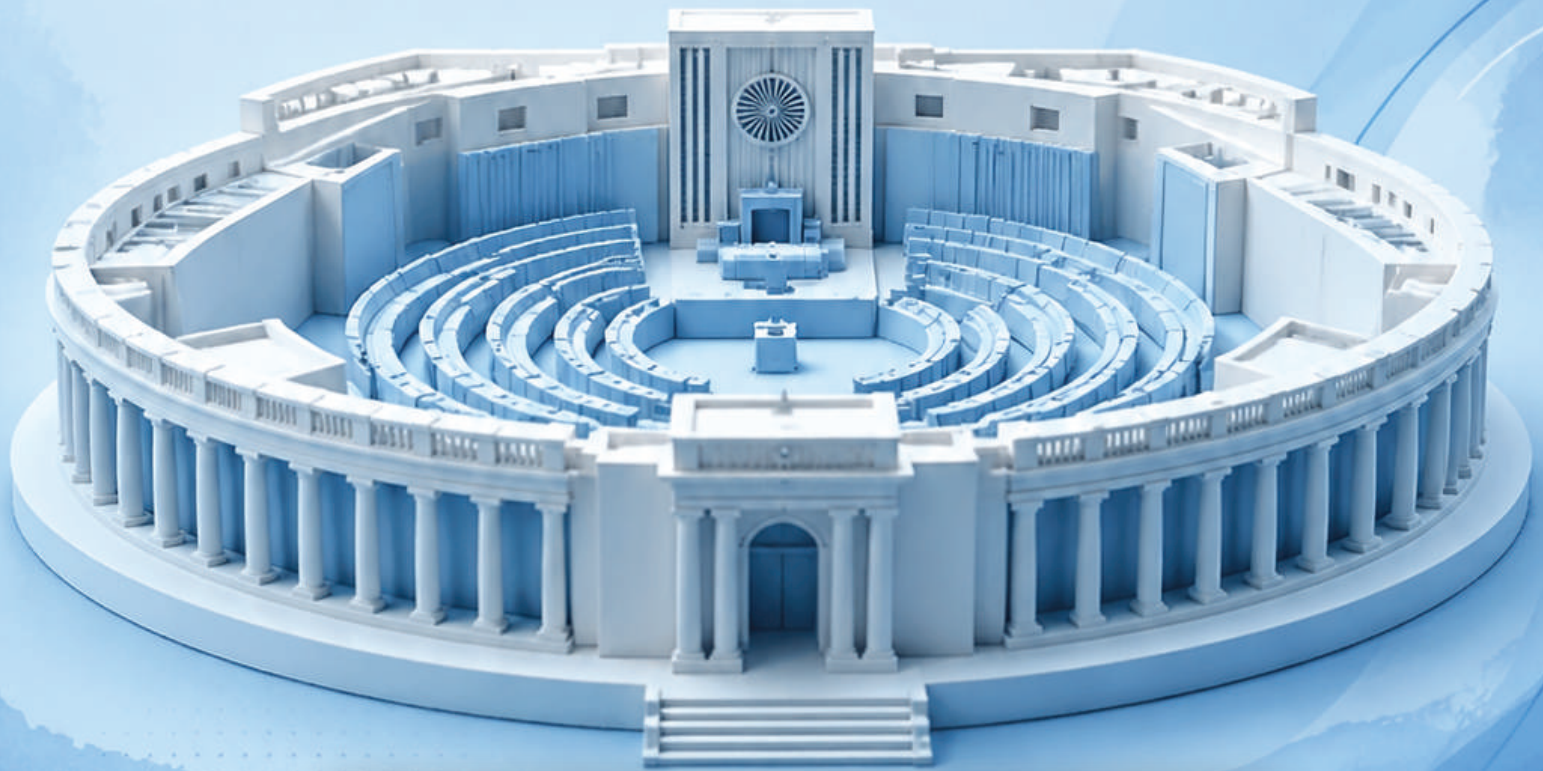


# THE GRAND STRATEGIC PROPOSAL

## THE FIRST PRESIDENT/GRAND IMAM FOR SOUTH ASIAN ISLAMIC STATES

A Comprehensive, MULTI-Dimensional Framework of Islamic  
Cooperation



SUBMITTED TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN BIN ABDULAZIZ AL SAUD  
CROWN PRINCE & PRIME MINISTER  
OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA




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# FOUNDATIONS OF THE STRATEGIC VISION



## Chapter 1- Executive Summary

This comprehensive proposal presents a forward-looking, multi-dimensional framework designed to elevate cooperation between the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** and the **South Asian Islamic States** namely **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**. It lays the foundation for an integrated regional partnership grounded in shared faith, mutual security interests, economic complementarity, and long-term geopolitical stability.

A central feature of this proposal is the introduction of the **High President for South Asian Islamic States**, envisioned as a **symbolic, non-political, and unifying figure**. This role is not intended to exercise executive authority; rather, it serves as a **bridge of coordination**, fostering collective diplomacy, harmonizing regional priorities, and ensuring seamless strategic engagement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially in alignment with **Vision 2030**.

The overarching aim is to create an architecture capable of transforming South Asia–GCC cooperation from traditional bilateral arrangements into a **cohesive, future-ready, and high-impact regional alliance**.

### Key Goals

- **Strengthen Islamic unity across South Asia**  
Promote deeper cultural, religious, and socio-political cohesion through shared values, joint educational initiatives, interfaith dialogue platforms, and regional Islamic heritage programs that reinforce collective identity.
- **Align South Asian development with Saudi Arabia’s Vision 2030**  
Facilitate economic transformation by integrating national development plans of member states with the investment, innovation, and diversification pillars of Vision 2030 particularly in energy transition, knowledge economies, and human capital development.
- **Establish a Saudi–South Asia defensive framework**  
Develop a coordinated defense architecture that enhances regional deterrence, counterterrorism capacity, border security, maritime safety, and intelligence

cooperation. This includes exploring joint training, military exchange programs, and shared early-warning systems.

- **Create strategic economic corridors for trade, energy, and technology**

Build multi-modal corridors connecting Saudi Arabia with South Asian markets through integrated logistics routes, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), digital trade gateways, and energy pipelines or LNG partnerships that boost cross-regional economic competitiveness.

- **Build a humanitarian coalition for Rohingya and Afghan reconstruction**

Craft a unified humanitarian mechanism that mobilizes Saudi and South Asian resources to support displaced populations, accelerate refugee stabilization, and fund long-term reconstruction activities in Afghanistan through transparent and accountable structures.

- **Develop cross-regional digital and maritime infrastructure**

Advance joint projects in submarine cables, satellite connectivity, maritime ports, smart seaports, cybersecurity frameworks, and digital public infrastructure to strengthen connectivity and resilience across the region.

- **Promote global Islamic leadership and soft power**

Position Saudi Arabia and South Asian Islamic States as collective stewards of Islamic diplomacy by enhancing their representation in global forums, expanding educational and cultural exchange programs, and championing peace, stability, and development within the Muslim world.

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## CHAPTER 2- Royal Introduction

Your Royal Highness,

In an era marked by profound geopolitical transformation, shifting alliances, and emerging centers of influence, your visionary leadership has decisively reshaped not only the trajectory of the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** but also the broader direction of the Islamic world. Through bold reforms, strategic foresight, and a commitment to balanced progress, the Kingdom has become a model of how tradition and modernization can coexist in strength and harmony.

Today, the Kingdom stands firmly at the nexus of multiple global dimensions:

- **Global economic diversification**, driven by ambitious reforms under Saudi Vision 2030, positioning the Kingdom as a leading hub for investment, innovation, and sustainable growth
- **Islamic diplomatic stewardship**, reinforcing its historic role as a unifying voice and moral anchor for Muslim nations worldwide
- **Strategic security influence**, contributing to regional stability through defense partnerships, counterterrorism leadership, and proactive engagement in global security dialogues
- **Cultural modernization without loss of identity**, demonstrating that national progress can be achieved while preserving deeply rooted Islamic values and heritage

In this context, this proposal is respectfully presented as a continuation and expansion of the Kingdom's historic leadership role. It invites the Kingdom to extend its strategic vision toward the South Asian Islamic region encompassing **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan** a region rich in human capital, economic potential, and deep Islamic heritage.

Such an initiative would lay the foundation for the **largest and most comprehensive Islamic cooperative framework outside the Gulf Cooperation Council**, bridging the Arabian Peninsula and South Asia into a unified sphere of collaboration. It envisions not merely

partnership, but a **structured alignment of strategic interests**, enabling collective progress in economic development, security, humanitarian responsibility, and global Islamic representation.

This chapter therefore serves as both a recognition of the Kingdom’s transformative leadership and a respectful call to expand that leadership into a broader, more integrated regional framework one capable of shaping the future of the Islamic world with unity, resilience, and shared prosperity.

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## CHAPTER 3- Rationale for the Four-State Islamic Bloc

The creation of a unified cooperation platform among **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan** represents both a strategic necessity and a historic opportunity. Anchored by partnership with the **Saudi Arabia**, this bloc would combine shared Islamic identity, complementary economic capacities, and convergent geopolitical priorities into a coherent regional alliance.

The rationale for this unified platform is grounded in three interconnected dimensions: shared values, common challenges, and collective opportunities.

### Shared Values

These four nations are bound together by deeply rooted Islamic traditions, longstanding social linkages, and a natural orientation toward the Gulf region. Specifically, they share:

- **Islamic heritage**

Their societies are shaped by Islamic principles, cultural practices, and historical institutions, allowing for natural alignment with Saudi Arabia’s leadership in the global Islamic sphere.

- **Labor and cultural ties with the Gulf**

Millions of workers from these nations reside in GCC states, creating strong economic interdependence, remittance-driven stability, and people-to-people cultural affinity.

- **Longstanding economic connectivity**

Trade routes, bilateral investments, and migration patterns have woven a durable economic network between South Asia and the Arabian Peninsula.

- **Alignment with Saudi-led Islamic diplomacy**

All four nations consistently support Saudi initiatives within the OIC and broader global Islamic diplomacy, demonstrating strategic convergence and mutual trust.

## Regional Challenges

Despite their strengths, the region faces shared challenges that require coordinated solutions and Saudi partnership for long-term stability:

- **Rohingya crisis**

The prolonged humanitarian burden on Bangladesh and regional security implications necessitates a structured, multi-state humanitarian and repatriation mechanism.

- **Afghan instability**

Ongoing political uncertainty, economic stagnation, and security vulnerabilities in Afghanistan impact the entire region, requiring a collective stabilization framework.

- **Pakistani economic pressures**

Debt burdens, energy shortages, and industrial stagnation hinder Pakistan's ability to fully leverage its regional strategic role.

- **Maldivian climate fragility**

Rising sea levels and ecological vulnerabilities threaten the Maldives, calling for joint climate adaptation and resilience financing.

- **Bangladeshi population pressures**

Rapid urbanization and demographic density create socio-economic pressures that require coordinated regional investment and development support.

- **Maritime vulnerabilities**

From the Indian Ocean to the Arabian Sea, maritime security challenges piracy, illegal fishing, chokepoint instability underscores the need for a unified maritime defense vision

## Regional Opportunities

With coordinated leadership and Saudi investment, this four-state bloc can unlock vast shared advantages:

- **Strategic maritime routes**

These nations sit astride some of the world's most important sea lanes, offering opportunities for secure shipping corridors, port modernization, and blue-economy expansion.

- **Youth workforce**

A combined population exceeding 400 million, with a majority under 30, forms the foundation for accelerated industrialization, technological innovation, and skilled labor exchanges.

- **Energy transition potential**

South Asia holds immense potential for renewable energy deployment, energy infrastructure partnerships, and integration with Saudi-led green initiatives.

- **Digital outsourcing capabilities**

Strong IT talent pools in Bangladesh and Pakistan can support regional digital transformation, cloud services, cybersecurity, and Saudi-led smart infrastructure projects.

- **Tourism and cultural diplomacy**

Islamic heritage sites, natural attractions, and shared cultural assets can be leveraged to create new tourism corridors and strengthen global Islamic soft power.

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THE OFFICE OF  
**THE HIGH PRESIDENT**



KNOWLEDGE



PROSPERITY



COOPERATION



PEACE



STABILITY

## CHAPTER 4- Purpose of the High Presidency

The proposed office of the **High President for South Asian Islamic States** is designed as a **symbolic, unifying, and facilitative institution** intended to strengthen cooperation among **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**, while maintaining close strategic alignment with the **Saudi Arabia**.

This role is carefully structured to avoid any executive or sovereign interference, instead functioning as a **bridge of dialogue, coordination, and collective visioning** across participating states.

### Core Functions of the High Presidency

- **A symbolic Islamic unifier**

The High Presidency serves as a moral and symbolic embodiment of unity among South Asian Islamic nations. It reinforces shared religious identity, cultural continuity, and civilizational solidarity, helping to reduce fragmentation and strengthen a sense of collective belonging within the wider Islamic world.

- **A diplomatic coordinator**

The office acts as a neutral coordinating platform that facilitates dialogue between member states and external partners, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It helps align diplomatic priorities, synchronize multilateral engagements, and promote coherent regional positions in international forums.

- **A representative to Saudi Arabia and the world**

The High President functions as a formal representative voice of the four-state bloc in engagements with Saudi leadership and selected global institutions. This includes participation in high-level summits, strategic dialogues, and Islamic cooperation forums, ensuring consistent representation of shared regional interests.

- **A convener of collective development strategies**

The role is responsible for convening periodic strategic assemblies that bring together policymakers, economists, defense experts, and development planners. These gatherings focus on aligning infrastructure projects, economic corridors, digital transformation initiatives, and long-term regional development goals.

- **A humanitarian advocate**

The High Presidency also serves as a dedicated advocate for humanitarian coordination, with special focus on crises such as the Rohingya displacement, Afghan recovery, climate vulnerability in island states like the Maldives, and socio-economic pressures in densely populated regions such as Bangladesh.

## Institutional Nature and Limitations

It is essential to clearly define that the High Presidency is:

- **NOT a political authority**
- **NOT an executive governing body**
- **NOT a supranational decision-making institution**

Instead, it is a **facilitative and diplomatic construct** designed to complement, not override, national sovereignty. All participating states retain full constitutional authority, while the High Presidency operates solely as a **coordinating and representational mechanism**.

## Strategic Value

By existing as a neutral and unifying platform, the High Presidency strengthens trust, improves policy coherence, and enhances collective visibility in global affairs. It ultimately serves as a **soft-power instrument for regional integration**, supporting stability, development, and Islamic unity in partnership with Saudi Arabia's broader strategic vision.

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## CHAPTER 5- Mandate & Functions

The mandate of the proposed High Presidency framework is structured to provide a **non-sovereign, facilitative, and strategic coordination mechanism** among **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**, in structured partnership with the **Saudi Arabia**.

Its functions are designed to operate across four core pillars: diplomatic integration, security cooperation, economic alignment, and humanitarian coordination.

## 1. Diplomatic Integration

The High Presidency provides a structured diplomatic platform to enhance coherence and unity in external relations, particularly with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and broader international institutions.

- **Formal representation of the four nations to Saudi Arabia**

It consolidates selected high-level diplomatic engagements into a unified consultative channel, ensuring that shared regional interests are presented in a coordinated and strategically aligned manner while respecting national sovereignty.

- **Multi-lateral coordination**

The framework facilitates regular diplomatic consultations among member states to harmonize positions on key regional and global issues, including trade, security, migration, and Islamic world affairs.

- **Annual summits in Riyadh, Dhaka, Islamabad, Malé, Kabul**

A rotating summit system is proposed to institutionalize dialogue, strengthen mutual trust, and ensure equal representation. These summits serve as the highest consultative platform for reviewing progress, setting priorities, and aligning with Saudi-led strategic initiatives such as Saudi Vision 2030.

## 2. Defense & Security Cooperation

This pillar focuses on enhancing collective security awareness and coordination without infringing upon the sovereign defense structures of member states.

- **Joint threat identification**

Establishment of a shared analytical mechanism to assess regional threats such as extremism, cross-border instability, cyber risks, and maritime insecurity, enabling early warning and coordinated response strategies.

- **Maritime protection agreements**

Given the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, this function promotes collaborative maritime surveillance, anti-piracy initiatives, and protection of critical shipping lanes.

- **Counterterrorism synchronization**

Encourages alignment of national counterterrorism frameworks through intelligence coordination, capacity-building programs, and shared best practices in deradicalization and border control.

- **Intelligence sharing with Saudi Arabia**

Facilitates structured, lawful, and mutually agreed intelligence cooperation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, enhancing regional stability and global counterterrorism efforts.

### 3. Economic & Vision 2030 Alignment

This pillar focuses on transforming the region into an integrated economic corridor aligned with long-term development goals and investment strategies.

- **Investment corridor development**

Promotion of interconnected infrastructure projects including highways, ports, logistics hubs, and energy corridors linking South Asia with the Arabian Peninsula, enhancing trade efficiency and regional competitiveness.

- **Sovereign wealth fund coordination**

Encourages alignment between Gulf sovereign investment institutions and South Asian development priorities to channel capital into infrastructure, technology, renewable energy, and human capital development.

- **Labor mobility modernization**

Development of structured, transparent, and rights-based labor mobility frameworks to optimize employment flows between South Asia and the Gulf, improve worker protection, and enhance skills recognition systems.

## 4. Humanitarian Role

This pillar positions the High Presidency as a coordinated humanitarian voice for the region, ensuring structured response to crises affecting member states and neighboring populations.

- **Rohingya leadership**

Coordinates multilateral humanitarian efforts addressing the Rohingya displacement crisis, with emphasis on aid distribution, education access, healthcare support, and long-term repatriation frameworks.

- **Afghan reintegration**

Supports stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan through development assistance coordination, infrastructure rebuilding initiatives, and humanitarian aid alignment with international partners.

- **Disaster response consolidation**

Establishes a regional rapid-response coordination mechanism for natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, and climate-induced displacement, ensuring timely mobilization of resources and international support.

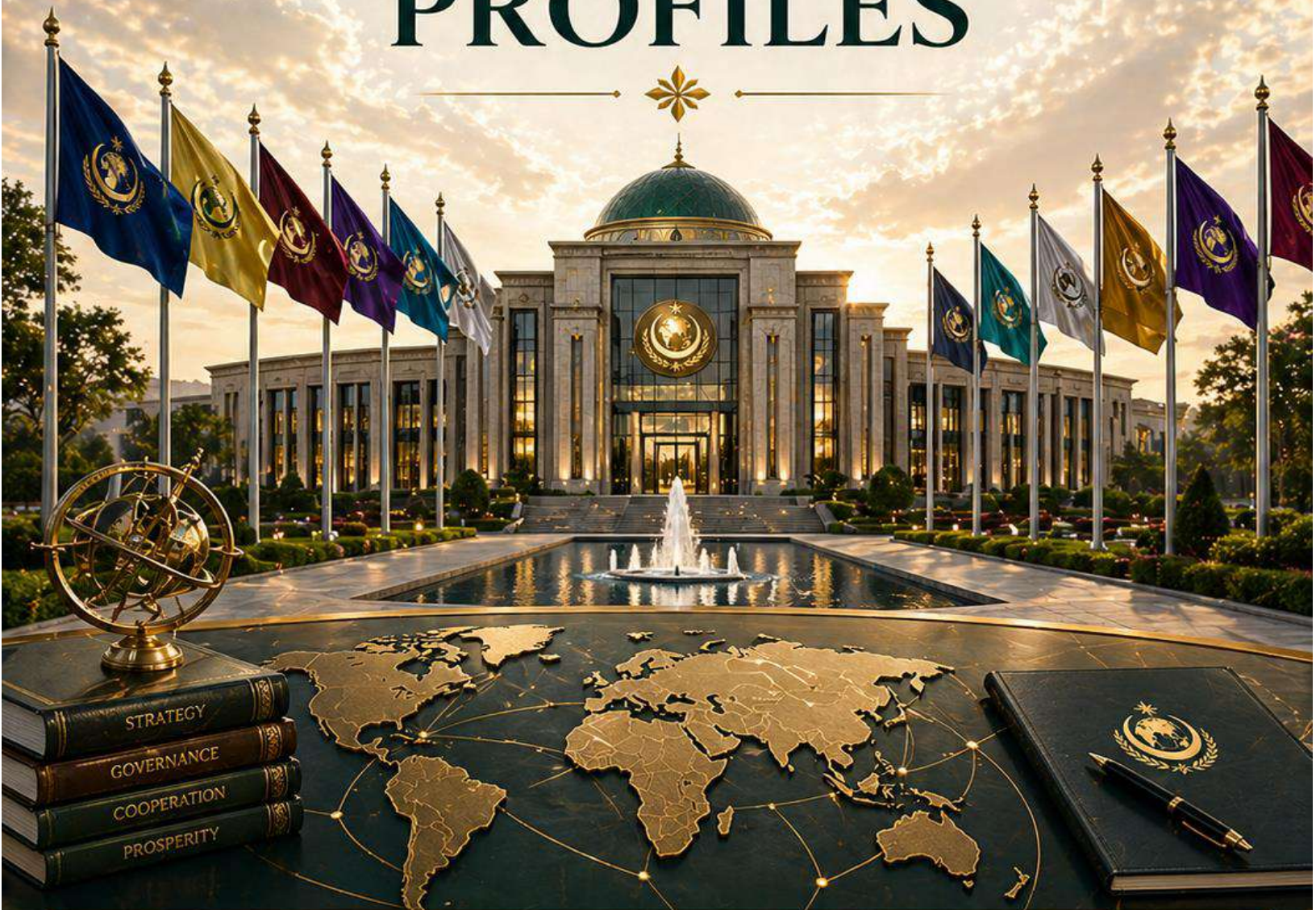
## Strategic Overview

Collectively, these four pillars position the High Presidency as a **strategic coordination hub rather than an executive authority**, ensuring that regional collaboration becomes more structured, predictable, and impactful while reinforcing alignment with Saudi Arabia's global development vision.

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# NATIONAL STRATEGIC PROFILES



PEOPLE



GOVERNANCE



ECONOMY



SECURITY



ENERGY



CONNECTIVITY



SUSTAINABILITY

## CHAPTER 6- Bangladesh Strategy

The **People's Republic of Bangladesh** occupies a uniquely strategic position within the proposed South Asian Islamic cooperation framework. As one of Asia's most dynamic emerging economies, Bangladesh represents both a **growth engine and a humanitarian focal point**, with strong potential to serve as a central hub linking South Asia with the Arabian Peninsula through structured cooperation with the **Saudi Arabia** and alignment with broader regional development initiatives.

Its inclusion in this framework is not only economic in nature but also geopolitical, demographic, and humanitarian in scope.

### 1. Strategic Importance of Bangladesh

Bangladesh stands at the crossroads of South and Southeast Asia, with direct access to the **Bay of Bengal**, making it a vital maritime and trade gateway. Its geographical position provides natural connectivity to key regional shipping lanes, offering opportunities for expanded trade, logistics integration, and maritime cooperation.

In addition, Bangladesh has emerged as a model of sustained economic resilience, demonstrating strong growth in industrial output, export diversification, and human development indicators despite structural constraints.

### 2. Strategic Advantages

- **Gateway to the Bay of Bengal**

Bangladesh's coastal geography provides direct access to one of the most strategically important maritime regions in Asia. This enables it to function as a critical node for regional shipping routes, port development, and blue economy initiatives, linking South Asia with global trade networks.

- **Over 10 million expatriates globally (especially in GCC states)**

A significant Bangladeshi diaspora workforce contributes substantially to both domestic remittance inflows and labor markets in Gulf Cooperation Council countries. This creates a strong socio-economic bridge between Bangladesh and the broader Islamic world, particularly Saudi Arabia, enhancing people-to-people connectivity and labor diplomacy.

- **Major garment and manufacturing hub**

Bangladesh is one of the world's leading exporters of ready-made garments, forming a cornerstone of its industrial economy. This sector provides a strong foundation for expanded trade partnerships, industrial upgrading, and integration into global supply chains.

- **Large population and youth workforce**

With a population exceeding 170 million, a significant proportion of whom are under the age of 35, Bangladesh offers a powerful demographic advantage. This youth-driven labor force can support large-scale industrial expansion, digital transformation, and service sector growth if effectively trained and integrated.

### 3. Strategic Needs

Despite its strengths, Bangladesh faces structural challenges that require coordinated regional and international support, particularly through enhanced cooperation with Saudi Arabia and South Asian partners.

- **Alignment with Vision 2030 investment frameworks**

Bangladesh requires expanded access to long-term foreign direct investment in infrastructure, energy, logistics, and digital transformation. Alignment with Saudi Vision 2030 presents a significant opportunity to channel Gulf capital into sustainable development projects, industrial modernization, and human capital development.

- **Climate adaptation infrastructure**

As one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, Bangladesh faces recurring challenges including flooding, cyclones, river erosion, and rising sea levels. Large-scale investment in resilient infrastructure, coastal protection systems, and climate-smart urban planning is essential for long-term stability.

- **Rohingya humanitarian responsibility**

Bangladesh continues to host a large displaced Rohingya population, placing long-term pressure on local resources, governance systems, and humanitarian infrastructure. A structured multilateral support mechanism is required to ensure sustainable relief, education access, healthcare provision, and eventual safe repatriation strategies in coordination with international stakeholders.

- **Energy diversification and security**

Bangladesh's growing economy requires stable and diversified energy sources, including natural gas, renewable energy, and regional power trade integration. Strategic partnerships in LNG supply chains, solar energy deployment, and cross-border energy cooperation are critical for sustaining industrial growth.

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#### 4. Strategic Role in the Proposed Framework

Within the broader South Asian Islamic cooperation model, Bangladesh is positioned as a **logistics, manufacturing, and humanitarian coordination hub**. Its strengths in labor supply, export manufacturing, and diaspora connectivity allow it to function as a key intermediary between South Asia and the Gulf region.

Under the proposed framework, Bangladesh could benefit from:

- Enhanced industrial investment corridors linked to Gulf capital
- Expanded maritime infrastructure and port modernization
- Skills development partnerships aligned with GCC labor market needs
- Climate resilience financing through multilateral Islamic development mechanisms
- Structured humanitarian coordination for refugee and disaster response programs

#### 5. Long-Term Strategic Outlook

If integrated effectively into the proposed regional architecture, Bangladesh has the potential to evolve into a **major South Asian economic anchor state**, supporting both regional stability and Islamic world cooperation.

Its demographic strength, geographic positioning, and industrial capacity make it a critical pillar in any long-term framework aimed at enhancing South Asia–Gulf connectivity, particularly under the leadership vision associated with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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## CHAPTER 7- Pakistan Strategy

The **Islamic Republic of Pakistan** occupies a central and highly sensitive position within the proposed South Asian Islamic cooperation framework. Its geopolitical location, military capacity, demographic scale, and historical role in Islamic diplomacy make it one of the most strategically significant states in the broader Muslim world. In coordination with **Saudi Arabia**, Pakistan represents a critical pillar for regional stability, security cooperation, and economic integration across South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East.

This chapter outlines Pakistan's strategic advantages, structural challenges, and long-term role within the proposed cooperative architecture involving **Bangladesh, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

### 1. Strategic Importance of Pakistan

Pakistan's significance is rooted in its **geostrategic positioning**, sitting at the intersection of South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, and Western China. This positioning makes it a natural corridor for trade, energy transmission, and security cooperation.

Historically, Pakistan has played a leading role in Islamic diplomacy, serving as an influential voice in multilateral Islamic organizations and maintaining strong bilateral ties across the Muslim world. Its military capabilities and institutional depth further enhance its status as a key regional security actor.

### 2. Strategic Advantages

- **Nuclear capability**

Pakistan is one of the few nuclear-armed states in the Islamic world, giving it significant strategic deterrence capacity. This capability places Pakistan at the center of regional security considerations and necessitates structured dialogue on stability, risk reduction, and strategic confidence-building within the proposed framework.

- **Major military power in the Islamic world**

Following major regional powers such as Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, Pakistan maintains one of the most structured and experienced military institutions in the Islamic world. Its defense forces have extensive operational experience in counterinsurgency, peacekeeping, and border security operations.

- **Gateway to Central Asia and China**

Pakistan's geographic corridor connects the Arabian Sea to Central Asia and Western China, making it a critical transit hub for energy pipelines, trade routes, and infrastructure connectivity projects such as the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This position enhances its importance in any broader regional integration strategy.

- **Islamic diplomatic influence**

Pakistan has historically maintained active participation in Islamic multilateral diplomacy, including engagement with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Its foreign policy often emphasizes Muslim unity, humanitarian support, and collective political advocacy in international forums.

### 3. Strategic Needs

Despite its strategic importance, Pakistan faces a range of structural economic and security challenges that limit its full potential. Addressing these challenges is essential for ensuring regional stability and maximizing its contribution to the proposed Islamic cooperative framework.

- **Debt stabilization and economic resilience**

Pakistan's economy faces recurring fiscal pressures, external debt obligations, and balance-of-payment constraints. Long-term stability requires coordinated investment strategies, debt restructuring support, and enhanced access to Gulf-led development financing mechanisms aligned with initiatives such as Saudi Vision 2030.

- **Defense modernization**

While Pakistan maintains a strong military foundation, evolving regional threats require modernization in areas such as cyber defense, intelligence systems, air defense capabilities, and maritime security infrastructure. Strategic cooperation with Saudi Arabia and other partners can support capacity-building and technology transfer initiatives.

- **Counterterrorism strengthening**

Pakistan continues to face complex internal security challenges, including extremism and cross-border militant activity. Strengthening counterterrorism frameworks through intelligence sharing, regional coordination, and deradicalization programs is essential for long-term stability.

- **Energy transition and sustainability**

Pakistan's growing population and industrial base require reliable and diversified energy sources. Investment in renewable energy, natural gas infrastructure, and regional energy trade corridors is critical to reducing dependency and ensuring sustainable economic growth.

## 4. Strategic Role in the Regional Framework

Within the proposed South Asian Islamic cooperation architecture, Pakistan is envisioned as a **strategic security anchor and connectivity hub**. Its role extends across defense coordination, trade facilitation, and regional transit integration.

Key functional contributions include:

- Serving as a **land bridge between the Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia**
- Supporting **regional security coordination mechanisms** in collaboration with Saudi Arabia
- Acting as a **logistics and trade corridor for energy and infrastructure projects**
- Contributing to **Islamic diplomatic alignment and multilateral representation**
- Enhancing **counterterrorism intelligence cooperation and regional stability frameworks**

## 5. Long-Term Strategic Outlook

If effectively integrated into the proposed framework, Pakistan can evolve into a **central pillar of Islamic geopolitical stability and regional connectivity**. Its demographic scale, military capacity, and geographic positioning make it indispensable for any long-term strategy aimed at linking South Asia with the Arabian Peninsula and Central Asia.

Through structured cooperation with Saudi Arabia and neighboring Islamic states, Pakistan can strengthen its economic resilience, modernize its strategic capabilities, and reinforce its role as a stabilizing force within the broader Islamic world.

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## CHAPTER 8- Maldives Strategy

The **Republic of Maldives** represents a uniquely strategic maritime partner within the proposed South Asian Islamic cooperation framework. Despite its small population and geographic size, its **geostrategic location in the Indian Ocean** gives it outsized importance in maritime security, climate diplomacy, and tourism-driven economic cooperation with the **Saudi Arabia** and wider South Asian partners including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan**.

### Opportunities

- **Dual tourism partnership with Vision 2030**

The Maldives offers strong potential for integrated tourism cooperation with Saudi Arabia under diversification goals aligned with Saudi Vision 2030, enabling joint branding, investment, and luxury tourism development strategies across both destinations.

- **Maritime security hub**

Due to its central position along critical Indian Ocean sea lanes, the Maldives can serve as a cooperative maritime monitoring and coordination point for shipping security, anti-piracy efforts, and regional naval communication frameworks.

- **Blue economy innovation center**

The Maldives is well-positioned to become a regional center for sustainable ocean-based economic development, including marine biotechnology, sustainable fisheries, coral conservation technologies, and ocean data research.

## Needs

- **Climate resilience**

As one of the most climate-vulnerable nations in the world, the Maldives requires urgent investment in coastal protection, sea-level adaptation infrastructure, and climate-resilient urban planning to ensure long-term national survival.

- **Fisheries modernization**

Modernizing the fisheries sector is essential for economic stability, including improvements in cold-chain logistics, sustainable harvesting methods, and value-added seafood processing industries.

- **Renewable energy transition**

The Maldives requires accelerated investment in solar, wind, and hybrid energy systems to reduce dependency on imported fossil fuels and strengthen national energy security.

## CHAPTER 9- Afghanistan Strategy

The **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan** represents one of the most critical and sensitive components of the proposed South Asian Islamic cooperation framework. Its stability is not only a national concern but a **broader regional and Islamic world imperative**, directly affecting security, migration, trade connectivity, and geopolitical balance across South Asia and Central Asia in coordination with **Saudi Arabia** and neighboring states including **Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Maldives**.

### 1. Strategic Importance of Afghanistan

Afghanistan has historically served as a **land bridge between South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East**, making it a pivotal geography for trade routes, cultural exchange, and security dynamics. Its stability is essential for preventing regional spillover effects, including migration pressures, illicit trafficking, and extremist movements.

Within the proposed framework, Afghanistan is not viewed solely through a security lens, but also as a **long-term reconstruction and reintegration partner** requiring sustained humanitarian, economic, and institutional support.

## 2. Key Challenges

- **Economic collapse and fiscal fragility**

Afghanistan continues to face severe economic contraction, limited fiscal capacity, and restricted access to international financial systems. These conditions have significantly weakened public service delivery, employment generation, and national economic stability.

- **Infrastructure degradation**

Years of conflict have left Afghanistan with underdeveloped transportation networks, limited energy infrastructure, and weak urban systems. Rebuilding roads, energy grids, healthcare facilities, and communication systems is essential for long-term recovery.

- **Security instability**

Persistent security challenges, including fragmented control dynamics and regional instability, continue to undermine development efforts and deter large-scale investment. Stabilization requires coordinated regional engagement and confidence-building measures.

## 3. Development Needs

- **Education rebuilding**

Reconstruction of the education system is a foundational priority, including schools, universities, vocational training centers, and digital learning infrastructure. Human capital development is essential for long-term national recovery and regional integration.

- **Peace mediation support**

Sustained diplomatic engagement and mediation mechanisms are required to support internal reconciliation processes and reduce conflict fragmentation. Structured dialogue platforms involving regional stakeholders can enhance stability.

- **Agricultural reform and rural development**

Agriculture remains the backbone of Afghanistan's economy. Modernization efforts should focus on irrigation systems, sustainable farming techniques, supply chain development, and food security enhancement.

- **Regional reintegration**

Afghanistan's long-term stability depends on its reintegration into regional trade, transit, and economic cooperation systems. This includes participation in cross-border infrastructure, energy corridors, and commercial connectivity frameworks.

## 4. Strategic Role of Saudi Arabia

The role of the **Saudi Arabia** is considered **indispensable** in the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan within this framework, based on three key dimensions:

- **Religious legitimacy**

As the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and a central authority in the Islamic world, Saudi Arabia provides essential moral and religious legitimacy that can support reconciliation efforts and strengthen trust among Afghan stakeholders.

- **Developmental leadership**

Through investment capacity, humanitarian assistance, and alignment with global development frameworks such as Saudi Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia can play a leading role in funding infrastructure rehabilitation, education systems, and economic recovery programs in Afghanistan.

- **Conflict mediation**

Saudi Arabia is uniquely positioned to facilitate dialogue between regional actors, supporting de-escalation, negotiation, and long-term peace-building initiatives through its diplomatic influence and neutrality in many regional disputes.

## 5. Long-Term Strategic Outlook

If integrated effectively into the proposed regional architecture, Afghanistan can transition from a **fragile state context to a stabilized connectivity hub** linking Central Asia and South Asia. This transformation requires sustained multilateral cooperation, phased reconstruction planning, and continuous humanitarian engagement.

Within this vision, Afghanistan is not only a challenge to be managed but a **strategic opportunity for regional stability, Islamic solidarity, and long-term economic integration**.



# DEFENSE ARCHITECTURE



DETERRENCE



PREPAREDNESS



TECHNOLOGY



INTELLIGENCE



INTEROPERABILITY



RESILIENCE



PARTNERSHIP

## CHAPTER 10- Saudi–South Asia Islamic Defense Compact (SSIDC)

The **Saudi–South Asia Islamic Defense Compact (SSIDC)** is proposed as a **permanent, structured defense coordination mechanism** linking the **Saudi Arabia** with key South Asian Islamic states, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

The compact is designed not as a supranational military authority, but as a **strategic coordination framework** to enhance collective security, interoperability, and crisis response readiness across the region.

### Core Elements

- **Unified threat assessments**  
The SSIDC establishes a shared analytical platform for evaluating regional and transnational threats, including terrorism, maritime insecurity, cyber risks, and cross-border instability. This enables early warning capabilities and more coordinated preventive responses.
- **Joint naval doctrine**  
A cooperative maritime security framework focused on protecting critical sea lanes in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. This includes harmonized naval procedures, anti-piracy coordination, and improved maritime surveillance collaboration.
- **Shared cyber command coordination**  
Development of a collaborative cyber security structure to enhance resilience against digital threats, protect critical infrastructure, and improve regional coordination on cyber defense standards and incident response protocols.
- **Counterterrorism fusion center**  
A centralized intelligence coordination mechanism designed to facilitate secure information sharing, threat analysis, and operational coordination among member states in counterterrorism efforts, while respecting national sovereignty and legal frameworks.

### Strategic Objective

The SSIDC aims to strengthen regional stability by improving **interoperability, trust, and rapid coordination** among participating states. It reinforces Saudi Arabia's role as a central stabilizing partner while enabling South Asian Islamic countries to collectively address evolving security challenges in a structured and cooperative manner.

## CHAPTER 11- Maritime Security & Indo-Pacific Stability

The **Maritime Security & Indo-Pacific Stability Framework** establishes a coordinated approach to safeguarding the strategic waters connecting the **Indian Ocean** and the **Arabian Sea**, which are vital to global trade, energy flows, and regional stability. This initiative involves structured cooperation between **Saudi Arabia** and key South Asian partners, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan** through indirect regional connectivity mechanisms.

### Indian Ocean–Arabian Sea Belt

This maritime corridor is recognized as a **critical geopolitical and economic lifeline**, linking energy suppliers, trade routes, and strategic chokepoints. Ensuring its stability is essential for both regional prosperity and global supply chain security.

### Core Components

- **Joint patrols**

Coordinated maritime patrol operations enhance the ability of participating states to monitor key sea lanes, deter illegal activities, and improve rapid response capabilities across shared waters.

- **Anti-piracy operations**

A unified approach to combating piracy and maritime crime strengthens protection for commercial shipping routes and ensures safer navigation across high-risk maritime zones.

- **Maritime domain awareness**

Development of a shared information network enables real-time tracking, surveillance, and situational awareness of maritime activities, improving coordination among naval and coast guard forces.

- **Satellite integration**

Use of satellite-based monitoring systems enhances detection, communication, and coordination capabilities, providing advanced technological support for maritime security operations.

### Strategic Objective

This framework aims to create a **stable, secure, and technologically integrated maritime environment** that supports international trade, energy security, and regional cooperation, while reinforcing the strategic partnership between Saudi Arabia and South Asian Islamic states.

## CHAPTER 12- Counterterrorism & Radicalization Prevention

The **Counterterrorism & Radicalization Prevention Framework** establishes a coordinated, intelligence-driven mechanism to strengthen regional security cooperation between **Saudi Arabia** and South Asian Islamic partners, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

This framework is designed to enhance prevention, detection, and disruption of extremist threats while respecting national sovereignty and legal systems.

### Fusion Center Components

- **Digital surveillance**  
A coordinated system for monitoring digital environments to identify early indicators of extremist communication, recruitment patterns, and online radicalization activities, using lawful and regulated processes.
- **Regional threat databases**  
A secure, integrated repository for storing and exchanging verified security-related data, supporting cross-border collaboration and improving accuracy in threat identification.
- **Intelligence processing**  
Structured analysis of shared intelligence inputs to produce actionable threat assessments, enabling timely decision-making and coordinated responses among participating states.
- **Cyber monitoring of terrorist networks**  
Continuous observation of online extremist networks to track evolving tactics, disrupt communication channels, and support preventive countermeasures through cyber security cooperation.

### Strategic Objective

The primary objective of this framework is to build a **proactive and coordinated regional security environment** that reduces the risk of extremism, enhances intelligence collaboration, and strengthens long-term stability across South Asia and the broader Islamic world in partnership with Saudi Arabia.

## CHAPTER 13- Defense Industrial Cooperation

The **Defense Industrial Cooperation Framework** proposes a structured model for collaborative defense technology development between **Saudi Arabia** and participating South Asian Islamic states, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**. This initiative focuses on strengthening indigenous capabilities, enhancing technological self-reliance, and promoting long-term industrial cooperation in defense innovation.

### Co-development Sectors

- **Drones / UAVs**

Joint research and development of unmanned aerial systems for surveillance, reconnaissance, border monitoring, and disaster response applications, improving operational efficiency and situational awareness.

- **Armored vehicles**

Collaborative production and modernization of land mobility systems designed for varied terrain conditions, emphasizing protection, adaptability, and cost-efficient manufacturing.

- **Anti-drone systems**

Creation of detection and neutralization technologies to counter unauthorized drone activity, ensuring protection of sensitive military, civilian, and strategic installations.

- **Smart surveillance towers**

Deployment of advanced monitoring infrastructure integrating sensors, AI-based analytics, and real-time communication systems for enhanced border and coastal security.

- **Cybersecurity systems**

Development of secure digital defense frameworks to protect critical infrastructure, government networks, and communication systems from cyber threats and intrusions.

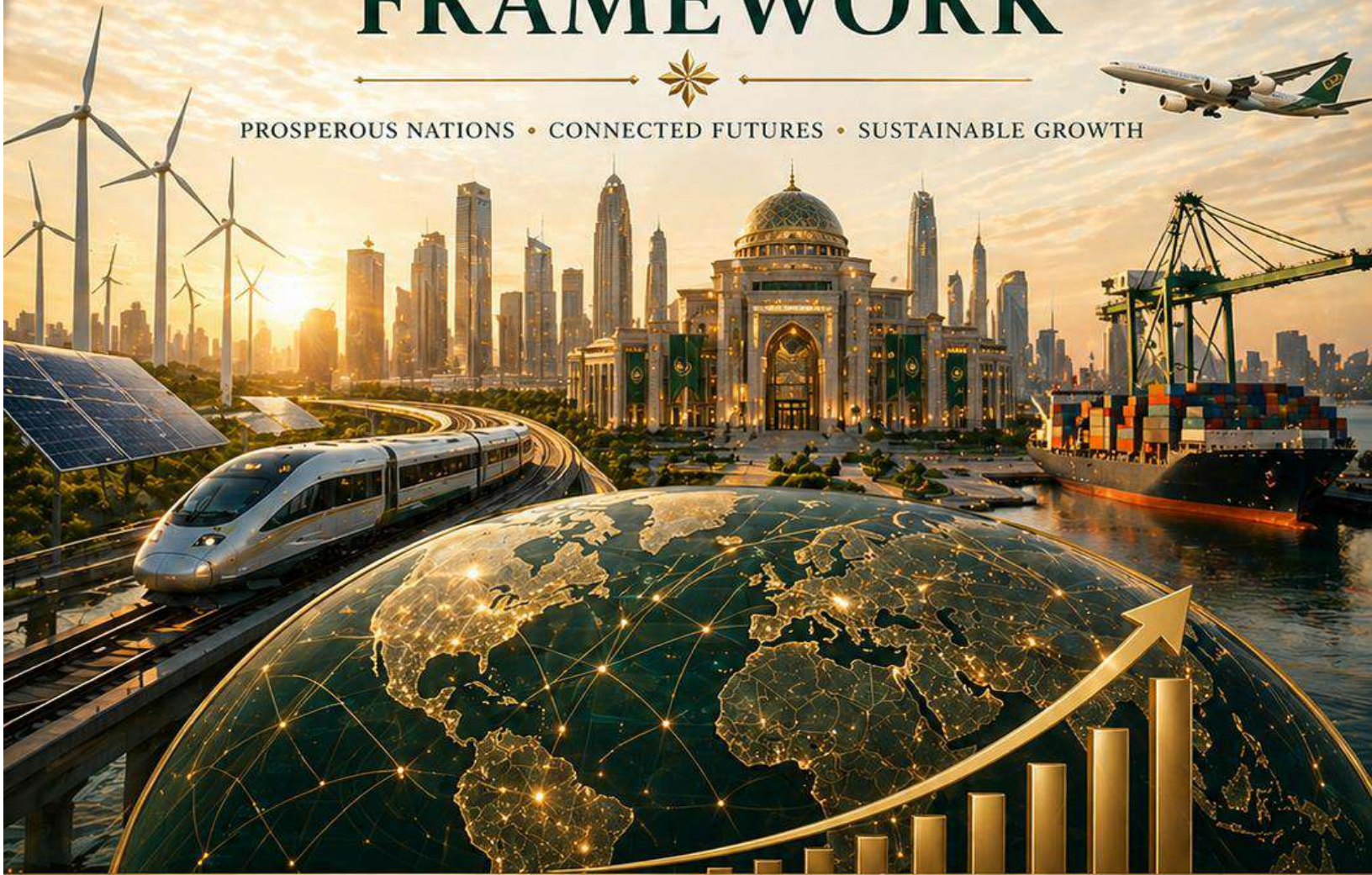
### Strategic Objective

This framework aims to establish a **sustainable defense industrial ecosystem** that promotes technology transfer, joint innovation, and capacity building, while strengthening strategic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and South Asian Islamic states in line with long-term regional security priorities.



# ECONOMIC & VISION 2030 FRAMEWORK

PROSPEROUS NATIONS • CONNECTED FUTURES • SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



SUSTAINABLE  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



INNOVATION &  
TECHNOLOGY



TRADE &  
INVESTMENT



HUMAN CAPITAL  
DEVELOPMENT



GREEN & INCLUSIVE  
DEVELOPMENT



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP  
& COOPERATION

## CHAPTER 14- Saudi–South Asia Economic Transformation Corridor (SSASEC)

The **Saudi–South Asia Economic Transformation Corridor (SSASEC)** is a long-term integrated development initiative designed to enhance economic connectivity between **Saudi Arabia** and key South Asian Islamic partners, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

The corridor aims to transform regional economic geography through integrated infrastructure, digital connectivity, and investment-driven development aligned with long-term strategic goals such as Saudi Vision 2030.

### Mega Projects Across Core Sectors

- **Roads & bridges**

Development of transnational and regional transport infrastructure to improve land connectivity, reduce logistics costs, and enhance trade efficiency across South Asia and its linkage to Gulf trade routes.

- **Ports & logistics**

Modernization and expansion of seaports, dry ports, and logistics hubs to create an efficient maritime and trade network, strengthening import-export capacity and regional supply chain integration.

- **Smart cities**

Planning and development of digitally enabled urban centers incorporating smart governance systems, sustainable energy use, advanced transport systems, and integrated public services.

- **Digital commerce**

Expansion of cross-border digital trade platforms, fintech ecosystems, and e-commerce infrastructure to support economic diversification, SME growth, and financial inclusion across the region.

### Strategic Objective

SSASEC is designed to serve as a **transformational economic backbone**, linking South Asia with the Arabian Peninsula through infrastructure-led growth, technology integration, and coordinated investment strategies that strengthen long-term regional prosperity and economic resilience.

## CHAPTER 15- Saudi Investment Roadmap Per Country

This chapter outlines a targeted investment framework designed to align Saudi Arabia's long-term development capital and strategic investment capacity with the priority sectors of key South Asian Islamic partners, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan.**

The roadmap emphasizes sustainable, sector-specific investment designed to enhance infrastructure, economic productivity, and long-term regional integration.

### Bangladesh

- **Renewable energy**

Investment in solar, wind, and hybrid energy systems to support growing industrial demand and reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports.

- **Textile modernization**

Upgrading the garment and textile industry through automation, digital production systems, and sustainable manufacturing technologies.

- **Ports**

Development and modernization of deep-sea ports and logistics infrastructure to strengthen maritime trade connectivity and regional supply chains.

### Pakistan

- **Mining**

Strategic development of mineral resources through exploration, extraction technology transfer, and value-added processing industries.

- **Energy infrastructure**

Investment in power generation, transmission systems, and energy diversification including renewable and LNG-based solutions.

- **Rail networks**

Expansion and modernization of national rail infrastructure to improve freight efficiency, regional connectivity, and industrial logistics.

### Maldives

- **Tourism ecosystems**

Development of integrated tourism zones, luxury hospitality infrastructure, and eco-tourism projects aligned with sustainable development principles.

- **Coastal resilience**

Investment in climate adaptation infrastructure, including sea defenses, environmental protection systems, and sustainable urban planning.

## Afghanistan

- **Roads**

Reconstruction and expansion of national road networks to improve internal connectivity and regional trade access.

- **Agriculture**

Modernization of agricultural systems through irrigation development, mechanization, and sustainable farming practices.

- **Housing**

Development of affordable and resilient housing infrastructure to support population stability and post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

## Strategic Objective

This roadmap establishes a **structured investment alignment model** that enables Saudi Arabia to act as a long-term development partner, supporting economic transformation, infrastructure modernization, and regional stability across South Asia.

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## CHAPTER 16- Vision 2030 Human Capital Integration

The **Vision 2030 Human Capital Integration Framework** establishes a structured approach to aligning workforce development across South Asia with the long-term economic transformation goals of **Saudi Arabia**, in cooperation with partner states including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

This framework focuses on building a sustainable, skilled, and ethically managed labor ecosystem that supports economic diversification and long-term regional integration under initiatives aligned with Saudi Vision 2030.

### Initiatives

- **1 million skilled workers**

Development of a structured pipeline to prepare and deploy up to one million skilled professionals across priority sectors such as construction, healthcare, IT, logistics, and renewable energy, supporting both Saudi labor market needs and South Asian employment generation.

- **Ethical recruitment systems**

Implementation of transparent, rights-based recruitment frameworks to ensure fair wages, legal protection, skills recognition, and safe working conditions for migrant workers across all participating states.

- **Technical training centers**

Establishment of joint vocational and technical training institutions to enhance skill development in engineering, digital technologies, industrial trades, and service sectors, ensuring workforce readiness for modern economic demands.

### Strategic Objective

This initiative aims to create a **highly skilled, ethically protected, and regionally integrated labor ecosystem**, strengthening economic ties between Saudi Arabia and South Asia while enhancing productivity, employment opportunities, and long-term human capital development.

## CHAPTER 17- Halal Economy Expansion

The **Halal Economy Expansion Framework** establishes a coordinated initiative led by **Saudi Arabia** to develop a unified, trusted, and internationally recognized halal economic ecosystem across participating South Asian Islamic states, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

This initiative is designed to strengthen global halal standards, improve trade interoperability, and enhance the competitiveness of Islamic economies in international markets, in alignment with broader diversification goals under frameworks such as Saudi Vision 2030.

### Core Focus

- **Saudi-led unified halal certification**

Establishment of a centralized and mutually recognized halal certification system under Saudi leadership to ensure consistency, credibility, and global acceptance of halal products across food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, logistics, and financial services.

### Strategic Objective

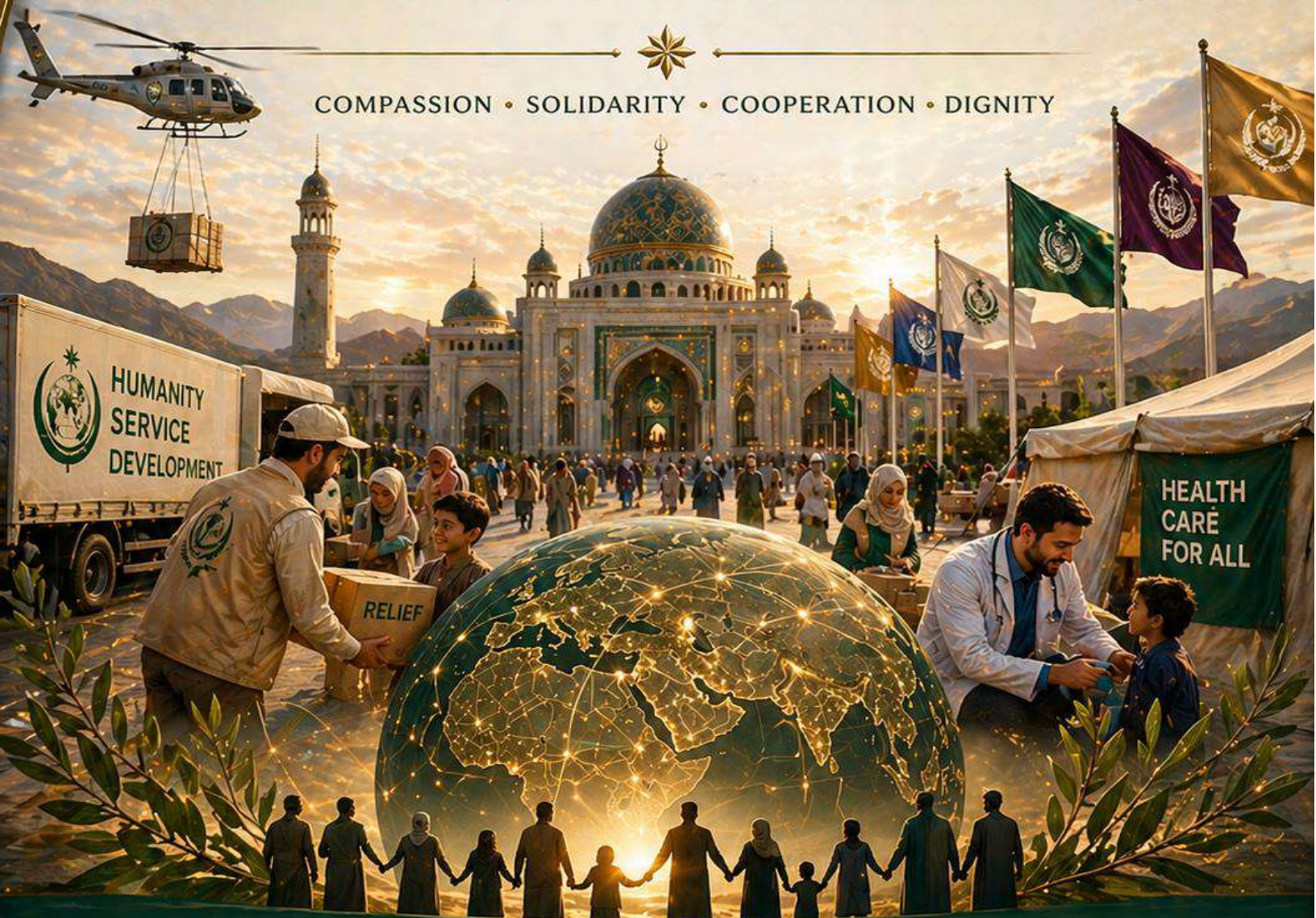
This framework aims to create a **globally trusted halal economic network** that enhances export potential, strengthens trade relations, and reinforces Saudi Arabia's leadership in setting international halal standards while supporting economic growth across South Asia.

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# HUMANITARIAN & ISLAMIC COOPERATION

COMPASSION • SOLIDARITY • COOPERATION • DIGNITY



HUMANITARIAN  
RELIEF



EDUCATION  
FOR ALL



HEALTH  
& WELLBEING



FOOD SECURITY  
& NUTRITION



WATER  
& SANITATION



PEACE  
& SOLIDARITY



ISLAMIC UNITY  
& COOPERATION

## CHAPTER 18- Rohingya Crisis Resolution Framework

The **Rohingya Crisis Resolution Framework** proposes a coordinated humanitarian and diplomatic mechanism involving **Saudi Arabia** and South Asian partner states, particularly **Bangladesh**, alongside regional stakeholders. The framework aims to address both the immediate humanitarian needs and the long-term pathway toward safe, dignified, and voluntary repatriation.

### Saudi Strategic Role in the Framework

- **Funding**

Mobilization of sustained financial support for humanitarian operations, including refugee camps, healthcare services, food security programs, and infrastructure development in host communities, ensuring long-term stability and dignity for displaced populations.

- **Education**

Support for structured educational programs for Rohingya children and youth, including primary education, vocational training, and digital learning initiatives, aimed at reducing generational vulnerability and preparing for future reintegration.

- **Livelihood programs**

Development of income-generating initiatives such as skills training, small enterprise support, and community-based economic programs to enhance self-reliance and reduce dependency on aid within refugee settlements.

- **Diplomatic pressure for repatriation**

Utilization of Saudi Arabia's diplomatic influence to encourage constructive dialogue among relevant parties, supporting internationally recognized frameworks for safe, voluntary, and dignified repatriation in coordination with regional and global stakeholders.

### Strategic Objective

This framework seeks to transform the Rohingya crisis response from a prolonged emergency situation into a **structured humanitarian and diplomatic process**, combining relief, development, and international engagement to achieve sustainable resolution and regional stability.

## CHAPTER 19- Afghanistan Reconstruction Framework

The **Afghanistan Reconstruction Framework** outlines a coordinated long-term development approach supported by **Saudi Arabia**, in partnership with regional stakeholders, aimed at stabilizing and rebuilding **Afghanistan** through structured humanitarian, economic, and infrastructure interventions.

This framework is designed to complement broader regional cooperation efforts involving **Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Maldives**.

### Saudi Role in Key Development Areas

- **Madrasa reform**

Support for balanced educational modernization that integrates religious education with science, technology, and vocational training, ensuring improved skills development and long-term employability.

- **Agricultural revival**

Investment in irrigation systems, modern farming techniques, and rural development programs to restore agricultural productivity and strengthen food security across rural regions.

- **Microfinance for widows**

Implementation of targeted microfinance initiatives to empower vulnerable women, particularly widows, through small business support, skills training, and sustainable income generation opportunities.

- **Roads & railways**

Contribution to rebuilding critical transport infrastructure, including road networks and potential rail connectivity projects, to enhance internal mobility and regional trade integration.

### Strategic Objective

The framework aims to support Afghanistan's transition toward **long-term stability and economic recovery**, while reinforcing regional connectivity and enabling sustainable development through coordinated international partnership and Saudi-led developmental engagement.

## CHAPTER 20- Red Crescent & Disaster Response Integration

The **Red Crescent & Disaster Response Integration Framework** establishes a coordinated regional emergency response mechanism designed to enhance preparedness, rapid action, and humanitarian coordination among **Saudi Arabia** and South Asian partner states, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

This framework strengthens existing humanitarian institutions and aligns disaster response capabilities under a more synchronized and efficient operational structure.

### Core Mechanism

- **Joint rapid deployment teams**

Formation of multinational emergency response units capable of immediate deployment during natural disasters, humanitarian crises, or large-scale emergencies. These teams integrate medical assistance, rescue operations, logistics support, and relief distribution to ensure timely and coordinated action.

### Strategic Objective

The primary objective of this framework is to create a **highly responsive and unified disaster management system** that reduces response time, improves coordination among participating nations, and enhances the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance across the South Asian and Gulf-linked regions.



# DIGITAL, MARITIME & ENERGY CORRIDORS



CONNECTING  
NATIONS



POWERING  
PROSPERITY



ENABLING  
INNOVATION



SECURING  
THE FUTURE



DIGITAL CORRIDORS  
CONNECTING IDEAS,  
DATA & INNOVATION



MARITIME CORRIDORS  
SECURING TRADE ROUTES,  
PORTS & BLUE ECONOMY



ENERGY CORRIDORS  
DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE,  
RELIABLE & CLEAN ENERGY



STRATEGIC CONNECTIVITY  
INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE  
FOR SHARED GROWTH



TOGETHER FOR A  
PROSPEROUS FUTURE



## CHAPTER 21- Islamic Digital Silk Road

The **Islamic Digital Silk Road** is a proposed trans-regional digital transformation initiative designed to connect **Saudi Arabia** with South Asian Islamic economies, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**, through a unified digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystem.

The initiative aims to accelerate digital sovereignty, economic diversification, and technological collaboration across the Islamic world.

### Core Components

- **AI (Artificial Intelligence)**

Development of shared AI research and application ecosystems focused on governance, healthcare, education, logistics, and smart city management to improve efficiency and decision-making across participating states.

- **Fintech systems**

Expansion of Islamic-compliant financial technologies, including digital payments, cross-border remittance systems, and Shariah-aligned financial platforms to enhance financial inclusion and economic connectivity.

- **Data centers**

Establishment of secure regional data infrastructure to support cloud computing, digital government services, and cross-border digital trade while ensuring data sovereignty and resilience.

- **Cybersecurity frameworks**

Creation of coordinated cybersecurity mechanisms to protect critical infrastructure, financial systems, and government networks from evolving digital threats, ensuring trust and stability in the regional digital economy.

### Strategic Objective

The Islamic Digital Silk Road aims to build a **secure, integrated, and innovation-driven digital ecosystem** that strengthens economic competitiveness, enhances technological independence, and positions the participating Islamic states as key players in the global digital economy.

## CHAPTER 22- Maritime Belt Initiative

The **Maritime Belt Initiative** is a strategic connectivity and security framework designed to strengthen cooperation between **Saudi Arabia** and South Asian maritime and coastal states, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives**, and indirectly **Afghanistan** through regional trade corridors.

The initiative focuses on integrating maritime trade efficiency with coordinated security architecture across the Indian Ocean–Arabian Sea axis.

### Core Pillars

- **Trade integration**

Enhancement of maritime trade routes through streamlined customs coordination, improved shipping logistics, and reduced transit barriers to facilitate smoother regional and global commerce flows.

- **Port development**

Modernization and expansion of strategic ports with upgraded infrastructure, digital port management systems, and enhanced cargo handling capacity to support increased regional trade and economic growth.

- **Naval security cooperation**

Strengthening coordinated maritime security efforts to protect sea lanes, ensure safe navigation, and respond to shared challenges such as piracy, smuggling, and maritime instability.

### Strategic Objective

The Maritime Belt Initiative aims to establish a **secure and efficient maritime corridor system** that enhances trade connectivity, strengthens regional security cooperation, and supports long-term economic integration between South Asia and the Arabian Peninsula under a unified strategic framework.

## CHAPTER 23- Green Energy Bridge

The **Green Energy Bridge** is a strategic energy transition initiative designed to strengthen cooperation between **Saudi Arabia** and South Asian Islamic partners, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**, through large-scale renewable energy collaboration and cross-regional energy connectivity.

The initiative aligns with global sustainability goals and supports long-term economic diversification strategies such as Saudi Vision 2030.

### Core Components

- **Solar mega-projects**

Development of large-scale solar farms and distributed solar energy systems to expand clean electricity generation, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, and improve energy access across rural and urban regions.

- **Hydrogen energy development**

Investment in green hydrogen production, storage, and export infrastructure to position participating countries within the emerging global hydrogen economy and support long-term industrial decarbonization.

- **Wind energy expansion**

Deployment of onshore and offshore wind energy projects to diversify renewable energy portfolios, strengthen grid stability, and enhance sustainable power generation capacity.

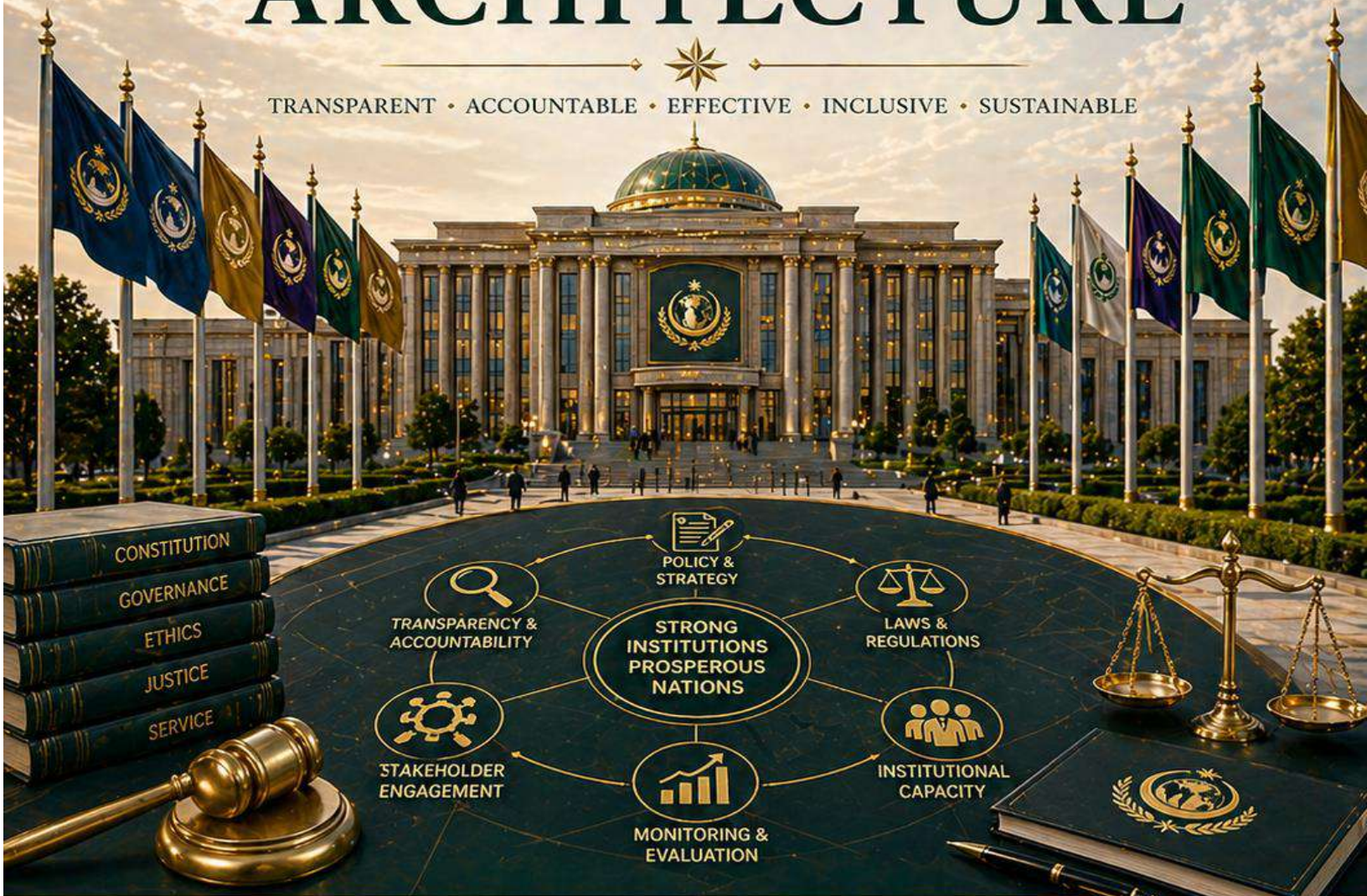
### Strategic Objective

The Green Energy Bridge aims to create a **trans-regional renewable energy network** that enhances energy security, promotes environmental sustainability, and fosters long-term economic cooperation between Saudi Arabia and South Asian Islamic states through shared green infrastructure development.



# GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

TRANSPARENT • ACCOUNTABLE • EFFECTIVE • INCLUSIVE • SUSTAINABLE



  
EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

  
RULE OF LAW

  
INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

  
INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

  
PERFORMANCE & RESULTS

  
GLOBAL STANDARDS LOCAL IMPACT

## CHAPTER 24- Governance Structure of the Four-State Alliance

The governance architecture of the proposed Four-State Alliance establishes a **light, coordination-based institutional framework** designed to support cooperation among **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**, in structured partnership with **Saudi Arabia**.

The structure is intentionally non-sovereign and consultative, focusing on coordination, alignment, and strategic facilitation rather than executive authority.

### Offices

- **High President's Office**

Serves as the central coordinating and symbolic leadership unit, responsible for diplomatic representation, summit facilitation, and overall strategic coherence among member states.

- **Economic Council**

Focuses on investment coordination, trade facilitation, infrastructure planning, and alignment of economic development initiatives, including long-term integration with major development frameworks such as Saudi Vision 2030.

- **Digital Bureau**

Leads digital transformation initiatives, including cybersecurity coordination, digital infrastructure integration, fintech development, and cross-border technology cooperation.

- **Security Council**

Coordinates regional security dialogue, defense cooperation frameworks, maritime safety discussions, and counterterrorism alignment while respecting full national sovereignty.

- **Humanitarian Council**

Oversees joint humanitarian responses, refugee support coordination, disaster relief mechanisms, and long-term recovery strategies for crisis-affected populations.

### Strategic Objective

This governance structure aims to ensure **efficient coordination without centralizing power**, enabling flexible yet structured collaboration that strengthens regional stability, economic growth, and technological advancement across the South Asian Islamic alliance.

## CHAPTER 25- Saudi–South Asia Joint Steering Committee

The **Saudi–South Asia Joint Steering Committee** is proposed as a **permanent, Riyadh-based coordination platform** established to ensure continuous strategic alignment between **Saudi Arabia** and the South Asian Islamic partner states, including **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

The committee functions as the operational backbone of the broader cooperation framework, ensuring that agreed strategies are translated into coordinated implementation and measurable outcomes.

### Core Functions

- **Permanent Riyadh-based coordination**

Establishment of a continuous coordination hub in Riyadh to facilitate real-time diplomatic engagement, policy alignment, and implementation monitoring between Saudi institutions and South Asian counterparts.

### Supporting Roles

The committee also serves as a practical execution interface for key areas including:

- Monitoring progress of joint economic and infrastructure initiatives
- Aligning security and defense cooperation discussions
- Supporting humanitarian and development coordination
- Facilitating technical working groups across sectors such as energy, digital transformation, and trade

### Strategic Objective

The primary objective of the Joint Steering Committee is to ensure **consistency, continuity, and accountability** in Saudi–South Asia cooperation, transforming high-level agreements into sustained, structured, and results-oriented collaboration under a unified strategic framework.



# TEN-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



## CHAPTER 26- Implementation Roadmap (0–10 Years)

The **Implementation Roadmap** outlines a phased, decade-long progression for operationalizing the proposed cooperation framework between **Saudi Arabia** and the South Asian Islamic partner states: **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

Each phase is designed to build progressively from diplomatic coordination to full institutional maturity, ensuring stability, feasibility, and long-term sustainability aligned with strategic development frameworks such as Saudi Vision 2030.

### Phase 1- Diplomatic Launch (Years 0–2)

This initial phase focuses on formalizing the political and diplomatic foundation of the framework.

- I. Establishment of the High Presidency coordination mechanism
- II. Initial bilateral and multilateral agreements between participating states
- III. Launch of the Saudi–South Asia Joint Steering Committee in Riyadh
- IV. First consultative summit and adoption of a shared strategic charter
- V. Formation of working groups on security, economy, and humanitarian affairs

Objective: Build trust, formal recognition, and institutional entry points for structured cooperation.

### Phase 2- Defense Alignment (Years 2–4)

This phase prioritizes security cooperation and stability-building measures.

- I. Activation of joint security dialogue platforms
- II. Establishment of counterterrorism coordination mechanisms
- III. Maritime security cooperation frameworks in the Indian Ocean–Arabian Sea region
- IV. Cybersecurity collaboration and intelligence-sharing protocols
- V. Initial joint training and capacity-building programs

Objective: Strengthen regional stability and create a coordinated security environment.

### Phase 3- Economic Corridors (Years 3–7)

This phase focuses on large-scale economic integration and infrastructure development.

- I. Development of Saudi–South Asia trade and logistics corridors
- II. Expansion of port, rail, and road connectivity projects
- III. Investment mobilization through sovereign and institutional funds
- IV. Establishment of industrial zones and smart city initiatives
- V. Integration of digital trade and fintech ecosystems

Objective: Build a connected and investment-driven regional economy.

### Phase 4- Humanitarian Integration (Years 5–8)

This phase institutionalizes coordinated humanitarian and social development mechanisms.

- I. Structured Rohingya and Afghan humanitarian coordination programs
- II. Regional disaster response and rapid deployment systems
- III. Education, healthcare, and livelihood support initiatives
- IV. Expansion of microfinance and social protection frameworks
- V. Climate resilience and environmental adaptation projects

Objective: Create a unified humanitarian response architecture across the region.

### Phase 5- Institutional Maturity (Years 7–10)

The final phase consolidates governance, sustainability, and global positioning.

- I. Full operationalization of all councils and bureaus
- II. Long-term funding and investment stability mechanisms
- III. Permanent annual summit system across member states
- IV. Strengthened global representation in Islamic and international forums
- V. Transition into a fully mature, coordination-based regional alliance

Objective: Establish a stable, self-sustaining, and globally recognized cooperation framework.

### Strategic Objective

The roadmap ensures a gradual, structured, and realistic transformation from diplomatic intent to institutional reality, enabling the emergence of a resilient South Asia–Gulf cooperation architecture centered on shared development, security, and humanitarian priorities.



# OUTCOMES, APPEAL & CONCLUSION

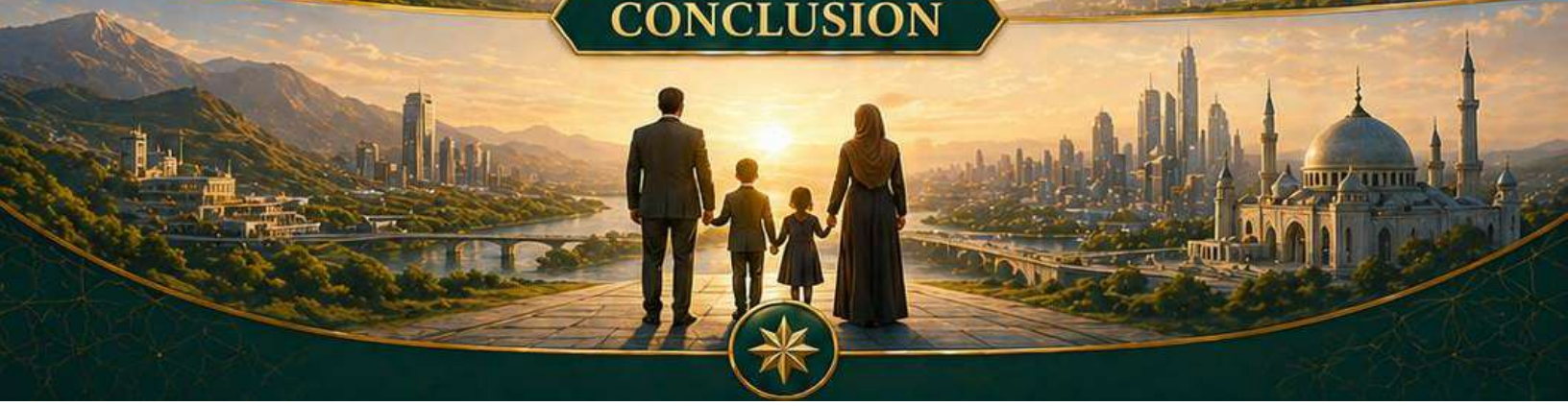
## OUTCOMES



## APPEAL



## CONCLUSION



## CHAPTER 27- Outcomes for Saudi Arabia

The proposed cooperation framework generates significant long-term strategic outcomes for **Saudi Arabia**, reinforcing its position as a central actor in Islamic world leadership, regional stability, and global economic integration in partnership with **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**.

- **Expanded global Islamic leadership**

Saudi Arabia strengthens its role as a unifying reference point for the Islamic world through structured diplomatic coordination, enhanced multilateral engagement, and leadership in shaping collective Islamic development agendas.

- **New investment frontiers**

The framework opens diversified economic opportunities across South Asia, including infrastructure, energy, digital transformation, and human capital sectors, expanding Saudi investment reach beyond traditional markets in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030.

- **Maritime dominance**

Through coordinated maritime cooperation and security initiatives, Saudi Arabia enhances its strategic influence over key Indian Ocean–Arabian Sea trade routes, strengthening trade security and regional stability.

- **Counterterrorism influence**

Saudi Arabia expands its role in regional and global counterterrorism efforts through intelligence cooperation, strategic coordination mechanisms, and shared security frameworks that improve long-term regional stability.

### Strategic Outcome

Overall, the framework positions Saudi Arabia as a **central strategic hub connecting economic development, security cooperation, and Islamic leadership**, reinforcing its global influence through structured and sustainable regional partnerships.

## CHAPTER 28- Outcomes for South Asian Islamic States

The proposed cooperation framework delivers significant long-term structural benefits for **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**, through deeper integration with **Saudi Arabia** in areas of development, security, and humanitarian cooperation.

- **Stability**

Strengthened regional coordination reduces internal fragmentation, improves security collaboration, and enhances institutional resilience, contributing to more predictable governance environments and reduced conflict risks across participating states.

- **GDP growth**

Expanded investment flows, infrastructure development, and trade corridor integration support sustained economic growth, industrial modernization, and improved access to global markets, particularly through alignment with long-term development frameworks such as Saudi Vision 2030.

- **Humanitarian uplift**

Coordinated humanitarian programs improve access to education, healthcare, disaster response, and social protection systems, particularly for vulnerable populations affected by displacement, poverty, and climate-related challenges.

- **Regional unity**

The framework strengthens political and institutional cooperation among South Asian Islamic states, fostering greater trust, policy alignment, and shared identity within a structured regional partnership system.

### Strategic Outcome

Collectively, these outcomes position South Asian Islamic states on a trajectory toward **greater stability, economic resilience, and regional cohesion**, supported by structured engagement with Saudi Arabia as a key strategic and developmental partner.

## CHAPTER 29- Closing Appeal to His Royal Highness

Your Royal Highness,

This proposal is respectfully submitted with profound deference and a sincere commitment to the shared aspiration of a more **stable, interconnected, and prosperous Islamic world**, guided by principled and forward-looking leadership from the **Saudi Arabia**.

It reflects a strategic vision that seeks to strengthen bridges between the Kingdom and key South Asian Islamic states **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan** through structured cooperation in diplomacy, security, economic development, and humanitarian engagement.

This initiative is not presented as a replacement of existing national or regional systems, but rather as a **complementary framework of coordination**, designed to enhance collective capacity, reduce fragmentation, and promote long-term stability across the broader Islamic world. It recognizes the Kingdom's unique position as a **central pillar of Islamic unity, economic transformation, and global diplomatic influence**.

Anchored in shared values and strategic interests, this proposal envisions a future where cooperation evolves beyond bilateral engagement into a **sustained multilateral partnership architecture**, capable of addressing the complex challenges of the 21st century while unlocking new opportunities for growth and development.

In this spirit, we respectfully appeal for your consideration and guidance, with the hope that this framework may contribute meaningfully to the Kingdom's continued leadership and to the broader vision of a unified and empowered Islamic civilization.

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## CHAPTER 30- Final Blessings

May Allah سبحانه وتعالى bless **Your Royal Highness**, granting continued wisdom, steadfast strength, and clarity of vision in all endeavors undertaken for the benefit of the Islamic world and humanity at large.

May your leadership remain a source of stability, progress, and inspiration for generations to come, and may it continue to guide the **Saudi Arabia** in its role as a center of faith, unity, and global responsibility.

We pray for enduring success in advancing peace, prosperity, and cooperation among the nations of **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Maldives, and Afghanistan**, strengthening bonds that elevate the collective future of the Ummah.

May this vision contribute to a legacy of constructive diplomacy, sustainable development, and humanitarian excellence, leaving a lasting impact on future generations across the Islamic world and beyond.

Ameen.

Yours Truly,



**Prof. Dr. Mahmudul Hasan**

**Professor | Adviser | Diplomatic Consultant**

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