**Pakistan and a way forward**

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We are constantly moving towards a political crisis which decides the fate of our beloved country. Everyone is rigid; either in opposition or government. There is a need however, to find common ground and work on a prosperous path forward.
The only way to do this is to strengthen the federation, which gives full rights to all federating units—not just Punjab, but Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. Every unit should be given an equitable right to resources. After the Eighteenth Amendment, Pakistan is much stronger than before, and now the federation should give deserving rights to units, their proper share in an updated NFC and more.
The separation of powers should be completely implemented in the state and the true power centre should only be the people of Pakistan and no single institution. The judiciary should be independent, the parliament should be the supreme and superior to all; all legislation should be made in the parliament. Every other institution should be limited to the boundaries that are restricted according to the Constitution of Pakistan.
Foreign policy should be independently made in the Parliament and decisions should be taken with the will of the parliament not ignored. Relations should be maintained according to national and vital interests of the public of Pakistan.
Women should be given equal rights in education, jobs, and other aspects of life; there should be a general awareness about women’s rights and they should represent us in the international arena or other global platforms.
The former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Maleeha Lodhi and Hina Rabbani Khar are leading examples of why this should be the case. Women from the general public and the middle class should be given opportunities in politics and other aspects of life to reduce the gender imbalance that exists in our country.
Pakistan is a youth-dominated country with a population of 65 percent below the 30-year mark. We can make this a blessing in disguise; we can follow the China model as China has the world’s largest skilled labour in the world. We should look to provide more skill-based education as well as education in general, considering Pakistan’s literacy rate is below the mark; hence we need a new youth policy.
The youth should also be given the proper right to participate in political activities; the ban on the student unions should be lifted for the future generation of Pakistani politics. They should have the ability to chart their own political upbringing which will stop dynastic politics and genuine political leaders working on ideologies will emerge.
It is a good sign that Pakistan’s National Security Policy also includes human security and a human-centric approach; this should be geared for the betterment of humans such as in ending poverty and unemployment and increasing food security. The approach should be multi-faceted, with every aspect covered, from child labour to women empowerment, and transgender persons’ rights.
Climate change awareness should be inculcated in the general public, because of the level of threat we face. Green politics and the green economy should overcome the circular economy throughout the country. These issues need both time and structured dialogue for solutions. Political polarisation will only help deepen the divide and stop us from solving our problems.