

# FASS 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON CONTEMPORARY SECURITY ISSUES



2ND DEC, 2024 | POST EVENT REPORT



## THEMATIC AREAS

- Global Geopolitics
- Great Power Conflict
- Minilateralism
- Emerging Technologies
- India-Pakistan Relations
- Evolving Global Order
- Lethal Autonomous Weapons
- Future of Deterrence
- International Security & International Law
- Regional Economic Integration
- Transnational Cooperation
- EU Foreign Policy & South Asia

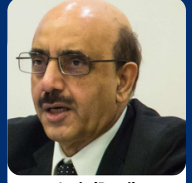
## SPEAKERS



Amb. (Retd)  
Abdul Basit



Dr.  
Adil Sultan



Amb. (Retd)  
Masood Khan



Amb. (Retd)  
Jalil Abbas Jilani



Amb. (Retd)  
Zamir Akram



Dr.  
Salma Malik



Amb. Tahir  
Hussain Andrabi



Mr. Oves Anwar



Mr. Leo Wigger



Dr.  
Hassan Daud



Mr. Felix Kolbitz



# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



The Faculty of Aerospace and Strategic Studies (FASS) at Air University, Islamabad, in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Pakistan, hosted a one-day annual conference on the emerging challenges in global and regional security. The event featured insightful discussions addressing critical contemporary security issues.

The event featured discussions on contemporary security issues, the impact of emerging

technologies, and regional security challenges. Proceedings were inaugurated by **Dr. Adil Sultan**, Dean of FASS, with an overview of FASS's initiatives, highlighting the department's growth and achievements over four years, including academic programs, internships, workshops, and international collaborations. Vice Chancellor Air University, **Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan**, highlighted the need for intellectual engagement among young scholars to understand and respond to 21st-century security issues. FES Country Director, **Mr. Felix Kolbitz**, extended greetings on behalf of FES and emphasized the significance of education and capacity-building initiatives. **Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani** delivered the keynote address elaborating on the global geopolitical landscape, touching upon US-China relations, regional complexities, and Pakistan's strategic positioning in a multipolar world.

The conference featured three panels addressing diverse topics:

**Panel 1: Emerging Regional and International Security Environment**

**Panel 2: Emerging Technologies and International Security**

**Panel 3: Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Security**

The conference was a testament to FASS's commitment to nurturing intellectual discourse on pressing global issues. Through collaboration, critical analysis, and policy-oriented discussions, it served as a platform for fostering innovative ideas to shape a secure and prosperous future.

 #FASSWKSP24

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# INAUGURAL PANEL

**Dr. Adil Sultan** welcomed distinguished guests to the conference, emphasizing its focus on contemporary issues and policy implications, and honoring Ambassador Jilani. He highlighted the importance of addressing leadership challenges and external security threats, noting that academia has a responsibility in these areas. Dr. Sultan also reflected on the growth of FASS since 2021, including the establishment of various programs and the organization of multiple conferences, workshops, and seminars.

**Air Marshal Abdul Moeed Khan** appreciated the efforts of the organizing team, discussed significant global security changes in the 21st century, and stressed the importance of intellectual engagement for young scholars to understand and address these issues. He highlighted the critical role of the FASS annual conference in shaping a secure future.

**Mr. Felix Kolbitz** from FES extended warm greetings and highlighted FES's role in education and capacity building. He emphasized the organization's collaboration with Pakistani institutions, and thanked the organizers for their efforts.

**Ambassador Jalil Abbas Jilani** discussed the contemporary global geopolitical landscape, focusing on the rise of China and the resurgence of Russia. He highlighted the negative impacts of sanctions on Russia, the U.S. policy of containing China, and the technological debates surrounding the South China Sea. He also addressed the conflicts in Gaza and Israel, the implications of Iran's defensive actions, and the ongoing concerns in Afghanistan. He also discussed the lack of dialogue between Pakistan and India since 2019, the challenges posed by the stalled SAARC process, and the complexities of India-Pakistan relations.



## PANEL 1 - EMERGING REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

**Ambassador Masood** reflected on historical changes and the impact of U.S. policies post-9/11, highlighting China's economic success and initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He discussed the challenges posed by American policies, the rise of new international forums like BRICS and SCO, and the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. He emphasized the need for realistic diplomatic approaches and the importance of managing relations with other global powers.

**Ambassador Zamir Akram** discussed global geopolitical dynamics, starting with the Cold War's end in 1991 and the subsequent rise of a U.S.-led global order. He highlighted the ideological struggle between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, which reshaped the global order, and noted the U.S.'s unilateral approach to international affairs, exemplified by its involvement in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. Furthermore, he stressed that Pakistan's strategic ties with China necessitate a balanced approach to avoid entanglement in global power politics.

**Dr. Salma Malik** introduced the concept of minilateralism, which involves engaging a small group of states to address specific challenges more efficiently than broader multilateral frameworks. It operates on the premise that a limited coalition of influential or like-minded actors can achieve more efficient decision-making and implementation compared to cumbersome multilateral frameworks. She emphasized that developments in China directly impact Pakistan.

**Ambassador Abdul Basit** discussed India's reluctance to engage in talks with Pakistan, highlighting terrorism as a serious issue and the lack of regional economic cooperation. He stressed that without addressing core disputes, relations between Pakistan and India cannot improve, noting the absence of dialogue since August 2019.

This session was moderated by **Ms. Aiza Azam**.



## PANEL 2 - EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

**Mr. Oves Anwar** highlighted the rising challenge of attribution, especially in the context of AI-driven drones and other autonomous systems. These technologies raise complex questions about accountability and compliance with humanitarian laws, such as the Geneva Conventions. For instance, AI's ability to distinguish between civilians and combatants and assess proportionality ensuring civilian harm does not outweigh military advantage remains uncertain. He also discussed the potential misuse of emerging technologies, like the creation of ethnic bioweapons via CRISPR gene editing, capable of targeting entire populations, posing a grave threat to humanity.

**Mr. Tahir Hussain Andrabi** added depth to the conversation by focusing on Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWs), colloquially known as "killer robots." These systems, which operate without human intervention, pose ethical dilemmas and risks of misuse. LAWs, while efficient for combat and surveillance roles, are prone to errors, raising the potential for unintended civilian harm and violations of international humanitarian law. Mr. Andrabi emphasized the need for robust testing, transparency, and accountability in their development and deployment to prevent exacerbation of existing conflicts.

**Dr. Adil Sultan** underscored the dual-edged nature of emerging technologies, which offer immense opportunities but also unprecedented risks. He discussed the transformative potential of quantum technologies in computing, encryption, and sensing, while cautioning that such advancements could deepen global disparities and render current security measures obsolete. Additionally, innovations like underwater robots and drones are reshaping maritime and aerial security landscapes. Dr. Sultan highlighted the importance of ethical considerations, international cooperation, and proactive policymaking to maximize benefits while mitigating risks.

This session was moderated by **Ms. Ayesha Jamil**.



## PANEL 3 - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL SECURITY

**Leo Wigger** emphasized the evolving role of the European Union (EU) in global affairs, noting its increasing responsibility in security and military collaboration post-9/11. He underscored the EU's shift toward a more unified and assertive global position, driven by economic factors and strengthened inter-member cooperation. Regarding EU-Pakistan relations, he observed a decline in focus but reaffirmed the relationship's critical importance. He advocated for reevaluation of strategies and a realistic approach by Pakistan to its global role.

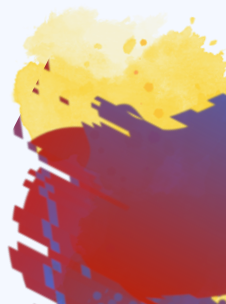
**Mr. Hassan Dawood** emphasized regional integration as a key driver of economic growth and connectivity, advocating for Pakistan to strengthen ties with Central Asia and beyond. He highlighted the potential of Pakistan's textile industry, particularly in hospital bed linen exports to China, and the transformative power of e-commerce and digital connectivity in reducing inequality. Mr. Dawood encouraged focusing on initiatives like the Pakistan Regional Economic Integration Activity (PREIA) to boost trade and unlock new markets.

**Mr. Felix Kolbitz** stressed the importance of transnational cooperation and youth empowerment in addressing global challenges such as climate change and inequality. He highlighted the role of youth as drivers of innovation and social change, while acknowledging barriers like limited access to education and decision-making processes. To overcome these, FES has launched initiatives like "Young Leaders for Change," fostering collaboration, resource sharing, and networking opportunities for youth.

This session was moderated by **Ms. Ayesha Malik**.



# MOMENTS FROM THE CONFERENCE



# CREDITS

## ORGANIZING TEAM

**Dr. Adil Sultan (Dean, FASS)**

**Ms. Aiza Azam (Lecturer, FASS) Chief Coordinator**

**Mr. Faraz Haider (Lecturer, FASS) Event & Media Coordinator**

**Ms. Jugnoo Aijaz (RA, FASS) Assistant Coordinator**

**Mr. Ch. Salman (PA to Dean FASS) Assistant Coordinator**

**Dr. Afsah Qazi (Assistant Professor, FASS)**

**Dr. Zahid Mehmood Zahid (Assistant Professor, FASS)**

**Ms. Ayesha Malik (Lecturer, FASS)**

**Mr. Syed Sabir Muhammad (Lecturer, FASS)**

**Ms. Ayesha Jamil (Lecturer, FASS)**

**FASS Student Volunteers**

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## Note Taking Team (BS IR-Students)

<b>Sara Tahir</b>	<b>Memoona</b>	<b>Adil Aslam</b>
<b>Maaz</b>	<b>Dua</b>	<b>Umama</b>
<b>Muskan</b>	<b>Harmain</b>	<b>Sana</b>
<b>Naima</b>	<b>Sidra</b>	<b>Fatima</b>

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## COMPILED, EDITED AND DESIGNED BY:

**Qurat ul Ayen Sadiq**

**(BS-IR 6th Semester)**

