



TURKEY - IRAN - PAKISTAN CONFERENCE 2018

FINAL REPORT

The final report of the **Istanbul - Iran - Pakistan Conference 2018** organized in cooperation with Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (**TASAM**), the Political and International Research Institution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran (**IPIS**), and the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations, under the main theme of "Multidimensional Regional Cooperation and New Silk Road" on **February 13, 2018** is as follows:

In the changing world, the three basic parameters transform the nature of life and technology; "artificial intelligence", "increased virtual reality" and "mobility". It is very requisite to build new values instead of old reflexes that have lost the ability to find solutions for current problems.

More than 64 countries, along with Turkey, **The New Silk Road Project**, which includes Iran and Pakistan, has considerable potential as a global integration project. However, the insufficient military and soft power of China causes the infrastructure and capacity to manage this project to fail. In addition to these reasons, the instability of the countries on the Silk Road brings along a slow progress of China in order to stay away from the risks as far as possible. Although China seems to be a global power, is an untested power yet. The integrated relationships for the success of the Silk Road are very important and if the full potential of this project is to be fully utilized, the integration should be strengthened by developing bilateral and multilateral institutional relations. However, countries such as **Qatar and Oman**, which are historically located on the Silk Road, should be included in this project. The Silk Road Project is one of many projects China has been working on and in addition to this, China has many projects that more regional. It is also known that India, as one of the greatest potential competitors of China who can form an alternative to the Silk Road Project, has signed many "MoU's" to open up to Russia, Black Sea and European countries. On the other hand, another project that is leading by the United States and progressing along the lines of Indonesia, Taiwan, India and the Gulf states may be another alternative to the Silk Road.

21st century, appear as century of proxy wars. This worldview is "rational and micro-nationalist" views that prepares the ground for this and makes the proxies "usable". Against these, there are the Islamic Philosophy, which has effects in all three countries. However, the effectiveness of Islamic Philosophy and the power of it on the real plane can be questioned through the example of Afghanistan. The transformation of the areas like Afghanistan into radical-Salafi Islamic regions, despite the fact that they are contained in the codes of Sufism and Sufi tradition, is one of the issues that need to be questioned. Turkey - Iran - Pakistan relations are beyond denominational issues, there are no serious problems in bilateral and multilateral relations. The deepening of these relations by the reorganization of institutions such as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) will provide significant contributions in the name of regional and global stability. The Economic Cooperation Organization should be revitalized by leading of Turkey, Pakistan and Iran, instead of looking for new regional and global institutions. Because Economic Cooperation Organization has been formed with experiences from previous bilateral and multilateral organizations and continues to progress.



Behind the slowdown in the functioning of Economic Cooperation Organization, the fact that the countries involved after the establishment have turned to some other regional formations, and the staff needs to expand and so to provide dynamism. In order to revitalize the Economic Cooperation Organization, short and long-term activities should be identified, especially by these three founding members. In order to attract attention from other countries and to increase the attractiveness of Economic Cooperation Organization, the founding members are required to show their seriousness by undertaking material and moral responsibilities.

After the Cold War, today, states face asymmetric threats. Whilst it was clear that what the threats are during the Cold War, what kind of precautions may be taken in the field of defense and security – by unpredictability that becomes one of the main trends - this prediction does not seem possible today. Nevertheless, the actors in the field of defense and security; conventional forces, military companies, civil organizations, and proxy groups etc. are much more diversified.

Security, an issue that concern to Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. All the three countries are in the fight against terrorism. Yet, it is requisite to ensure security to provide economic development and flow of capital. For this reason, these three countries can cooperate in the fight against terrorism and exchange their experiences mutually. Terrorism is one of the problems of all the three countries and its analysis needs to be done well. The source of motivation for terror is never religion or sects; they are only complementary reasons. Struggle against terror has now become a mind battle and in this sense, preventive measures can be taken by establishing **strategic foresight centers** in the name of security. Centers can be established within the universities to produce security strategies, and the academic contribution can be made to the process.

The roads leading to greater cooperation between Turkey, Iran and Pakistan must be sought and think-tanks should be more effective in creating the political structure. In order to achieve this, a strategic vision is needed first.

TASAM, **IPIS** and the delegations of the **Karachi Council** have agreed to cooperate on the following issues:

1. By each institution, national policies will be formed as reports; a **proposal report** will be prepared and shared with other institutions.
2. Each institution will prepare a concept paper containing opinions on the **New Silk Road** and share it with other institutions. In this regard, another meeting will be held in which a delegation from China as a part.
3. Turkey, Iran and Pakistan will work on a common "**security research center**" project involving the struggle against terrorism, collecting and sharing information.
4. Under the leadership of **TASAM**, **IPIS** and **Karachi Council**, a program will be organized to include other think tanks and this initiative will be presented to the views and cooperation of other institutions.
5. A "**joint article work**" will be planned, involving the relevant academics and researchers in the coordination of the three institutions.

13 February 2018, Istanbul