

# 14 POINTS JOINT DECLARATION OF PARLIAMENT

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## STATEMENT

Press Conference

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PROF. KHURSHID AHMAD



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Prof. khurshid Ahmad

The 14 points joint declaration of the Parliament on strategy situation represents a major initiative of the Parliament. Six aspects need to be highlighted.

1. It is a clear message that continuity of Musharraf policies does not have the support of the Parliament and the nation. That policy has to be changed and the Government and the Parliament are on trial. It is the Government's duty to ensure that substantive changes take place in Government policies in the light of the principles and road map given in this unanimous resolution of the Parliament. Change and NOT continuity is the message and direction.
2. The Parliament expects the Government to move towards an independent foreign policy. It has also demanded urgent review of security strategy as well as the modalities of Pakistani's participation in the US war on terror for which we are paying a very heavy price. The Parliament has clearly identified the direction of change. It is hoped the Government will initiate new policies without delay to come out of the mess in which Musharraf policies and their continuation has put the country in. Army operation must be stopped and dialogue begun.
3. The Parliament has made it very clear that use of force and dialogue cannot go together. The resolution emphasizes that dialogue is the only option available and historically speaking this is the only viable road to peace. The earlier insistence of the Government on 3 D-s i.e. Dialogue, Development and Deterrence has been changed by the Parliament into 2 D-s i.e. Dialogue and Development. Deterrence has been dropped from this 14-points road map. However, the writ of the state has to be established through due process of law and respect for the Constitution and imperatives of justice.
4. It has also been very clearly laid down in this resolution that armed forces have to be withdrawn as soon as possible from the affected areas and to be replaced by traditional peace keeping process including Jirga and the Frontier Constabulary.
5. It has been agreed that terrorism cannot be eliminated without addressing to the root causes responsible for its emergence. The Parliament has therefore emphasized the need to address root causes and also involve all genuine stake holders in the peace process.
6. Finally the resolution has not only given policy guidelines; it has also proposed the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee to monitor and oversee implementation

of these policy guidelines so that there is regular Parliamentary oversight on movement along as required to ensure that the principles stated and the road-map laid down in the unanimous resolution. It should be implemented in letter and spirit.

Now the Government and the Parliament both are on trial. The opposition has played a very important role in getting these principles formulated and accepted. All parties, the PM and the PPP team particularly the Leader of the House in the Senate deserve to be complemented for this historic step. This resolution, also sends a clear message to America and the NATO countries that while Pakistan nation is committed to establish peace and tranquility in the country and the region, it is not prepared to digest any more violations of its sovereign territory by the US and NATO forces and is also not prepared to continue the policy of surrender and submission which had been the hallmark of policy of the earlier regime. This is not our war. It has been thrust upon us. We are faced with war-like situation and the nation wants to resolve it through a home grown policy and strategy and not by one imposed by outside powers under pressure or resort to political and economic bribe. This is also a message to President Zardari to respect the will of the Parliament.

Finally, the resolution also suggested that new initiatives are made to address to sectarian violence and the problem of Baluchistan which must be tackled within the framework of constitution by ensuring redress of grievances and complete justice to all.

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