

**Press Release - Allahabad, 22nd September 2018**

PAKISTAN INDIA PEOPLES' FORUM FOR PEACE & DEMOCRACY

**PIPFPD expresses disappointment over cancellation of dialogue possibilities**

Pakistan-India Peoples' Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIPFPD) expresses its strong disappointment with the Indian government for cancelling the scheduled meeting of Indian and Pakistani foreign ministers on the side-lines of UN General Assembly later this month. The meeting was planned following the letters from the Pakistan's PM Imran Khan and Pakistan's Foreign Minister, to Indian PM Narendra Modi.

Dialogue is the only answer to conflict, mistrust, and breakdown of diplomacy between the two countries. PIPFPD condemns all acts of violence. Inhuman acts like beheading of soldiers or civilians, by state or non-state actors must to be condemned. However, it should not be forgotten that dialogue alone is the answer to causes of acts of terror. Governments cannot be irresponsibly cancelling opportunities of dialogue, when they are most required.

We sincerely believe that the dialogue should not have been cancelled as it would have provided an opportunity to interact with the new leadership of Pakistan. Dialogue is necessary as tension is growing between two countries. We hope the meeting of Foreign Ministers of SAARC countries will be held as scheduled. We need to break the ice and see peace prevail.

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