

Pakistan's Participation in International Organizations

After independence, Pakistan joined several **regional and global organizations** to secure its defense, economy, and international standing. These alliances helped Pakistan form stronger relations with both **Western and Muslim countries**. Joining such organizations allowed Pakistan to receive military and financial assistance, while also contributing to peace and development in the region.

CENTO – Formerly the Baghdad Pact (1955)

In 1955, Pakistan joined the **Baghdad Pact**, which included Iraq, Iran, Turkey, and Britain. It was later renamed **CENTO** (Central Treaty Organization). The aim was to stop the **spread of communism** in the Middle East. Pakistan joined CENTO to receive **Western military aid** and protection during the Cold War. However, CENTO could not protect Pakistan during its wars with India, and it was **dissolved in 1979** after losing importance.

SEATO – South East Asia Treaty Organization (1954)

SEATO was formed in 1954 by the **United States and its allies** to stop the spread of communism in Asia. Pakistan joined to strengthen its defense and improve relations with Western countries. In return, it received **military and economic assistance**. However, SEATO failed to help Pakistan during the 1965 and 1971 wars, showing its limited effectiveness. The organization ended in **1977**.

RCD – Regional Co-operation for Development (1964)

The **RCD** was established in **1964** by Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey to promote **regional cooperation and self-reliance**. It encouraged trade, tourism, education, and infrastructure development among the three countries. The RCD aimed to strengthen Muslim unity and reduce dependence on big powers. It became inactive after 1979 but was later **revived as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)** in 1985.

OIC – Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (1969)

The **OIC** was created in **1969** after the burning of Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Pakistan played a leading role in forming this organization to promote unity among Muslim nations. The OIC focuses on **political, economic, and cultural cooperation** between Islamic states. Pakistan used the OIC platform to raise issues like **Kashmir** and to build solidarity among Muslim countries.

SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (1985)

The **SAARC** was founded in **1985** by South Asian countries including Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives. It aimed to improve **regional cooperation, trade, and social development**. Pakistan supports SAARC's goals of peace and poverty

reduction. However, political tensions, especially with India, have limited its success. Still, SAARC reflects Pakistan's commitment to regional peace and unity.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

The **NAM** was formed during the Cold War for countries that did not want to join either the **US** or **Soviet** blocs. Pakistan joined NAM to keep **independent foreign relations** and avoid being trapped in superpower politics. NAM allowed Pakistan to balance its ties with both the USA and USSR and promote world peace and cooperation.

Conclusion

Pakistan's participation in these international and regional organizations shows its active role in **global peace, cooperation, and development**. Through CENTO, SEATO, RCD, OIC, SAARC, and NAM, Pakistan worked to strengthen its defense, promote Muslim unity, and build friendly relations with neighboring and global powers.