

Meeting on intra-Kashmir trade and confidence-building measures
Dubai, 16-19 December 2015

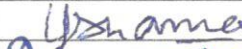









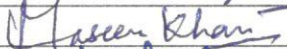


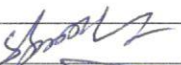

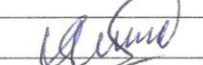






JOINT STATEMENT

In light of the recent resumption of the Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue between India and Pakistan, twenty-three members of the business and trade community from both sides of Jammu and Kashmir met in Dubai from 16-19 December 2015 and deliberated the future prospects of intra-Kashmir confidence-building measures. The meeting was also an opportunity to convene an annual meeting of key members of the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JK-JCCI), the first-ever platform of cross-Line-of-Control collaboration, facilitated by Conciliation Resources.

Building on the principles of the Istanbul and Kuala Lumpur agreements, the participating members (undersigned) unanimously agreed on the following issues:

1. The group welcomed the steps taken by both governments to resume the dialogue process and hoped that Islamabad and New Delhi will take tangible steps to further strengthen trade, travel, and civil society exchanges across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Members urged the governments to take urgent steps to address various obstacles encountered by LoC traders including improving connectivity among traders from both sides, facilitating frequent meetings of traders at the LoC, improving infrastructure at the trade facilitation centers and the installation of full body truck scanners, banking facilities, increasing the list of tradable items and the number of trading days, and easing customs procedures.
3. Members urged the governments to open new trade routes, particularly the Kargil-Skardu and Nowshera-Chammb trade routes, to expand the scope and impact of confidence-building measures in the region.
4. Members urged both governments to expedite the facilitation of a trade delegation from LoC East to LoC West as soon as possible in 2016.

5. The members appreciated the leadership of the outgoing President of the JK-JCCI, Y.V.Sharma, and the achievements of the JK-JCCI under his leadership over the last two years.
6. Members agreed on the election of a new President from the Pakistani side before 31 January 2016. The President of the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries and a person nominated by the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry will assume responsibility as Joint Presidents of JCCI from Jammu and Kashmir regions respectively for the period January 2016 – December 2017. A nominee of the LoC trade federations in LoC East will assume charge as Vice President of JCCI for the period January 2016 – December 2017.
7. Prior to the election of new office bearers, members will be nominated from each of the constituent organisations of the JK-JCCI. Nominations will be subject to payment of the agreed deposit fees to the persons entrusted by JCCI to take charge of these amounts.
8. Members agreed that the Presidency of the JK-JCCI will shift to Kashmir in 2018.
9. Members agreed that the JK-JCCI will provide greater support and recognition to the LoC trade federations as being key stakeholders in the confidence-building process and make best efforts to take steps to help them in resolving trade-related issues.
10. Members agreed on improving communication among members of the JK-JCCI and on the formulation of a code of conduct in due course.
11. Members agreed on the importance of including women in confidence-building processes and will encourage efforts to build the capacity of women entrepreneurs on both sides with a view to facilitating their future participation in trade and other confidence-building processes.
12. A website for the JK-JCCI to improve internal and external communication was launched. This is the first step towards making available to the public relevant information pertaining to cross LoC trade and activities of the JK-JCCI.
13. Members expressed their deepest gratitude and appreciation to the wider family of the JK-JCCI from various constituent organisations in Jammu and Kashmir and agreed that outstanding issues relating to the membership and structure of the JK-JCCI will be deliberated within the constituent organisations, with a view to evolving an agreement on these issues over the next one year.

Name	Signature
1. Y.V.Sharma	
2. Mohd Ashraf Mir	
3. Rakesh Gupta	
4. Mustaq Ahmed Wani	
5. Ashiq Sheikh	
6. Annil Suri	
7. Pawan Kumar Anand	
8. Hilal Ahmad Khan	
9. Gazalla Amin	
10. Arun Kumar Gupta	
11. Muhammad Yasin Khan	
12. Lalitkumar Mahajan	
13. Satya Bhushan Abrol (S.B. Abrol)	
14. Zulfiqar Abbasi	
15. Raja Muhammad Jameel Sardar Kazeem	
16. Sardar Shahid Mahmood	
17. Tanveer Qureshi	
18. Shaheen Kausar Dar	
19. Khurshid Ahmad Mir	
20. Mahmood Ahmad Dar	
21. Aftab Hussain	
22. Anwar Bajwa	
23. Sardar Tanveer Sarwar	