



CONFERENCE STATEMENT

Cross-LoC Civil Society Dialogue, Jammu

16th December 2012

The cross-LoC Civil Society dialogue ended on 16th December 2012 in Jammu. There were three days of intense deliberations in which 60 people participated from both sides of the LoC. At the concluding session the conference adopted the following statement.

1. We welcome the forward movement seen in the ongoing India-Pakistan dialogue.
2. The political resolution of the Kashmir issue remains central to this process, and should be addressed in a time-bound manner.
3. We also welcome the liberalised visa regime between the two countries and urge it should be extended to the state subjects of Jammu and Kashmir.
4. There are three principal stakeholders of the process: India, Pakistan and the peoples of Jammu-Kashmir on both sides of the LoC.
5. The divergence in political opinion in Jammu and Kashmir can be overcome through consensus-building, and this should be encouraged and made a priority.
6. Rehabilitation of all displaced people, with special focus on those who were forced to move after 1989, should be dealt with urgently.
7. We also urge the governments to uphold the sanctity of human rights, civil liberties, and tolerance for political dissent and also to ensure speedy justice for victims of human rights violations.
8. Enhancement of movement of people, goods, and services across the LoC needs urgent attention.

Crossings at Skardu-Kargil, Turtuk-Khaplu and Jangar-Kotli and Jorian-Bimber and other traditional routes need to be opened.
9. Cultural exchange, through joint literary events, should be encouraged with special cross-LoC permit for artists, writers, students, and researchers. Visits to heritage sites should be allowed.
10. Facilitating exchange at LoC for books, magazines, and newspapers.



11. We urge the governments of India and Pakistan to lift the ban on television channels on either side of LoC as well as tele-communication channels should be restored.