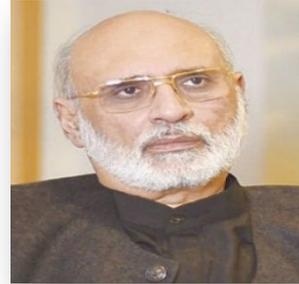


Dr. Khan holds a PhD degree in economics from the Johns Hopkins University in USA. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of economics and public policy the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan conferred the award of Sitara-i-Imtiaz to Dr. Khan in 2005 and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) also conferred him the ECO Excellence Award 2010.

## **Syed Nasir Ali Shah Bukhari**

### **Chairman, KASB Group**

Mr. Bukhari is a graduate of Karachi university. He has attended various professional courses at the prestigious global institutions, which include, Wharton School of University of Pennsylvania, Yale School of Management, MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard Presidential Seminar, Global Leadership Seminar at George Washington University, and the Aspen Institute.



His focus has been economic facilitation in Pakistan and international business cooperation.

He has served in various leadership roles. In 1979, his family established the Khadim Ali Shah Bukhari (KASB) Bank and other related business organizations. As Chairman of KASB group, his main business focus has been financial services, commercial and investment banking, information technology, green energy, agro, and food supply chain.

He established and ran for 25 years the first ever joint venture in Pakistan with the leading US financial giant, Merrill Lynch, resulting in an investment of over 8 billion US dollars through direct equity investment and privatization through the sale of equity and Pakistan's private and public sector listed companies.

## **Aisha Khan**

### **Founder & Head, Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change; Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization**

Ms Aisha Khan has over 20 years' experience in development work. As Founder & Head of the Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change & Mountain and Glacier Protection Organization, she works at the community and policy level to strengthen climate action by supporting inclusive and participatory practices that promote social ecological and democratic equity.



She is a member on the Board of Directors of several organizations and provides expert advice on climate change related adaptation and mitigation challenges.

She is currently serving as the convener of the Working Group on Climate Security at the Strategic Policy Planning Cell, National Security Division. She is also part of the External Advisory Council of the World Bank on developing the South Asia Region Climate Change Action Plan (2020-2025).

She contributes articles to newspapers and magazines and takes part in national and international discourse on climate change. In 2019 she was awarded the Bright Award for Environmental Sustainability at Stanford University.

## **Professor Efem N. Ubi**

### **Acting Director, Research & Studies Department, NIIA**

Professor Ubi has Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from the University of Calabar and he obtained his PhD in Contemporary International Relations from the prestigious Jilin University, China.



He was the former Head of the Division of International Economic Relations at the NIIA. A former Acting Director General (May and June 2020) of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. At present, Dr. Ubi is the Acting Director of Research and Studies Department at the NIIA.

He is also a Senior Visiting Lecturer, Graduate School, Adeleke University, Ede, Osun State, a Visiting Scholar at the Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University, China and also an Adjunct Research Fellow with the Center for Nigerian Studies (CNS), Zhejiang Normal University, China.

Further, Dr. Ubi is the recipient of some awards, which include; United States International Visitors Leadership Program (2008); Appointed and Commissioned “Ambassador of Goodwill” of the State of Arkansas, United State of America (2008).

He is also a recipient of 2015 Foreign Talent Introduction Program of the Zhejiang Provincial Administration of Foreign Expert Affairs, Zhejiang Province, China. He has received grants from the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), the Chinese government, the Chinese Embassy in Nigeria.

## **Vincent Ibonye**

### **Research Fellow, NIIA**

Mr. Ibonye is a Research Fellow in the Division of African Politics and Integration at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA). Mr. Ibonye holds a MA in International Relations from Jilin University, China and a BSc in Political Science from the University of Benin, Nigeria.



His main interests include, but are not limited to, the geopolitics of old and rising powers, China-Africa relations, cost-benefit discourses on resource governance/politics, and addressing discordant development. Previously a Political Aide with the Office of the Secretary to the Government of Lagos state, Mr. Ibonye's experience includes policy-related research, public policy and project management. He has worked on a few projects funded by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) with particular focus on the socioeconomics of returnee emigration. Reputable international journals he has published in include among others, Asian Journal of Comparative Politics, Taiwan Journal of Democracy, Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies, International Area Studies Review and Kritika Kultura.

## Gallery













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