

Speech of Honourable Speaker National Assembly

Bismillah Irr Rehman Irr Raheem

Worthy President of the brotherly Republic of Turkey

His Excellency.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan!

Mr رچپ طيپ اردو-آن

Honourable Members of the Parliament!

It is my profound privilege to introduce to this House

— the most respected brother

— a trusted friend

— a visionary leader of the Muslim World,

— a statesman

— and the most popularly elected President of the brotherly Republic of Turkey

His Excellency

Mr رچپ طیب اردو-آن

Mr. President!

It is the unique distinction of Majlis-e-Shoora,

the Parliament that it will be benefitting from your wisdom and ideas, for the third time.

Today, Mr. President!

We – the Representatives of the people of Pakistan celebrate your presence amongst us for yet another historic reason:

Your convincing and over-arching victory, in the recent past, particularly, for the cause of democracy and rule of law in Turkey by mobilizing the will of people has been rightly recognized world-wide as a ray of hope.

- Credit goes to your inspiring leadership that the heroic people of Turkey --- especially the brave Speaker and the courageous

Members of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey --- rose in one voice to protect and preserve their constitution and democracy.

- While the people of Pakistan salute the courage and valour of the people of Turkey,

Majlis-e-Shoora Parliament also joins me in paying our combined accolades to your exemplary devotion and dedication to your people and Motherland.

Mr. President!

Pakistan and Turkey are inter-twined in eternal bonds of

- shared religion,
- history,
- culture,
- and common ancestry.

- As a matter of record, our people's relations are even older than the creation of our two modern states, which date back even much prior to the *Khilaafat* Movement of early twentieth century, when our forefathers rose in support of their Turkish brethren.

- Both our societies have nurtured the values of tolerance and harmony, and followed the same path of peace, as taught by our great religion Islam and reflected in the poetry of

Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Rumi

And

Allama Mohammad Iqbal.

Great leaders, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah built the states of Turkey and Pakistan on principles of democracy, equality and rule of law.

- Our people have courageously faced the common challenge of terrorism and rendered innumerable sacrifices for regional and global peace.
- The brave armed forces of Turkey and Pakistan have inflicted fatal blow to global terrorist networks like DAAISH and launched historic operations like Zarb-e-Azb.
- Both nations have always strongly advocated the cause of marginalised and oppressed people world-wide --- be it the Palestinians, the Turk Cypriots or the people of Occupied Kashmir.

In this regard, Mr. President!

Your bold stance on Kashmir has won millions of hearts as it helped in shaking the international conscience about inhuman situation imposed by India in Occupied Kashmir.

- I would like to say that only since January 2016, more than 1000 innocent people have been wounded and blinded with pellet guns, more than 130 have lost their lives, and rest of the millions are languishing under un-ending brutalities and prolonged curfew.
- In this period, India has violated ceasefire 230 times, killed 26 civilians on our side of the Line of Control and injured more than 108. Only few days ago, the unprovoked firing martyred seven brave Pakistani soldiers.

Excellency!

I have briefly narrated these figures of misery and anguish to acknowledge your principled stand on Kashmir. We are optimistic that through unwavering support like yours, millions of Kashmiris will get their right to self-determination in near future.

- We appreciate your vision for

“Alliance of Civilizations Initiative”

aimed at universal cooperation of religions, nations and cultures to address challenges of extremism.

- What is more, the manner in which Turkey has risen from the economic crisis of the late nineties to the present-day excellence under your democratic leadership, presents a unique role-model for all developing countries.

- The fact that Pakistan-Turkey Parliamentary Friendship Groups in our both Legislatures are the largest of all, reflects our mutual love for each other.

Mr. President!

The Majlis-e-Shoora Parliament that you will shortly be addressing represents will of the people of Pakistan dedicated to the preservation of democracy achieved by the un-remitting struggle of the people against oppression and tyranny.

- This House, therefore, eagerly awaits to benefit from the thoughts, ideas and experiences of a statesman of your calibre.

I thank you for your visit to Pakistan and welcome you to the Majlis-e-Shoora Parliament.

Pakistan - Turkey Friendship Zindabaad