



# LEX-FORA INTERNATIONAL

(Advocates & Solicitors)

(Maritime, Admiralty, Corporate & Tax Law Firm)

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Safe Skies and Seas! Pakistan's Strategic Move to Lead or Follow

*By: Advocate Muhammad Nawaz Mirza*

Satellite-based navigation has become the backbone of modern transportation, communication, and security. From commercial airlines ensuring safe flights to massive cargo ships navigating international trade routes, the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) plays a pivotal role in global stability. However, the alarming rise in signal interference is threatening these critical operations, prompting an urgent response from international regulatory bodies.

Historically, GNSS has been considered a highly reliable system, with minimal disruptions affecting global travel and commerce. However, in recent years, incidents of jamming and spoofing—where satellite signals are deliberately blocked or altered—have surged, causing major concerns for governments and industries alike. These disruptions not only endanger lives but also have severe economic and security ramifications.

Satellite navigation is critical for aviation, maritime transport, and emergency services. However, increasing cases of jamming and spoofing threaten safety, security, and efficiency. These disruptions can mislead aircraft and ships, delay emergency response, and disrupt telecommunication networks, potentially leading to disastrous accidents and global economic instability.

In a significant move to safeguard global navigation systems, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) issued a joint statement on 18 March 2025 urging member states to protect the Radio Navigation Satellite Service (RNSS) from harmful interference. This call to action comes amid growing concerns over jamming and spoofing activities that pose serious risks to aviation, maritime operations, and global telecommunication networks.

The joint statement highlights: **Incidents of harmful disruptions** affecting aviation and maritime operations, increasing risks of mid-air collisions, maritime disasters, and supply chain disruptions; the **Safety and Security Risks posed by** Interferences threaten passenger flights, commercial shipping, and emergency response efforts, posing a direct risk to human lives; the **Economic Consequences** as a compromised navigation system can lead to financial losses in global trade, delays in cargo shipments, and increased costs for businesses reliant on precise logistical planning; an **Impact on National Security** as the countries could face heightened vulnerabilities as military and defense systems also rely on satellite navigation for strategic operations; and the **Global Cooperation** as an urgent need for governments to take action to protect RNSS signals from harmful interference before it leads to irreversible consequences.

The three organizations urge nations to: Strengthen protections against RNSS interference to prevent catastrophic failures, improve system resilience with backup navigation methods to



**LEX-FORA INTERNATIONAL**  
(Advocates & Solicitors)  
(Maritime, Admiralty, Corporate & Tax Law Firm)

avoid global transportation breakdowns, and enhance collaboration between aviation, maritime, and regulatory authorities to combat emerging threats. They have also urged that the countries should report and monitor interference incidents to ensure swift responses and prevent potential disasters.

As technology advances, protecting satellite navigation is no longer an option but a necessity. This joint appeal warns that failure to act now could result in widespread transportation failures, economic crises, and loss of human lives. The time for global action is now!

Regarding the necessary measures, prescribing and enforcing regulations through national laws, alongside actively pursuing international treaties and sanctions for breaches of interference, is urgent. Pakistan should evaluate whether immediate national legislation is more feasible before adopting an international treaty or convention, or whether we should wait for further developments at the international level. It's time for Pakistan to decide—will we lead or follow?

*\* The writer is a maritime lawyer from Pakistan. He is the founder and Senior Partner of Lex-Fora International Advocates & Solicitors a law firm dealing in international maritime, aviation, admiralty, corporate and financial (Tax) matters. He can be accessed at [www.lexfora.net](http://www.lexfora.net).*

=====

Karachi Office: 402, Building 176  
2251622

-C, Al-Murtaza Commercial Lane-03, Phase-8, DHA Karachi Phone: +92(333)

Website: [www.lexfora.net](http://www.lexfora.net) Email: [lexforapk.int@gmail.com](mailto:lexforapk.int@gmail.com) & [nawaz\\_mirza@lexfora.net](mailto:nawaz_mirza@lexfora.net)