



Pakistan International Disputes Weekend 2025

PIDW'25 DECLARATION

New Era for the Region: Peace, Progress and Global Dispute Resolution

Declared on the 12th of October 2025

Whereas it is recognized that effective dispute resolution is economic infrastructure: it supports investment confidence, project continuity, commercial certainty, institutional credibility and sustainable growth.

And Whereas it is affirmed that Pakistan's next stage of dispute-resolution development should connect legal reform with the practical needs of investors, employers, contractors, infrastructure and energy participants, resource projects, financial institutions, technology businesses and the wider international commercial community.

And Whereas it is acknowledged that Pakistan International Disputes Weekend 2025, held in Islamabad on 11–12 October 2025 under the theme “New Era for the Region: Peace, Progress and Global Dispute Resolution”, examined international investment dispute settlement, CPEC and FIDIC disputes, foreign direct investment, professional capacity, mediation, sectoral arbitration, Islamabad as a seat, major resource projects, technology and the role of the Global South.

And Whereas it is realized that the discussions of PIDW'25 should be converted into a practical direction for Pakistan's dispute-resolution ecosystem, with the object of improving confidence, reducing avoidable disputes, strengthening institutions and enabling international business and investment.

It is therefore declared and proclaimed that:

1. Pakistan should continue modernising its arbitration framework in line with internationally recognised principles, including clarity on the seat of arbitration, party autonomy, limited and effective court intervention, enforceability, procedural efficiency and confidence in institutional arbitration.
2. Pakistan should develop Islamabad as a credible option for cross-border dispute resolution by strengthening the legal, institutional, judicial, professional and physical infrastructure required by international users. The distinction between the legal seat and the physical venue should be clearly understood, and institutions should be designed around independence, competence, transparency and user confidence.
3. Investment dispute policy should balance the legitimate regulatory interests of the State with predictable treatment of investors, procedural fairness and efficient resolution. Pakistan should remain engaged with developments in international investment dispute settlement and the continuing work on modernisation and harmonisation of international arbitration practice.
4. CPEC, CPEC 2.0 and Pakistan's wider infrastructure pipeline require stronger contract administration, early risk identification and dispute avoidance. FIDIC-based projects should be supported by competent contract management, properly constituted dispute boards, timely determinations and a culture that treats dispute prevention as part of project delivery.

5. Standing Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Boards and other early-intervention mechanisms should be more widely understood and used on major construction and infrastructure projects so that disagreements are addressed while projects remain live, cash flow and performance are protected, and arbitration or litigation is reserved for disputes that genuinely require final determination.
6. Mediation should be developed as a mainstream commercial and civil dispute-resolution mechanism, including appropriate pre-action or court-connected pathways where suitable. International experience with mandatory and structured mediation should be studied carefully, with safeguards for quality, neutrality, enforceability and access to justice.
7. Pakistan's dispute-resolution policy should be sector-sensitive. Construction, energy, power, finance, technology, healthcare, shareholder and start-up disputes each require appropriate expertise, procedures and institutions. Businesses should be encouraged to design dispute clauses and escalation mechanisms around the commercial realities of their sectors.
8. Pakistan should treat professional capacity as part of dispute-resolution infrastructure. Internationally recognised training, accreditation, mentorship, arbitral and institutional experience, and pathways to appointments should be expanded for lawyers, engineers, contract professionals, mediators, adjudicators, dispute-board members and arbitrators.
9. Digital technology and artificial intelligence should be used to improve access, efficiency, case management, evidence handling and dispute prevention, while preserving confidentiality, due process, human judgment, cybersecurity and accountability. Technology should support, rather than displace, trusted decision-making.
10. Major natural-resource and strategic projects should be supported by transparent governance, robust lifecycle contracting and credible dispute-prevention and resolution mechanisms from exploration and development through construction, operation, extraction and exit. The lessons of major projects, including Reko Diq, should inform future State-investor and project structures without treating any single project as a universal template.
11. Pakistan should connect dispute-resolution reform directly with foreign direct investment and economic development. Investors require not only substantive opportunities but also confidence that contracts will be administered professionally, disputes can be resolved efficiently, awards and settlements can be enforced, and institutions will operate with integrity.
12. The Global South should play a greater role in shaping the future of international dispute resolution through stronger regional institutions, professional standards, technological capability, cross-border cooperation and greater participation in international arbitration and mediation. Pakistan should seek constructive connectivity with established and emerging centres across Asia, the Middle East, Africa and beyond.
13. PIDW should continue to operate as a convening platform through which government, industry, professional institutions, international practitioners, project participants and academia can review progress, identify implementation gaps and convert annual discussions into practical initiatives for the following year.

And Whereas the PIDW'25 Declaration was announced at Pakistan International Disputes Weekend 2025 before a cross-section of senior industry, institutional, governmental and international dispute-resolution participants, including:

1. Engr. Waseem Nazir — Chairman, Pakistan Engineering Council;
2. Shanza Baig — Chief Legal Officer, Pakistan Petroleum Limited;
3. Zubair Ijaz — Chief Executive Officer, Astral Constructors;
4. Dr. Rafey A. Siddiqui — Chief Operating Officer, Osmani & Company;
5. Brig. Sherjeel Ashraf — former Country Head, Engineering & Infrastructure, NLC;

6. Kevin Nash — Director General, London Court of International Arbitration;
7. Joanne Lau — Secretary-General, Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre;
8. Gu Yan — Vice President, China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission;
9. Michael Tonkin — CIArb international office-holder and senior construction/arbitration professional; and
10. senior representatives, practitioners and participants from Pakistan and the international dispute-resolution, engineering, construction, energy, investment and professional communities.

The inclusion of names above records the forum before which the Declaration was announced and does not, by itself, represent an individual endorsement, signature or formal ratification by any named participant or organisation.

PAKISTAN DECLARATION 2025

Review. Reflect. Revive.