

## Agreement on restructuring the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry

28 November, Istanbul

1. Representatives of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), the AJK Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AJK CCI), the Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK), the Federation of Industries Jammu (FIJ), the Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (G-B CCI), the Merchants Association Ladakh, the associations and councils of cross Line of Control (LoC) traders from all four trading points (Tetrinot-Chakan-da-Bagh and Salamabad-Chakothi trading points) and the Intra-Kashmir Trade Union, met in Istanbul 26-28 November, with the facilitation of Conciliation Resources, a London-based organisation.
2. The participants in the meeting discussed the restructuring and reinvigoration of the J&K JCCI, which was formed in 2008 but which has yet to realise its potential.
3. The participants welcomed the decision of the traders associations and councils to form a Joint Federation of Cross LoC Traders.
4. The meeting reached the following agreements:
  - a. To devise a new constitution for the J&K JCCI;
  - b. To have a more inclusive representation of different business, industrial and commercial actors from across the LoC;
  - c. To expand the membership of the J&K JCCI and that upon the formal establishment of the Joint Federation of Cross LoC Traders to integrate it into the membership of the J&K JCCI;
  - d. To constitute a ten member interim committee, with five members from each side of the LoC, with a mandate to write a new constitution for the J&K JCCI. The composition of the Interim Committee was decided as follows: from LoC East one member each from KCCI, JCCI, FCIK, FIJ and from the LoC Traders Council; from LoC West one member each from the AJK Chamber, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Bhimber Chambers and the LoC Traders Council;
  - e. That the new constitution will include stipulations that: the electoral college of the J&K JCCI will be composed of a 44 member General Body, 22 from either side of the LoC, 11 of whom will come from the Valley of Kashmir (4 from KCCI, 2 from FCIK, 2 from Kashmir Traders Federation, 2 from LoC Traders Kashmir and one to be nominated by these representatives for the tourism sector), 11 from Jammu (4 from JCCI, 2 from FIJ, 2 from Traders Federation Jammu, 2 from LoC Traders Poonch and one to be nominated by these representatives for the tourism sector) and 22 from AJK (representatives of registered organisations from trade and industry to be detailed 15 December). Seats for Gilgit-Baltistan and Ladakh will be allocated during the process of devising the constitution;
  - f. That eight members of the General Body will be reserved for the cross LoC traders, four from each side (Tetrinot-Chakan-da-Bagh and Salamabad-Chakothi trading points);
  - g. That the President will be elected on a yearly basis to assume office on 1 January each year; the Presidency will rotate between the two sides of the LoC; that as of 1 January

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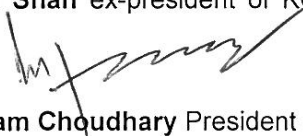


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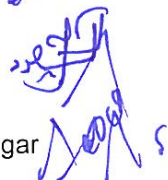



2012, honouring the agreement reached between the founding members of the J&K JCCI in 2008, the Presidency of the J&K JCCI will be transferred to a member from the Valley of Kashmir who will be elected by the 11 members of the aforementioned electoral college in the Valley of Kashmir (with the exception that for this year the eleventh member will be nominated by the President KCCI from the tourism sector), this term will conclude on 31 December 2012; to enable this transfer of Presidency to occur all of the constituent organisations will nominate their representatives for the General Body by 15 December 2011;

- h. That a rotation system will be implemented for the election of the President enabling a new President to assume office on 1 January 2013, having been elected by the 44 member electoral college. In the event that elections are not held or are delayed the post transfers to the next region to assume the Presidency, which will be defined in the constitution;
- i. That the post of Joint President will be created and is reserved for a representative on the other side of the LoC from the President; the Joint President will be elected by the electoral college;
- j. That the new constitution will determine the process for the election /nomination of Vice Presidents as well as other office bearers of the J&K JCCI;
- k. That the new constitution will be drafted by the interim committee before 31 March 2012 and will be approved by the Executive Committee by 30 April 2012;
- l. To facilitate the above processes the participants requested Conciliation Resources to provide assistance and agreed that Ershad Mahmud (Executive Director, Centre for Peace, Democracy and Reform, Mirpur) and Zafar Choudhary (Honourary Director, Indus Research Foundation, Jammu) would act as liaison with Conciliation Resources in this regard to supervise the implementation of the agreement.

Signed by:

1. **Abdul Majeed Gilwan** Merchant's Association, Ladakh 
2. **Annil Suri** President of FIJ, Jammu 
3. **Khawaja Tariq Mahmood Wani** President Industrial Estate Muzaffarabad , Muzaffarabad 
4. **Khurshid Ahmad Mir** President Intra Kashmir Trade Union, Muzaffarabad
5. **Javed Hussain** President G-B CCI, Gilgit-Baltistan 
6. **Mahmood Ahmad Dar** LoC Trader, Poonch 
7. **Dr. Mubeen Ahmad Shah** ex-president of KCCI and nominated by Mr Abdul Hamid Punjabi (President of KCCI) 
8. **Dr. Muhammad Akram Choudhary** President of AJKCCI, Mirpur 
9. **Nazir Ahmed Shikari** General Secretary of Federation Chamber of Industries, Srinagar 

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10. **Pawan Anand** President of the Chamber of Cross-LoC traders J&K and President of Poonch Cross-LoC traders council, Poonch 
11. **Raja Muhammad Jameel** President of Bimber Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mirpur 
12. **Raja Zahoor Khan** Cross-LoC Traders Association Salamabad-Chakothi route, Srinagar 
13. **Rajiv Tandon** Poonch-Rawalakote Traders Council, Poonch 
14. **Sardar Khashan Masood Khan** President LoC Trade Council in Rawalakot, Hajeera 
15. **Tariq Khan** President of Cross-LoC Traders Association Salamabad-Chakothi route, Srinagar 
16. **YV Sharma** President of JCCI, Jammu 
17. **Zulfiqar Abbasi** President of J&K JCCI, Mirpur 

The signatures are witnessed by:

**Ershad Mahmud**, Executive Director, Centre for Peace, Democracy and Reform 

**Jonathan Cohen**, Director of Programmes, Conciliation Resources 

**Tahir Aziz**, Projects Manager, Conciliation Resources 

**Zafar Choudhary**, Honourary Director, Indus Research Foundation 

Date: 28 November 2011