

**PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE  
WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ON 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to once again very warmly welcome Prime Minister David Cameron and his delegation to Pakistan. Excellency, this is your first visit to Pakistan as Britain's Prime Minister. This visit signifies the immense importance of the abiding Pakistan-UK relationship.

Our relations are rooted in history, and are based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. Over one million British-Pakistanis provide a living bridge between our two countries.

They are an asset both for Britain and Pakistan.

Today, we have formally launched the Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue.

This is a significant step towards injecting further substance into our relations through regular interaction at the political level; by promoting trade and investment; by strengthening our cooperation in Education and health sectors; by enhancing people-to-people contacts; and by creating better understanding of each other's position on important regional and global issues.

Today, we have agreed to increase our bilateral trade to Pounds 2.5 billion by 2015 which at present is around Pounds 1.2 billion. We will work with the private sector to achieve this target.

I have informed Prime Minister Cameron that Pakistan offers tremendous trade and investment opportunities. UK, with over 100 companies already doing successful businesses in Pakistan, is best placed to take advantage of these opportunities.

I thanked the Prime Minister for UK's valuable assistance in the wake of the floods last year. We also greatly value their help in the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase.

We are also very much appreciative of UK's partnership, especially in the sectors of education and health.

We also discussed in detail the regional situation. I briefed the Prime Minister about my recent meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Muhali, and the resumption of our dialogue process.

We also discussed Afghanistan. I apprised the Prime Minister of my vision on our brotherly neighbour, Afghanistan.

Achieving peace and stability in Afghanistan is our strategic objective. In this regard, Pakistan will continue supporting Afghan-led and Afghan-owned efforts.

Excellency, let me conclude by saying that your visit to Pakistan has added enormous substance to Pakistan-UK relations.

We are committed to further strengthening this relationship in all areas of life. When it comes to Pakistan-UK relations, sky is the limit.

Thank you very much.