



**Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan  
(Supreme Court Building)  
Islamabad**

April 18, 2010

**Press Release**

The National Judicial Conference concluded here at Islamabad with the adaption of Islamabad Declaration. The concluding session was presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan /Chairman National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee. The Conference was attended by the Judges of the Supreme Court, Federal Shariat Court, High Courts, District Judiciary, Addl: Attorney General for Pakistan, Representative of the Bar, Federal/Provincial Secretaries, Advocates Generals, Head of the Prosecution/Investigation and Legal Academia. The Conference was aimed at to bring together all the stake holders of justice sector to discuss various issues for putting the justice system on the right track.

Apart from the inaugural and concluding sessions, on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Conference, the participants were assembled in eight thematic groups headed by either Chief Justices of the High Courts or Judges of the Supreme Court. After discussion, each group formulated recommendations which were presented in the concluding session by the Chairperson of the respective group. The details of the groups were as under:-

The Group-I was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan, Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court to discuss the topic "**Ways to Improve Implementation of the National Judicial Policy**".

The Group-II was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan to discuss the topic "**Alternate Dispute Resolution**".

The Group-III was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mian Shakirullah Jan, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan to discuss the topic "**Legal Education**".

The Group-IV was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sarmad Jalal Osmany, Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh to discuss the topic **"Use of Information Technology in Courts"**.

Group-V was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Khawaja Muhammad Sharif, Chief Justice, Lahore High Court to discuss the topic **"Expeditious Disposal of Cases: Obstacles and Remedial Measure"**.

The Group-VI was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chaudhry Ijaz Ahmed, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan to discuss the topic **"Elimination of Corruption in Judiciary: Measures for Effective Supervision and Accountability"**.

The Group-VII was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jawad S. Khawaja, Judge, Supreme Court of Pakistan to discuss the topic **"Simplification of Exhaustive and Cumbersome Procedures"**.

The Group-VIII was chaired by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Chief Justice, High Court of Balochistan to discuss the topic **"Responsibility of Judges, Lawyers, Police, Prosecution and Litigant Public in Dispensation of Justice"**.

On the basis of recommendations of each group a declaration was drafted and presented in the concluding session. The Conference unanimously approved the recommendations of each group and adopted a declaration to be called Islamabad Declaration which reads as under:-

#### **Islamabad Declaration**

- 1) Every organ of the state should function within its own domain, working in harmony with each other so as to advance public good. Confrontation is counterproductive and hampers progress and development. The Judiciary of Pakistan being the third pillar of the State stands committed to faithfully discharging its functions as prescribed by the Constitution.
- 2) There is broad consensus with the objectives of the policy. It has been noted though that effective implementation of the policy requires strengthening the policy ownership, increasing its awareness among stakeholders, and a constant review process. The procedures for achieving policy objectives need to be reviewed.
- 3) For successful ADR, concrete steps, such as formal rules, a governing council, and professional training for all stakeholders is necessary. Trial

Courts should support and encourage ADR. Importance of the subject requires the holding of an exclusive workshop.

- 4) Legal education being the foundation of the justice system requires to be imparted at all levels of society. In particular, law colleges and faculties require allocation of greater resources and an independent central supervisory body. For enhancing the quality of dispensation of justice, continuing legal education is essential for all tiers of the bench and bar.
- 5) To increase expeditious disposal of cases and for enhanced transparency, court proceedings and records should be automated and made user friendly. For this purpose, sufficient funds should be allocated and relevant laws should be amended. A model "E-Court" should be established in each High Court and District Court.
- 6) For expeditious disposal of cases, it is imperative that manpower, infrastructure and resources are brought to at least the minimum required and allocated level. Frivolous and vexatious claims and defenses must be strictly penalized using the relevant provisions of civil and criminal laws.
- 7) A wholesome review of procedural enactment is required to simplify and modernize outdated and cumbersome procedures. Courts should utilize latest tools, including E-forms and biometric devices for expeditious filings and scrutiny of evidence etc. Scattered provisions in procedural/substantive laws should be consolidated. Pleadings, serving of process and recording of evidence needs updating
- 8) Judges, lawyers, prosecution/police, witnesses and litigants, must all assume responsibility to ensure smooth functioning of the justice system and consequent dispensation of equitable justice. Each stakeholder must ensure faithful and timely compliance with the duty imposed on him.

The Conference ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. Faqir Hussain, Registrar/Secretary, National Judicial (Policy Making) Committee.

The recommendations of the thematic groups and declaration of the Conference can be downloaded from the website of the Law & Justice Commission of Pakistan i.e. [www.ljcp.gov.pk](http://www.ljcp.gov.pk).

**(Nasrullah Khan)**  
Deputy Secretary