



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Title: Conference on Pakistan's Challenge to Political Stability and Economic Revival**

Islamabad, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 – The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom-Pakistan (FNF), in partnership with the Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) and the Policy Research Institute of Market Economy (Prime), organized a one-day conference addressing the pressing issues of political stability and economic revival in Pakistan. This event, held at the Marriot Hotel in Islamabad on Monday, October 2nd, 2023, marks a significant milestone in addressing critical challenges faced by Pakistan today. The conference took pride in presenting two groundbreaking briefing papers, which are poised to offer invaluable insights into Pakistan's journey toward a more stable and prosperous future.

During the conference, Mr. Zahid Abdullah, Former Federal Information Commissioner, presented a comprehensive paper titled 'The Evolution of the Enactment and Implementation Status of Right to Information Legislation in Pakistan.' This paper traces the historical origins of right to information laws, comparing them with international standards, and sheds light on the challenges and opportunities in the implementation of these laws in Pakistan.

In the same session, Dr. Aadil Nakhoda presented the second paper titled "Pakistan and EU Trade Potential: The Bottlenecks and Roadmap for Reforms." This paper offers crucial insights into the trade potential between Pakistan and the European Union (EU).

Distinguished speakers provided invaluable insights during the conference:

Ms. Birgit Lamm, Country Director FNF Pakistan, underscored the urgent need for solutions to economic and political instability, emphasizing that the status quo disadvantages ordinary citizens, leading to further fragmentation and polarization.

Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, former Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, chaired the opening session. Distinguished speakers, including Senator Walid Iqbal and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, offered enlightening perspectives on the pivotal role of elections in ensuring political stability.

Mr. Philipp Gross, Deputy Head of Mission EU Delegation, highlighted the intrinsic link between trade and values. He stated, "GSP Plus is foremost about trade with values, categorized into human rights, labor rights, environment, and governance."

Mukhtar Ahmed Ali, Executive Director CPDI, stressed the importance of political parties engaging in dialogue to develop a consensus on a code of conduct. Such efforts are critical to reducing political polarization and ensuring credible elections.

Mr. Ali Salman, Executive Director Prime, encouraged political parties to engage in economic reform discussions with think tanks and academia. These discussions serve as the foundation for economic stability.

Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary General, Muslim League (N) said that competitiveness only comes from exposure to the market. Our corporate sector only caters to the domestic market and is protected. We need to connect our businesses to exports.

This conference was a pivotal gathering that united experts, policymakers, and thought leaders. The shared insights and recommendations will undoubtedly shape Pakistan's path toward a more stable and prosperous future.

**Organizers:**

- **FNF Pakistan (Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom)** is a German Political Foundation working in Pakistan since 1986 and dedicated to promoting liberal values and democracy.
- **CPDI (Center for Peace and Development Initiative)** is actively involved in research and advocacy for governance and transparency.
- **PRIME Institute** focuses on research and policy advocacy for economic reforms in Pakistan.

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