

## **Track II diplomacy and its impact on Pakistan India peace process**

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### **Introduction**

Successful crises management has been an important security objective for most of the modern states, which implies having an ability to control the escalation of crises so as to preclude any unintended effects. A further objective might be to avoid the outbreak of war by creating firebreaks that attempts to guarantee a pause before hostilities start.

Anselm Straus wrote many years ago that a society is a “negotiated order” and that unless you are capable of getting all you want all the time, you had better learnt how to negotiate. “In fact, things will work better if you can negotiate in a cooperative and constructive way, because doing so preserves relationship as well as helps you get some of the things you want”.<sup>1</sup>

In case of Pakistan-India, the two traditional rival neighbors, either no mechanism exists to contain a crisis or such mechanisms like Joint Anti-Terror Mechanism (JATM) fail to address the crises. The tension between India and Pakistan has given birth to arms race and armed conflicts and badly shaken mutual confidence, and created deep-rooted suspicions between the people of two countries. Because of pervasive sense of fear and unlimited rivalry, both the countries have failed to make any substantive gains in terms of socio-economic developments or establish a dependable security apparatus. The net cost of the enmity is visible in the form of lopsided development- heavy defense expenditures and teeming poor population. Being the two nuclear states, it becomes important to create an atmosphere of good will so that in future tangible moves could be made for peace, because, though, the entire region has witnessed conflicts, wars and extra regional involvement and “though bilateral disputes vitiated regional security and political environment, the core of conflict remained between Pakistan and India”.<sup>2</sup>

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