

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(Office of the Spokesman)**

3/3

PRESS RELEASE

Declaration of Independence by Kosovo

Kosovo has a tragic history in the recent past when much of its population suffered and some had to seek refuge in the neighbouring countries. Pakistan had supported Kosovo's cause in the United Nations. We had also supported the recommendations of the Martti Ahtisaari initiative.

2. We understand and support the legitimate aspirations of the Kosovars and the need for peace in Kosovo and the region. Pakistan is watching the developments in Kosovo carefully. We have noted the recognition extended by a number of important countries to the declaration of independence by the Kosovo Parliament and the statement made by the OIC Secretary General expressing happiness over this development, and solidarity and support with the Kosovars. Our policy will be guided by these developments and the aspirations of the people of Kosovo. It remains our earnest desire that situation remains calm and peaceful in Kosovo and the region.

Islamabad

19 February 2008