

SENATE FORUM FOR POLICY RESEARCH

Annual Report of SFPR

2015

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Background and Role

Senate Forum for Policy Research (SFPR) was established in the sitting of Senate of Pakistan held on 27th October, 2014, by adopting the amendments (Rules 269-276) in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Senate, 2012.

A Think Tank, an initiative of Senate of Pakistan, which studies questions of public importance and recommend policy options and solutions. As an ideas generation and support forum, it is a much different and valued platform compared to the typical committees and commissions. It suggests ways and means to enhance the efficiency, working and effectiveness of the of the Senate. As a think-tank of Senate, it shall compile and disseminate knowledge generated by Senate proceedings, committee reports and proceedings at international and regional parliamentary meetings.

Under Rule 270, in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Senate, 2012, the Forum consists of sixteen Members, eight sitting Members of the Senate and eight former Members of the Senate as nominated by the Chairman in consultation with the Parliamentary Leaders in the House. The Chairman of the Senate shall be the Patron of the Forum. The Members of the forum shall elect from amongst themselves a Member as Chairman of the forum within one month of the constitution or reconstitution of the forum or the occurrence of vacancy, as the case may be. The term of office of the Chairman shall be one year and he shall be eligible to be re-elected. The Secretary of the Senate shall be the ex-officio Secretary of the Forum and will be responsible for maintaining the record of the Forum and to correspond on its behalf. Each member of this Forum has specialization in one or more fields and can contribute enormously towards legislative and policy initiatives, adding value to the working of Senate of Pakistan.

Item	Status
Meetings of SFPR ¹	06
Sub-Committee of SFPR on Cyber Crime Bill	Active
Sub-Committee of SFPR on Forest Depletion	Active
Sub-Committee of SFPR on Pre-Budget Recommendations	Task Completed
Sub-Committee of SFPR on Disposal of Pending Business of Senate Secretariat	Task Completed

¹ Annex I, Minutes of the Meetings of SFPR and list of members.

Initiatives

1. Orientation of Senators

Description	Status
Orientation of newly elected Senators was held with the sitting and former Senators as resource persons. The basic purpose of the orientation grew out from the need of knowledge sharing amongst Senators regarding the functioning, rules, and role of the Senate of Pakistan. Seasoned parliamentarians transferred their practical knowledge and expertise to newly elected members. ²	Successfully accomplished.

2. Compendium of Pakistan Laws

Description	Status
A Compendium having Pakistan Laws in alphabetical order. The Law Compendium contains catalogue of Pakistan Laws in an alphabetical order from 1836 to 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law Compendium was approved by the Forum for submission to Chairman Senate.• Chairman Senate may be requested for an event to celebrate this achievement and formal handing over of the Compendium by the Chairman SFPR to Chairman Senate, thereby appreciating the efforts of Senator (R) Ch.

² For Details, See, Annex II (Meeting Minutes of SFPR, 13th January 2015) and Orientation Plan

Muhammad Anwar Bhinder and his team.³

3. The Statute Book of Pakistan

Description	Status
The Statute Book of Pakistan ⁴ , as reflected in the functions of the Forum ⁵ , had been prepared which was handed over to the new Hon'ble Chairman of the Senate to be kept under his custody.	Successfully accomplished.

4. Cyber Crime Bill

Description	Status
A Sub-Committee of SFPR was formulated ⁶ to look into the proposed "Cyber Crime Bill" and to give input to be utilized by the Senate Secretariat while considering the Cyber Crime Bill.	Report has been prepared and endorsed by the members ⁷ , however, withdrawn in view of recent developments in the legislation of Cyber-Crime Bill. The Sub-Committee is reformulating its feedback.

³ For Details, See, Annex III (Meeting Minutes of SFPR, 12th October 2015)

⁴ Annex IV, Report of Special Committee of the Senate Forum for Policy Research

⁵ Rule 273, Sub Rule (h) It shall prepare a statute Book of Pakistan to be kept under the custody of the Chairman of the Senate which he shall; hand over to the next Chairman at the time of laying down his office.

⁶ Annex V (Meeting Minutes of SFPR, 22nd April 2015).

⁷ Annex VI Report (Cyber Crime Bill)

5. Pending Business of Senate of Pakistan

Description	Status
A Sub-Committee of SFPR on Disposal of Pending Business of Senate Secretariat, worked on the proposals for the disposal of Pending Business of Senate of Pakistan. ⁸	Report submitted to the Secretary Senate for appropriate action. ⁹

6. Recommendations for the Budget 2014-15

Description	Status
A Sub-Committee of SFPR on Pre-Budget Recommendations, formulated suggestions in respect of the Budget 2014-15. Same had been submitted to the main Forum for further consideration and forwarding to the Finance Committee of the Senate.	The Report of the Sub-Committee was submitted to Secretary Finance Committee, Senate Secretariat.

7. Issue of Forest Depletion

Description	Status
In pursuance of Sub-Rule (1) of Rule 183 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012, the Senate Forum for Policy Research (SFPR) in its meeting held on 23rd June 2015 at Pakistan Institute for	The Sub-Committee initiated its activities by taking following steps¹⁰; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter to all four provinces, AJ&K, and Gilgit-Baltistan, seeking information from them on the

⁸ Annex V (Meeting Minutes of SFPR, 22nd April 2015).

⁹ Annex VII (Report of the Sub-Committee on Pending Business of the Senate)

¹⁰ Annex VIII (Material related to SFPR Sub-Committee on Forest Depletion).

Parliamentary Services, Islamabad, had constituted a Sub-Committee on Forest Depletion. The purpose of constituting this Sub-Committee was to formulate recommendation on the issues of forest depletion after a thorough study and situation analysis.

State of Forests.

- Initiated a research report with Research Directorate on "State of Forest in Pakistan" (Report was submitted and distributed amongst the Hon'able members of SFPR).

Following documents have been prepared;

- Summary of Provincial Responses
- A summary of National Forest Policy, its core findings, a succinct document has been prepared which can be useful for the Sub-Committee.
- On the direction by Hon'able Chairman-SFPR, a document had been prepared which contain highlights of lessons learnt from the Republic of Korea's National Reforestation Programme.

Work in Progress;

Research officers (SFPR) to prepare;

- A brief analysis with tangible suggestions on the issue after reviewing available research materials and policies.
- An analysis of National Climate Change Policy and its

relevance to
to/impact on the
situation of forests.

8. Status of implementation of the Report and Recommendation by the Media Commission

Description	Status
<p>In the meeting of SFPR held on 12th October, 2015¹¹; Senator (R) Javed Jabbar made a presentation¹² on Status of implementation of the Report and Recommendation by the Media Commission appointed by Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2013.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forum discussed the matter. A letter has been sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage to update on the status of implementation of the recommendations made by the said Commission. In this regard, a report/updated status on the same has been received to be placed before the Forum in the next meeting.¹³

¹¹ Annex III (Meeting Minutes of SFPR, 12th October 2015)

¹² Annex IX (Presentation)

¹³ Annex X (Report/Update by Ministry of Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage, on Status of implementation of the Report and Recommendation by the Media Commission appointed by Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2013.)

9. Integrated Energy Planning (IEP)

Description	Status
<p>In Pursuance of the decision taken in SFPR's meeting held on 12th October, 2015, on the proposal of Senator (R) Javed Jabbar, a presentation will be made, in next meeting of SFPR, on Integrated Energy Planning and Policy Formulation (IEP). Former Director of Operations, and Lead Energy Specialist, World Bank, Ziad Alahdad¹⁴, will give the presentation.¹⁵</p>	<p>January 2016</p> <p>Structure of Presentation: The presentation will outline the concept of IEP and its two principal components: analysis to feed the decision-making process; and an integrated structure at the policy level to ensure sound decisions. It will trace the somewhat turbulent history of IEP engagement, buffeted by political turbulence. Pakistan, with its plethora of seemingly insurmountable energy issues, is in this case study. It will go on to demonstrate how IEP, once re-vitalized, can be an effective starting point for energy reform and how it can address Pakistan's most critical issues.</p>

¹⁴ Annex XI (Summary CV)

¹⁵ Annex XII (Concept Note, The Revival of Integrated Energy Planning and Policy Formulation)