

**DANIILA V. GANICH<sup>1</sup>**

Ladies and Gentlemen!

**I**t is a really great honor for me to address such a distinguished audience comprising reputable academicians, scholars, researchers, politicians, diplomats. Definitely, I am very grateful to the Institute of Oriental Studies for its decision to hold a conference on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. I wish I were there with you in person.

The other day I watched an interesting video posted on the Institute's website. Professor V. Belokrenitsky summed up last year's developments and trends in Pakistan on completion of the year 2022. Noteworthy is his point that Pakistan, though faced with a number of serious problems, is very resilient and has a potential to improve things. Doctor I. Serenko upon her return from Karachi where she participated in an international conference noted that in Pakistan there is a consensus in favor of Russia. I can tell you that working in Islamabad I feel it every day — while interacting with politicians, bureaucrats as well as with ordinary people.

I also feel another thing which is no less important: the Pakistanis are open to reason. They are not indoctrinated, despite the dominance of Western media. The Pakistanis are true to the traditional values in all spheres of life. Both countries have similar views on what the future multipolar world should look like. Speaking not long ago at the Islamabad Security Dialog, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Her Excellency Hina Rabbani Khar said that any nation should preserve the right to pursue its interests and that diplomacy is an instrument for engagement.

Could not agree more. Ultimatums, arm-twisting, sanctions, threats — something that the West likes to do — is not diplomacy.

Moscow and Islamabad's openness to reason, their commitment to classic diplomatic school and steps aimed at finding a balance of interests are inspiring optimism about the future of Russian — Pakistani relations.

Sincerely wish all the participants wellbeing. I am absolutely confident that this conference will be a success.

Thank you for your attention!

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<sup>1</sup> Danila V. Ganich, Russian Ambassador to Pakistan in Islamabad.  
Данила Викторович Ганич, посол России в Пакистане, Исламабад.