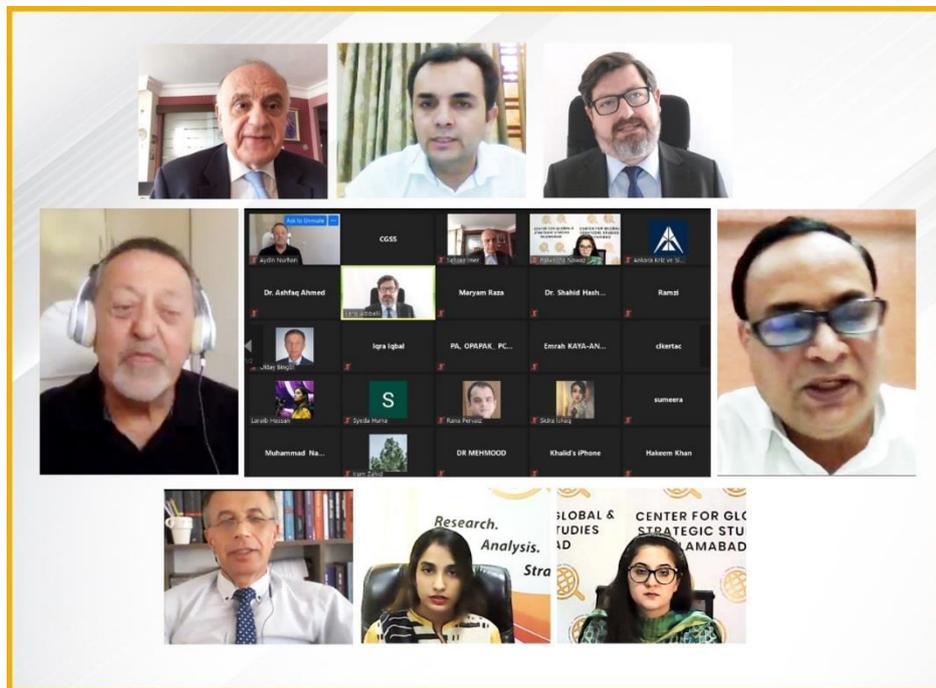




**Online International Conference Report**  
**“Greater Regional Connectivity: Prospects, Parameters  
and Role of Partner Countries”**



**Jointly Organized by**  
**Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) Islamabad, Pakistan**  
**&**  
**Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research (ANKASAM), Ankara,**  
**Turkey on**  
**28<sup>th</sup> June, 2021**

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## CONCEPT NOTE

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The idea of grand regional connectivity encapsulates broader paradigms, i.e., economic growth, people-to-people contacts, enhanced academic cooperation, and revival of cultural and humanitarian relations. It will pave the way for future collaborations, ensuring the security of cross-broader infrastructure and formulating effective policies for countering common threats. Thereby, it is a dire need to curtail the existing limitations and increase the sphere of cooperation in diverse fields. For enhanced cooperation between Central and South Asia, peace in Afghanistan is necessary. Therefore, the constructive role of partner countries is highly significant. In this aspect, Turkey has emerged as a major ally in resolving common issues and fostering peace-process in Afghanistan for enhanced economic cooperation.

### **Key-Takeaways**

- a. To profoundly discuss the requirements of greater regional integration between Central and South Asia in this transforming time.
- b. To analyze the parameters of future cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey.
- c. To highlight the role of regional allies, especially Turkey, in playing a leading role to enhance economic and diplomatic cooperation.
- d. To formulate robust strategies and an integrated framework to curtail the challenges and holistically work for regional stability and peace.



## **BRIEF OF THE CONFERENCE**

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On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 an Online International Conference on “Greater Regional Connectivity: Prospects, Parameters, and Role of Partner Countries” was jointly organized by the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, and Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research, ANKASAM, Ankara, Turkey.

The aim of the Conference was to discuss the requirements of the greater regional integration between Central and South Asia in this transforming world. Furthermore, it aimed to analyze the parameters of future cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey.

The Online Conference was moderated by Ms. Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad. The online conference was attended by 50 participants and subject experts from both Pakistan and Turkey.

## DETAILS OF SPEAKERS & TOPICS

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**Ambassador (Retd) Aydin Nurhan, Senior Advisor to the President of ANKASAM, Ankara, Turkey**

Ambassador (Retd) Aydin Nurhan was born in Turkey in 1949, and he is a graduate of the Law School of Ankara University. Prior to joining Foreign Service, he worked as a lawyer. He is the Senior Advisor to the President of ANKASAM, Turkey



**Topic:** “Intra-Regional Cooperation: Role of Turkey in Regional Development”.

**Dr Mehmood-Ul-Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, Centre for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan**

Dr. Mehmood-Ul-Hassan has vast experience in serving different departments of the Federal Government. He has also a rich experience in research, cultural diplomacy, peace and conflict resolution and defence issues. He is a famous expert on CIS and Caucasus in Pakistan.



**Topic:** “Uzbekistan-Pakistan’s Holistic Model of Greater Regional Connectivity”.

**Prof. Celalettin Sencer Imer, Senior advisor of ANKASAM & lecturer & Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at UFUK University, Ankara, Turkey**

Prof. Celalettin Sencer Imer is the Senior Advisor of ANKASAM. He is also working as lecturer and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at UFUK University, Ankara.



**Topic:** “Trade and Transport Connectivity for Sustainable Growth: Challenges and Opportunities”.

**Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of Politics & IR, University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Pakistan**

Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed is Assistant Professor, Dept. of Politics & International Relations (DPIR) at University of Sargodha. He holds Ph.D. Degree in Strategic & Nuclear Studies from National Defence University, Islamabad. He has participated at various national/international Seminars, Conferences and Workshops as Speaker.



**Topic:** “Role of Pakistan & Turkey in the Afghan Peace Process: Prospects & Economic Cooperation”

**Dr. Baris Adibelli, Advisor to ANKASAM, Asia-Pacific Expert, Lecturer of the Department of IR at Dumlupinar University, Turkey**

Dr. Baris Adibelli is the Advisor to ANKASAM. He is an expert of Asia-Pacific region. He is also lecturer of the Department of IR at Dumlupinar University, Turkey



**Topic:** “The Future of Turkey-Pakistan Cooperation in the Context of Rising Asia”

**Ms. Maryam Raza, Research Associate, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan**

Ms. Maryam Raza is an International Relations expert with special focus on regional and international political affairs. She holds an MPhil Degree in International Relations from National Defense University (NDU) Islamabad, Pakistan. She has wide research publications on national and international affairs.



**Topic:** “Role of Cultural Diplomacy in Greater Regional Connectivity”



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, ANALYSIS & KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**



## **Executive Summary, Analysis & Key Recommendations** **(Based on the speeches of respective panelists)**

### **1. Inter-regional Cooperation: Role of Pakistan and Turkey in Regional Development**

- a. Pakistan and Turkey have been emerged as dynamic nations to integrate all regional allies and restore peace in the world. Moreover, both countries have consistent policies to support the peace process in Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan will result in regional connectivity and economic integration of the region.
- b. In recent years, both countries have rediscovered geopolitics and started to read geopolitics in light of new regional developments and economic alignments.
- c. Pakistan and Turkey signed several economic and defense treaties since this establishment of diplomatic relations. In 1954, Pakistan- Turkey signed a treaty of friendship. According to article 4-clause C of the treaty “when an attack occurred from out of border against both countries, the attack is dealt with the under UN Charter article 51”. The treaty is still valid today.
- d. Both countries are cooperating in many diverse fields including, the military/defence domain. Turkey helps Pakistan to maintain F-16 fighter jets. It is also upgrading the three Pakistani submarines and building a Philippe tanker in Karachi.
- e. Turkey has a unique position because it is significant to NATO. It has been present in Afghanistan, but that was limited to non-combatant operations.
- f. Turkey has been working hard to eradicate the trust deficit among regional countries. It has played a central and proactive role in initiating and supporting the Afghan peace process.
- g. Turkey has also launched an initiative know as Antalya Diplomacy Forum. This forum has enabled Turkey, Afghanistan and Iran to discuss the peace process and mainly focusing on resolving the issues such as illicit drug trafficking, security issues, illegal immigration, terrorism issues.



- h. Furthermore, Azerbaijan is also a close ally of Pakistan and Turkey. The support from both countries to Azerbaijan in the six-days second Karabakh war has taken the diplomatic relationship of these three nations to new heights.
- i. After the second Karabakh war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the geopolitical climate has changed in favor of Turkey and Azerbaijan. To preserve the new state score in the region and serving to Asian initiative, Turkey and Azerbaijan offered six-party cooperation platform. It is also expected that the six-party cooperation platform will include Pakistan, Qatar, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.
- j. Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan should be considered as ‘three countries, one nation’. The trilateral cooperation would provide huge dividends for intercultural harmony, economic prosperity and enhancing people-to-people contacts.

2. **Uzbekistan-Pakistan Holistic Model of Greater Regional Connectivity**

- a. This is the age of commercial diplomacy in which economic corridors, sustainable transportation systems, trans-regional railway projects and facilitating seaports further enhanced and brightened chances of greater regional connectivity.
- b. Uzbekistan, the jewel of the Central Asian region, has been striving hard to get connected with other parts to achieve extra-regional socio-economic geopolitical.
- c. The country’s double landlocked syndrome has been successfully minimized by implementing constant structural economic reforms, strong political commitment and the conception of conflict resolution strategies of Uzbekistan’s President, His Excellency, Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
- d. The diversification of economy, pragmatic and friendly foreign policy module, and holistic connectivity model based on shared prosperity has now gained momentum and new heights.
- e. In this aspect, the idea of connecting Central Asia and South Asia is worth mentioning. Pakistan has been working hard to strengthen diplomatic ties with all the central Asian countries, especially Uzbekistan, in diverse fields.



- f. The broader domains of interregional cooperation include economy, trade and commerce, joint venture, foreign direct investment, food and energy cooperation, civil aviation, direct linkages, textile, automobiles, manufacturing, medical sciences, and academic & cultural collaboration.
- g. During the last couple of years, joint military cooperation in professional training, joined drills, and befitting research has also been gaining momentum and further consolidated between Pakistan and Uzbekistan.
- h. Both countries are major stakeholders in the Afghan peace process. Moreover, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan have already signed a \$4.7 billion transregional railway project.
- i. The project has been jointly submitted to World Bank for approval. In this regard, a road map was signed by all the participating countries in Tashkent. It is indeed a giant step towards regional integration of all the Central Asian countries and South Asian region, which has a combined population of 1.9 billion, add 25 per cent to the world's population and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) \$3.5 trillion.

### **3. Key Recommendations: Prospects and Parameters**

- a. Connectivity of Central Asia through ports is very important. In this regard, the Filyos project aims at creating mega industrial zones in Turkey. Greater connectivity projects of such kinds are needed for regional development. Thus, grow economies and reach towards sustainable economic goals.
- b. A joint transport company (JTC) comprising industries transports, transport companies of Pakistan and Uzbekistan would be a game-changer. The formation of reciprocal trade in Tashkent and Islamabad would be a value addition to further strengthening bilateral trade.
- c. A joint merchant merchandise shipping company (JMSC) may further enhance blue economy or trade through sea, especially with Gwadar under the flagship project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).
- d. A joint tourism company may be formed to attract more and more tourists from both countries.



- e. A joint infrastructure development company (JIDC) should be established to accelerate affordable hosting schemes in both countries.
- f. A joint railway consultancy company (JRSCC) could be established to streamline the technical modalities of the proposed trans-regional railway project.
- g. Among Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, a joint investment company may be useful in mobilizing and generalizing domestic investment potential through innovative Sukuk bonds, Islamic banking, and many other financial derivatives.
- h. Revival of banking and financial integration is the need of the hour. Afterwards, swapping of national currencies regime may be initiated to accelerate the mutual inflow of trade and commerce.
- i. Moreover, the formation of an inclusive economic corridor is an innovative idea to the new impetus to multilateral trade.
- j. Culture and economic cooperation play a central role in the process of regional connectivity. A culture is a valuable tool for advancing on the road of integration.
- k. Culture can make a decisive contribution to strengthen cohesion, dialogue, and a social understanding among the countries which is an important factor in countering common threats.
- l. Academic institutions and intellectual cooperation would bring regional countries together to eradicate the differences and enhance people-to-people connectivity.
- m. Academic cooperation would also establish cultural assimilations among countries. Thus, soft power diplomatic tools can play a pivotal role in greater regional connectivity.



# **TRANSCRIPT'S OF THE SPEECHES**



## **OPENING REMARKS**

### **Dr. Mehmood UI Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, CGSS, and Regional Geo-Political Analyst, Pakistan**

Thank You very much for inviting me again to express my views on today's webinar. On behalf of CGSS, I would like to welcome all my echolens, especially our strategic international partner ANKASAM, turkey. Today is the history in making because of the new beginning of the corridor of knowledge, information sharing, human intellect and joint venture of human wisdom between the two stemmed think tanks, CGSS and ANKASAM is going to happen soon. It is indeed a joint step towards the qualitative partnership between the two institutes. Globalization two and industrial revolution-4 heavenly depends upon commercial diplomacy, economic corridor, connecting hub and of course sustainable conflict resident connection. Conceptually and practically topic of today international webinar is very important for further strengthening of bilateral relations through greater regional connectivity by utilizing all the available resources and alternative means inclusion of ANKASAM in today international webinar is value addition. Turkey has its own unique historic traditional and cultural ties with all the Central Asian countries and its tourists touring connect always create strategic comfort. We hope that today webinar will further highlight the importance of greater socio-economic integration, regional connectivity and last but not least food and energy cooperation of South East Asia and central Asia. Thank you.

### **Speaker 1**

#### **Ambassador (R) Aydin Nurhan, Senior Advisor to the president of ANKASAM, Turkey in regional Developments**

#### **TOPIC: Intra Regional Cooperation: Role of Turkey in Regional Development**

Thank you. My topic being intraregional cooperation, I don't want to deal with what to do, how to do your corners, commercial numbers, statistics etc. the encyclopedic data or economic data everybody can find everywhere what I want to do is draw the picture of where we are what we are faced with the general global situation now what are we facing. I'll start with that first thing we have to say is that after the soviet collapse we know that



not an immediate but a gradual vacuum emerges in Central Asia. Russia is still shrinking but not gone yet now the vacuum is gaining momentum yes and before Russia we saw western colonialism leaving Asia shrinking from Asia especially after world war II. Then this vacuum left over from colonial empires and Russia this vacuum now is calling for new powers, emerging powers. This vacuum is inviting because nature does not accept vacuum so, somebody has to fill it. So, who are the emerging countries, first of course is China. Colonialism was a simple thing you get the raw material manufacture and exported, who is doing it now China. The west has jumped into services sector. So, the real economy what we call is done in China. Central Asia is the economic field of colonization for China it is more than the pacific countries. Central Asia is more than the pacific countries that invites China so I personally think the theater of the next war is not the pacific but the mainland Central Asia and the war, the type of war will be proxy warfare. I see it as a plan naked fact but capitalism the trade needs stability, so China wanted to do commerce shall opt for stability in Central Asia. Now, Turkey as an emerging economy of 1 trillion dollars, exporting 200 billion dollars product and services the region also pulls Turkey in what that I would mean. Turkey also wants stability in the region, we are not talking about sentiments yet we are talking about playing materialist interests remembering tokidi's trap. We can sum up saying that as the earth shrinks it does not want the emerging powers to challenge it to rise as powerful players in the region so the west as China and Turkey as a great nation, Pakistan emerging quickly as a developed country soon, a nuclear power. As we opt for stability in the region the western countries shall opt for destabilizing us and the region. This is the very important point I see for us who want to do economy we want stability in the region. Another factor is NATO losing the Soviet Union as its enemy they replaced it with Islam as we all know Margaret Thatcher said it NATO Secretary General said it so such NATO thinking that Muslim's are terrorists but they love the Uyghur Turks. Everywhere any Muslims oppressed reacts against it is a terrorist but the universe our waiver brothers and sisters are America loves them because America wants to destabilize China. They want to use that as a fifth column and Turkey sees the game together with China, we see it again. So, this will continue with Russia with Central Asian countries. Russia is very afraid of Daesh coming into Russia's Muslims community. China is afraid Uyghur is being manipulated Central Asian countries shall be the battleground for the western countries against China and Russia. So, the shift from the middle east is to Central Asia and it will be proxy



warfare. The west does not want democracy for our countries. I will give you four factors the west is key now what Americans' say is our values our lifestyle our traditions and of course evangelism their religion mostly. Now they say that the rulers of Muslim countries should be westernized. Educated in western schools, western minded and fit into the western self-image now I want you to think ask American change your values change your life style. They would say I am their enemy they would say I am a terrorist but they want us to do what they want change our values, our life style, tradition and religious interpretations and fit their mentality so any party in our countries that wants to represent values, life style, traditions of their nation have to be toppled Joe Biden said Erdogan has to be toppled not by soldiers now by democratic means but if Russia wants to manipulate American elections that is not accepted. This is such a dirty game nobody would believe them anymore. So, instability is coming to Central Asia as I said and Daesh is prepared for its next mission which is Central Asia so what shall we do in such a world. First thing realizes the threat or organize solidarity is what we need. Turkey and Azerbaijan are one nation two states now Pakistan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey one nation three states this is not sentimental we can't realize that. This is the grassroots solidarity among our peoples the sentiments are there we have to work for that. Scientific real realistic reaction to what the west does we have to work on that. NATO is the major destabilizing factor for our region. As I see that although Turkey is in NATO all our enemies are in NATO anyway. So, we but again another factor we should not be naive to welcome China as the new hegemon. It is not tested yet it's not a testable it already shows signs of harsh in human policies. This I say without the influence of American propaganda. As for Russia it's a wounded bear like a losing boxer. It still shall swing shots in the region. At the most to lengthen its influence in the region for some more time. Talking of Russia, I wonder if Pakistan, Iran and central Asia can merge into the Mediterranean economic region through Caspian Volga dawn and black sea route. We know that there's a channel between the Caspian and the black sea but I think we have to improve the capacity of it so that it would be a major route to the Mediterranean opening all of central Asia to the Mediterranean economy would that be possible perhaps. We have to think much about that. Now, we have to work out of course a lot of things but some that come to my mind are commerce. Turkish commerce with Central Asia is less than 10 billion dollars. We're talking about an economy of a trillion dollars economy of 500 billion dollars foreign trade and its trade



with Central Asia is eight billion dollars it's peanuts so nothing is yet done in the economic field. Cultural ties, I gave the example in our late meeting writing again Ankara University radio it's a pop radio it makes western music. It gives so much time to Greek music but none to Azeri music. For instance, Central Asian countries Pakistan watches Turkey soap operas but our media unfortunately doesn't look that way our ears are closed our eyes are closed to Central Asia culturally. What to do about it our ruling elite don't care much perhaps we don't I don't know so I criticize myself we can't do something about it what to do we have to work very hard on that. Academic relations, I love academics scientists from Pakistan they're great people working in Silicon Valley in the US in Europe. We have to cooperate you have good universities so our universities have to cooperate. We need your nuclear technology. We need your medical technology so we have to do more what to do I don't know. Student exchange we are doing. Military student exchange we are doing not enough. Technical cooperation also very important and you can name more now these we can talk about in many different meetings. I think this is the you know preparing for this meeting I got pages full of statistics and you know this we can do that we can do but I wanted to give the framework where we are, what the world is and what we can do within that conjunction. Let me stop here and then perhaps we can discuss other things a little bit later. Thank you very much.

### **Speaker 2**

**Dr. Mehmood ul Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) and Regional Geopolitical Analyst.**

**Topic: Uzbekistan Pakistan's holistic model of greater regional connectivity**

Thank you very much and once again welcome to all my partner from ANKASAM, I have been a country representative of ANKASAM in Pakistan for more than six to seven years so right from the beginning I have been the part and parcel of ANKASAM. So, you feel at home while seeing and watching me in Pakistan that I am the ANKASAM. You are the ANKASAM. So, let's start. Our is the age of commercial diplomacy in which economic corridors, sustainable transportation systems, trans-regional railway projects and facilitating seaports further enhanced and brightened chances of greater regional connectivity. Uzbekistan the jewel of Central Asian region has been striving hard to get



connected with other parts to achieve extra regional socio-economic geopolitical and your strategic integration with Central Asian countries and beyond. Now, Uzbekistan double landlocked syndrome has been successfully minimized through implementation of constant structural economic reforms having strong political commitment and conception of conflict resolution strategies of the President His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev. His massive drive of diversification of economy pragmatic and friendly foreign policy module and last but not least holistic model of connectivity based on shared prosperity has now been getting momentum and new heights since the start of presidency of Shavkat Miziyoyev of 2017 on his on its part being the ideal connecting hub between Central Asian region and South Asian region having easiest and shortest route. Pakistan has been working hard to further strengthen the diplomatic ties with all the central Asian countries especially the republic of Uzbekistan in diverse field of economy, trade and commerce, joint venture, foreign direct investment, food and energy corporations, civil aviation, direct linkages, textile, governments, automobiles, Agro-economy, manufacturing, banking and finance, Islamic banking, micro financing, insurance, science and technology ,medical sciences, education cooperation and last but not least cultural cooperation. Moreover, during the last couple of years mutual military cooperation terms of professional training joined drills, production and befitting research has also been getting momentum and further consolidated. Visionary leadership of Pakistan and Uzbekistan his excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev and prime minister of Pakistan Imran khan have now further redefined, reshaped and rephrased, replant and re-implemented noble concept of regional connectivity by announcing numerous befitting zero custom duties, regime, beneficial strategic oriented projects, program, double doable regional railway projects, the innovative integrated transportation system, TRI system and other facility at Karachi dry port and Gwadar the seaport, the QTTA and last but not least cluster trading scheme of arrangement with many Central Asian countries especially Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's holistic model of connectivity is primarily based on its microeconomic stability, sustainability, transformation through rigorous structural reforms initiated by the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev which has now enabled his country to expand its trade and commerce relationship beyond the immediate neighborhood of Central Asian countries. To achieve this strategic goal series of high official meetings interactive sessions, exchange of mutually beneficial proposals, economic incentives trade promotion pledges and last but not least constant seaport



facilitations have been rigorously discussed and consequently finalized which has actually revolutionized concept of regional connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan due to which carbons of greater regional connectivity have now further been stimulated and their successful mutual infinite voice of creating bridges of trust and trait, connecting minds and souls, merchandised commodities, commercial apparatus and of course exchange of valuable services have been achieving new skies. It is indeed a giant and giant step towards modern revival of the ancient silk route of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan presented the concept of greater regional connectivity through the construction of Mizar-e-Shareef Kabul railway was big chairperson of the senate Tanzila termed it as the event of the century. Prime Minister Imran khan described the project as the important connectivity project and endorsed Pakistan's effort for early implementation of railway line. It is estimated that once this entire project is operationalized the trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan may reach up to 90 billion US dollar. Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan have already signed 4.7 billion US dollar transregional railway project. It has been jointly submitted to world bank for approval in this regard a road map was signed by all the participating country Tashkent. It is indeed a giant step towards regional integration of all the Central Asian countries and South Asian region which has combined population of 1.9 billion, 25 percent the world's population and the GDP 3.5 trillion US dollars. Furthermore, most usually the first shipment under the convention of international transports of goods for traffic in transit of goods cross the border and reach Pakistan from Uzbekistan via Afghanistan in just 48 hours. It has actually diminished the concept of double landlocked doctrine and enhanced regional connectivity. Pakistan's ministry of commerce labeled it as a new milestone which has now been achieved as a result of collaboration between the transport companies of the two sides. It followed the successful shipment of first ever cargo from Pakistan to Uzbekistan earlier this month. It labeled the beginning of a new era where trucks from both sides will take trade cargo to and from Karachi and Gwadar seaports. It has successfully started exchange of goods of commodities between Faisalabad and Fergana. Embassy of Uzbekistan in Pakistan together with Pakistani transport company best trans private limited and Uzbek freight forwarding company Assad-trans, for the first time implemented the pilot trans afghan logistics project for drug delivery of Uzbek export goods to Pakistan through the territory of Afghanistan. For further regional connectivity in the near past Uzbekistan prime minister for investment and trade, Sardar Umer visited Pakistan and met with high



dignitaries including prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, armed forces chiefs General Javed Bajwa and various ministers. During his stay in Pakistan the deputy prime minister of Uzbekistan showed his government's willingness to become the part of QTTA which has already been signed by Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and now has further consolidated because of the construction of Karakoram highway phase 2. It has a very strategic importance by bypassing Afghanistan you all know better than me that the deteriorating law and order situation in Afghanistan has actually forced all the Central Asian countries and regional countries, including Pakistan, Iran and even Turkey to look into the alternative mechanism for the greater connectivity between central Asian country and southeast Asian country because socio-economic prosperity, regional connectivity, greater integration in terms of mind and soul should and must not be hostage to any blackmailing or some kind of unwillingness of a section in Afghanistan. So, these lines have already been considered reconsidered and finalized especially in Pakistan and some part of a country of Central Asia that to connect the Central Asian countries. So, prospects are a little bit delayed but not dark. It will take some extra time but eventually the direct connectivity between Central Asian country and South East Asian country will be achieved Inshallah. Uzbekistan president established strategic cooperation with Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan which has now started a completely new political atmosphere based on mutual trust and good neighbor lines in all the Central Asian countries. Uzbekistan socioeconomic oriented ties with Afghanistan are known bearing fruit and dividends. His border integration is the key to development commercial diplomacy has further consolidated ties with Pakistan. According to Uzbekistan official's status 6 January 2020, due to constant structural reforms, the average annual investment growth rate in Tashkent was 22 percent during the first four years of the presidency of Shavkat Mirziyoyev His Excellency the president of Uzbekistan. The total volume of foreign direct investment reached 26.6 billion US dollars, including direct investment of rupees 17.5 billion US dollar. Critical analysis indicates that the total volume of investment over the past four years has increased by more than 2.1 times including foreign investment by 2.7 times, the share of investment of GDP in 2019 exceeded 38 percent for the first time which created a solid consolidated foundation for ensuring socio-economic growth and prosperity in the years to come. At the same time GDP of Uzbekistan in 2019 increased by 5.6 percent. Despite the complex and complicated economic condition and ongoing saga in shape of Covid-19 pandemic



the world bank has predicted the country's GDP growth in 2021 by 4.8 percent which is the best indicator amongst the all the developing countries. Moreover, Uzbekistan foreign trade turnover is growing much faster than GDP and in 2019 increased by 26.2 percent amounting to rupees to US dollar 42.2 billion US dollar. While in the just 9 months of 2020 despite the pandemic the country's foreign trade reached US dollar 27.5 billion. Being prominent regional experts of Central Asia especially Uzbekistan, I suggest that a joint transport company JTC comprising of industries transports, transport companies of both the countries would be a game changer. Formation of reciprocal trade in Tashkent and Islamabad would be a value addition for the further strengthening of bilateral trade. A joint merchant merchandise shipping company JMSC may further enhance blue economy or trade through sea especially with Gwadar under the flagship project of CPEC and BRI. A joint tourism company JTC may be formed to attract more and more tourists from both the countries. A joint infrastructure development company JIDC may be established to accelerate affordable housing scheme in both countries. A joint railway consultancy company JRSCC would be established to streamline the technical modalities of the proposed trans-regional railway project. Amongst Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan a joint investment company may be useful to mobilize and generalize domestic investment potential through innovative Sukuk bonds, Islamic banking, and many others financial derivatives. Revival of banking and financial integration is the need of hour. Afterwards, swapping of national currencies regime SNCR may be initiated to accelerate mutual inflow of trade and commerce last but not least formation of corridor is an innovative idea to stimulate the bilateral trade in the days to come. So, in this regard the CGSS has been doing a valuable job to create the bridges of trust and harmony between the different stakeholders in the region especially in Central Asia or Eurasian region so thank you very much and I conclude that ANKASAM people should not be worried because I am the ANKASAM in Pakistan and you are the ANKASAM in Turkey. Thank you very much to all my Turkish brothers, Thank you.

### **Speaker 3**

**Professor Celalettin Sencer Imer, Senior advisor to ANKASAM, Lecturer and chair of the department of political science and international relations at UFUK University, Ankara, Turkey**

**TOPIC: Trade and Transport Connectivity for sustainable growth; challenges and opportunities.**

Thank you very much for the possibility to speak to you. I am happy to be with you. I will speak a concrete project this concrete project is realized and just opened in June. The first picture this is the so-called Filyos project.

These you see here the map of Turkey and Black Sea Mediterranean. You can see here at the coast of black sea this city Zonguldak that is the place where this port has been built. This port originally was considered to be built in the time of Mr. Ozal whose advisor I was and we have



considered at that time to build such a port there and another port in the south that is where the Cyprus is looking in the front that is the immortal region. The second port was there and we wanted to connect these two ports with railway and also land road. The goal was the transportation of woods at that time Soviet Union was existing later on it became Russian federation all the countries north of black sea and also through the connectivity of the Caspian Sea to black sea this is the important channel as you know we could bring the goods from the north to the south from the south to the north that was the idea and this idea could be not realized a long time.



You will see here the picture the cities of Turkey you can see here even the place where it is, it is very close to Zonguldak it's between them this port is the biggest port of Turkey at the moment it is realized between 2016 and 2021 and at the beginning of June this port has been opened the capacity of this port is 25 million tons each year that can be enlarged also that includes different goods of course. You can transport every good through these ports and this port is reachable by railway connection in Turkey that means the inside of turkey the central Anatolia in that case is open to the sea that is like our colleague Dr. Mahmood has explained with Uzbekistan and with the Pakistan railway connection which

is opening the double land block country Uzbekistan to the sea. This is the main problem of Uzbekistan also the problem in turkey itself if it is a semi-island as you can see but the central Anatolia including Ankara region and the north part is open to this port to the sea. I think that is very important for the development in the inside of turkey but also from the Russian goods I mean the container and bulk good transportation coming to this port and from this port it can be distributed.

Okay these ports now are active that's I think very important information also for the connectivity to central Asia. This port is opened at the beginning of June by the president the Erdogan and it is realized in that time between 2016 and 2021 the biggest port of Turkey. It is bringing the central Anatolia to the sea and also the transportation of goods from the north to the south now if you look at the other map. We can see here also the river these rivers normally in Turkey are not shippable that means like in Europe for example or other countries the flow amount is not sufficient so that these rivers are not shippable but this river is now shippable we can go 50 kilometers to the inside and from by the left side and right side we have built they are going to build new infrastructure and new industries for the development of the region and for the development of Turkey it is like in Germany for example the Rhine river or Ruhr river the same thing is makeable here I think this is a very important local development but also international development.





Now, we can see here this situation of these ports these ports figure support can make transportation to the north and from the north to the south also very important thing is these Romania as you see the Costanta the port Costanta it is connected with videos over black sea and Costanta is the important river of Europe that is Danube River. Danube river is going until Germany ,Australia and Holland that means this important river is very important for the connection and transportation and logistics for the sea transportation as you know the cheapest transportation is the sea transportation water transportation the next one is the railroad transportation the next one is the land road and the most expensive one is the air transportation that means we are making here a connected and combined transportation system that means all the goods which are coming also from east side to figures can be transported to Europe without going through Bosphorus and Dardanelles it can go directly in that case over Romania and then over Serbia and Hungary to Australia and Germany and even west Europe and the same thing can happen also with the good transportation in the opposite direction and also from the Caspian sea the connection to the black sea is given as you know and the Russians are enlarging this channel at the moment the Russian government has decided that that means the transportation from the central Asia is coming also to black sea and from black sea it's void direction Europe. One Belt One Road project if it is coming over Iran or over Caspian Sea to turkey that can be connected to Filyos and you can go without going through Bosphorus Dardanelles direct to Europe very important point is the connection these in the south. You see a fire a direction here in the south in the south there is a port massive port you cannot see that here probably yes here this point is the city is Mersin it is with the railroad connected and these railroads will be high-speed railroad in the future and that means we can transport in that case without going through Bosphorus and Dardanelles directly from north to the south direct over turkey I think Mediterranean and Black Sea are connected with each other with these two projects with these two ports I think you should know and take it in consideration important thing is the road and infrastructure projects. I think these infrastructure projects tanks cut has been realized and now we can increase the trade and we can increase also the production that means this industrial zone along this river as I have described you is also very important that means we if we create such connections transportation ,connections logistic connections and combine it with the existing ones then we can expect that our economies can grow and sustainable growth can be reached also you can see these port empire investments



was very important but could we not realize long time but now it is realized now we see how important it is also in connection with the growing production facilities of the countries you can make trade only if you produce more and you can produce only more if you bring the raw materials in a cheap way to the production places. For that reason, this project of the Filyos project is very important for the cost question in the production and for the growing of manufacturing industry and other industries on energy industry also the new discovered the energy natural gas resource is very close to this area and the ships which are looking after these new discoveries are also in the sport video sport shipped and if you want repaired if needed. I think this is a practical and concrete contribution to the connectivity sustainable growth and what the logistics means just like my colleague has explained over the railway connection between Uzbekistan which is the very important problem of Uzbekistan and Pakistan because Uzbekistan must reach sea and the ocean that is only possible to go over Pakistan or over Iran also a possibility another possibility of course but here in the case of Turkey you can see Uzbekistan can reach also our Caspian sea and over these Volga-Dome channel black sea and then from black sea over this system it can be reached also the Mediterranean sea and here you can see the Danube transportation way. It is starting from Romania going over Serbia, Hungary, Austria, Germany and through the channel system it is reaching to the North Sea even to England you can reach in that way the cheapest way is as I said is the transportation by water because the water is carrying these ships. It is cheaper than railway cheaper than land road transportation and the capacity of Danube river is not full used that means instead of building costly railway or land road projects it is very easy to use this wonderful and important unused capacity river of Danube that means the videos project is in that case connecting Europe with Turkey Europe with Asia and opposite and north part of Europe also Russia including and in that case also in the opposite direction transportation from Asia to the Europe can be made in that way. I think that was the contribution what I wanted to give you this practical case as an example is a learning case also important, I think that will be useful also in other cases such developments to carry on. Thank you for your hearing.



#### **Speaker 4**

**Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, Assistant professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sargodha, Pakistan.**

**TOPIC: Role of Pakistan and Turkey in the Afghan Peace Process: Prospects and Economic Cooperation**

Thank you. Hello everyone and I am thankful to Center for Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS) for providing me the opportunity to be part of today's webinar. I was assigned the topic a role of Pakistan and Turkey in the peace process prospects in economic cooperation but keeping in you the time constraint however I will be focusing on the role of Turkey process is prospects and economic cooperation however I will slightly be you know talk about. Pakistan and Turkey if you look at both these countries they have played conciliatory roles and have done these process to restore peace in the world to one country and both these countries they have consistent policies to support the peace process in Afghanistan and prime minister Imran khan he has repeatedly been saying that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan in a recent meeting which was held in April 2021 the foreign minister from Pakistan Afghanistan and Turkey in a joint statement by Taliban to reaffirm its commitment to achieving an inclusive negotiating settlement leading to long-lasting peace in Afghanistan these process. If you look at it involves consistent long-term practical average in various areas so that the trust deficit can be overcome and this once the trust deficit is overcome that will lead you to achieving enduring peace. Turkey is you know it has a unique position because it's significant to the NATO and it has been present in Afghanistan but that was limited to non-combatant operations. It also enjoys cordially relation with the government of Afghanistan Taliban and perhaps the northern alliance. Moreover, turkey also enjoy brother relation with Pakistan it also has good relations with Iran, Qatar, Russia, European Union and the United States. Now, Ankara and Kabul they are also not entangled in any border dispute and the moreover Ankara is affected by terrorism yet it has a refrain from conducting a counter insurgency encountered terrorism in Afghanistan. These characteristics if you look at it has endowed Turkey to overcome the first step earlier which I mentioned earlier to eradicate the trust deficit and therefore a Turkey has played a central and provocative role in initiating and supporting the afghan



peace process the current policy it is aimed at restoring peace and maintaining political stability by bringing all the stakeholders on the same page to achieve national unity. It also aims for a consolidation in a political institution and bringing an end to one of the longest and bloodiest war in the modern history. Peace in Afghanistan will result in regional connectivity and economic integration of the region. Some of the practical and verifiable stuff which Turkey software has taken it includes completion of over 1000 projects covering various sectors, including education, health sector, infrastructure development, agriculture sector, water, and sanitation policies. Moreover, the political steps so far that the Turkey has taken for the peace process of Afghanistan conflict this initiative was launched in November 2011 to use CPMs and dialogues now this initiative further aims at the you know to have sustainable peace in Afghanistan with the cooperation of 12 regional and international organizations 16 Extra regional countries and 14 regional countries moreover this forum has enabled various ambassadors, deputy foreign ministers, foreign ministers, and Head of States to hold meetings and find a negotiated solution above Afghanistan conflict. This process which I have already stated that heard of Asia's involved process it has three pillars the first one is political consultation the second is implementation of CPMs and third is cooperation with regional organization Turkey it has also launched an initiative which we know as Antalya diplomacy forum while this forum has enabled Turkey Afghanistan and Iran to discuss the peace process in Afghanistan and particularly focus on issues for example illicit drug trafficking, security issues, illegal immigration, terrorism and counter-terrorism issues. Once NATO forces are withdrawn from the from the region from the country Afghanistan and more of it, we should also not forget that Ankara has also appointed a special representative for Afghanistan. It manifests that Ankara is very serious for peace process to have regional peace and the economic integration of the region. As far as Turkey's presence in Afghanistan is concerned these days it has become an issue United States it wants turkey to have its military presence on a Kabul international airport government wants if president Erdogan himself, he wants his forces to remain in Turkey but playing non-combatant. Moreover, Pakistan if you look at it or he is also agreed on turkey's presence but another different point of view for example Turkey if you look at it believe that a Kabul airport is a one sounds gateway to the world. Therefore, securing Kabul airport is very important it will in future help



the international community to sustain their operations we have their present diplomatic presence and to continue their reconstruction mission while international community they are also very much concerned about the international community it wants to have a secure airport Turkey but they will say that since territory is a NATO member state it should honor the agreement which was signed in February 2020 and withdraw its forces however I have my own point of view. It maybe you know discussed later on by the senior for example Turkey I should discuss the issue of creating and deploying coalition forces from Muslim countries including Turkey itself the republic of Boston and Egypt it will restore you know Taliban's trust and create the impression that Turkey has honored Taliban's demand that Turkey should withdraw its forces from Afghanistan under the February 2020 agreement. Hence, the deployment the police from Islamic countries will have all stakeholders to overcome prevalent deadlock with the Taliban and achieve the objective of securing international care so this is the current situation which is going on and once in flexible there is stable peaceful Afghanistan it will benefit the region for example the South Asian region , Central Asian region because everyone knows that Afghanistan is located at a geostrategic crossroad which connects both these regions so peace in Afghanistan it is not only the desire of the people of Afghanistan but also the neighboring countries the regional countries and International community also and moreover once Afghanistan is stabilized we will have more job opportunities for Afghani's we will have triple economic zones and this will strengthen Afghanistan economy. Moreover, it will reduce Afghanistan reliance on foreign so peaceful Afghanistan it provides alternative project and trade in 2017 the united states president of the US proposed C5 plus one plus one, it will also stabilize this will strengthen the other route is that is for the energy or electricity transmission it is called central south Asia or thousand electricity transmission from central Asian republics to south Asian countries (CASA 1000) and a topic petroleum pipeline that was also launched in 2015 this is also an energy corridor. Moreover, we have an interesting example wherein we saw that in January 2021 the United States spared Iran's Chabahar port from sanctions and this earlier Iranian which connect these three countries let us not forget to talk about the fire nation really big corridor which was launched in December 2014 it has already linked China with northern Afghanistan and these foreign games are connecting China with Iran and with



agreement was also signed in 2011. This will connect Afghanistan via south Caucasus which is the flagship project of BRI we know as CPEC in Pakistan and despite that there had been instability in Afghanistan. Chinese decision maker the leader they decided to extend BRI to Afghanistan and there are surveys which states that if one is on the stabilizer Afghanistan economy will grow by 6.5% percent anyway so peaceful Afghanistan it will not only be beneficial for Afghanistan itself but for the region also. In order to conclude this presentation, I would say that instability in Afghanistan has created problems for Pakistan the most because if you look at Afghanistan we had Indian presence over there and India is used its economic resources through its embassy in Kabul to avoid the already prevailing curve between governor Pakistan and the council in new Delhi has near Pakistani border they were used to export terrorism and moreover there are also spoilers at the moment which they want that disability should be there because they have benefited from this instability and they have their own war economy so instability or civil war in for Afghanistan this will have again great implications because many migrants they are going to enter into Pakistan and Pakistan economy cannot at the moment you know they can clear the burden of these migrants. Moreover, there is there also fear that in the case of these migrants the terrorists will also include it will enter into the stability the peace and stability it is a win-win situation for all of us. Thank you so much.

### **Speaker 5**

**Dr. Barris Adibelli, Advisor to ANKASAM, Asia pacific Expert, Lecturer of the Department of IR at Dumlupinar University, Turkey**

**TOPIC: The Future of Turkey-Pakistan Cooperation in the Context of Raising Asia**

Thank you very much. Good afternoon to you all. My topic is the future of turkey Pakistan strategic cooperation in the context of rising Asia. As you know rising Asia brings with its opportunities and risk. It's a historical turning point that especially Asian countries have had the opportunity to determine their own future and develop a common area of prosperity the most important pivotal states of Asia, Turkey and Pakistan are closely following this process. In the recent years, both countries have rediscovered geopolitics and started to read geopolitics in the light of new



developments. The most important lesson taught by this geopolitical process is that one cannot be successful in Asia alone. In that sense Turkey has taken action to establish new cooperation process in Asia. In 2019, turkey launched Asia a new initiative which was turkey's response to the rising Asia phenomenon. President Erdogan describes Asia and initiative as without Asia any initiative we will give our relations a new dynamism in our current time when the pendulum of history is shifting again towards Asia any initiative does not mean that Turkey has turned its back to Europe thus President Erdogan describes turkey's geographical and political position as being the eastern most European and the western most Asian increased Turkey's specific weight in all areas. Turkey pays a special attention to the Pakistan and Azerbaijan in Asia and initiative. After the six-week long Karabakh war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the geopolitical climate changed in favor of Turkey and Azerbaijan. To preserve the new state score in the region and serving to Asian initiative, Turkey and Azerbaijan offered six party cooperation platform to Russia, Iran Georgia and Armenia Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia are able to form cooperation while the participation of Armenia and Georgia is uncertain. After the formation of the six-party cooperation platform most probably the cooperation will include Pakistan, Afghanistan, Qatar, and Kazakhstan to the platform thus the six-part cooperation platform will become the largest energy block in the region and when we look. At the Pakistan Turkey current strategic relations, you know Turkey and Pakistan which they describe themselves as brotherly countries. Turkey has never considered the people of Pakistan apart from its people Pakistan always stands with Turkey. No matter what happens you know this expression belongs to prime minister Mr. Imran Khan following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Pakistan they supported each other during the most difficult times and on all international platforms. Pakistan and Turkey signed several economic and defense treaties since this establishment of diplomatic relations. In 1954 Pakistan and Turkey signed treaty to friendship according to article 4 and clause C of that treaty "when an attack occurred from out of border against both countries the attack is dealt with the under UN Charter article 51". You know which regulates the right of collective defense. This treaty is still valid today. By the way in that time the friendship treaty between the two countries straight relations between Turkey and India at the Bandung conference in 1955. During the abandoned conference Indian leader Nehru



was a little angry with the Turkish delegation because of that treaty since the signing of treaty of friendship in 1954 turkey and Pakistan were co-founder of Baghdad Pact, CENTO, regional cooperation for development economic cooperation organization, and the aid organization for economic cooperation and also Turkey and Pakistan are in the shanghai cooperation in the shanghai cooperation organization a Pakistan as a permanent member Turkey is dialogue partner. All these I have told show us a truth Pakistan and turkey have a long-term experience in cooperation this is experience will satellite to future cooperation today a Pakistan and turkey cooperate in every field especially in the defense sector turkey is now Pakistan's fourth largest source of armed supply a turkey helps maintain Pakistan F-16 fighter jets and turkey is also upgrading the three Pakistani submarines and building PHILIPPE tanker with together in Karachi for Pakistan Navy and in 2016 Turkey gave 34 T-37 aircraft with space to Pakistan and turkey also agreed to purchase MFI-17 super Mushak a trader aircraft from Pakistan. In 2018 Pakistan also bought 4 million corvettes the most important and most problematic of these agreements is the sale of 30 attack helicopters to Pakistan in 2018 Turkey and Pakistan agreed on the sale of 30 attack helicopters but this sale has not yet taken place because the Pentagon refused to issue export a license for engines and other parts made in US. It is interesting part it is interesting that the US does not interfere in the sale of other helicopters to the Philippines by Turkey so that it seems like this issue is related to US Pakistan relations currently Pakistan has given another extension to helicopter deal with turkey giving Ankara more amounts to deliver the helicopters now turkey is trying to find a solution. And when we look at the geopolitical connectivity between two countries, a for a long time Turkey has been designed to build its policy and developed connectivity in Asia in its context the six-part cooperation platform and the Turkish council are seen as key tools of this project by Ankara a turkey cares about Pakistan's geopolitical power frankly Turkey wants to implement its silk road in a part of Asia. Therefore, this initiative is seen as complementary rather than competing with China's Belt and Road Initiative it should be noted that turkey had a sick road project long before China's belt and road initiative. There were some geopolitical obstacles to Turkey's Asia any initiative one of them was the occupation of Karabakh and other was the uncertain certain situation of Afghanistan. In the fall of 2020, the occupation of Karabakh was over as of May 1 the United States and NATO



began to withdraw forces from Afghanistan. Turkey sees the withdrawal of US and NATO forces as an opportunity for the new cooperation process in Asia. Therefore, in the last NATO summit turkey has offered the US and NATO to extend the Turkish military forces presence in Afghanistan to protect the Kabul Hamid Karzai airport. Turkey wants to protect the Afghan people during the transition period and does not want to leave the afghan people to their destiny and also Turkey wants to prevent a possible civil war while Ankara has not said anything it seems that Ankara wants to mediate between the Taliban and other Afghan groups in this regard Turkey needs Pakistan's help in Afghanistan despite Ankara's offer there has been no official response or statement from Pakistan government yet. As you know geography is destiny probably this exploration best describes Turkey and Pakistan. When you look at the map Turkey looks like a bridge connecting Europe to Asia and also connecting Asia to Europe. Similarly, Pakistan is like a corridor stretching from the Indian ocean to Indonesia so it has a unique geography that connects Indonesia and China to the Indian ocean and also Pakistan is China's gateway to the Indian ocean. Due to their geopolitical locations turkey and Pakistan have become victim of terrorism therefore the fight against terrorism is one of the most important strategic cooperation between turkey and Pakistan for this reason Turkey and Pakistan held a three-week long military exercise Ataturk 11 2021 in northwest Pakistan in February 2021 the joint military exercise focused on counter-terrorism as you remember in 2017 Jinnah exercise had held in the turkey with two countries. In his last Pakistan visit in 2020 president Mr. Erdogan declared that his country was ready to participate in the development of China Pakistan economic corridor. Turkey wishes to increase its presence in the China Pakistan economic corridor and thus strengthen connectivity with new developing markets for president Erdogan however there remained two obstacles to Turkey's participation in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The first is that a Turkish company do not know enough about China Pakistan economic corridor and its opportunities and second Turkish companies expect to enjoy the same benefits as Chinese or Saudi investors that are active in the China Pakistan economic corridor. If turkey joins the China Pakistan economic corridor it could also be in turkey closer to other regional powers and also turkey connects Europe and Eurasia to China Pakistan economic corridor. The other most important project is Istanbul Tehran Islamabad railway project the origin of this project was an



international freight train service between Turkey-Iran-Islamabad this project was launched by economic cooperation organization in 2009 in the following years the project lost momentum but then in 2021 the governments of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan decided to revive the transnational rail service linking Istanbul and Islamabad total route is 6540 kilometers long. The journey from Istanbul to Islamabad will take 10 days much faster than 21 days by sea between Turkey and Pakistan lastly in 2021 the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan turkey and Pakistan issued a joint declaration in Islamabad. In the joint declaration three forum ministers emphasized the existing cordial ties among the three countries based on fraternity, historic and cultural bonds, mutual respect and trust they also underlined to strengthen cooperation in peace and security. They also expressed deep concern over the unilateral action of continued grave human rights violation in and are forced to change the demographic structure of Jammu and Kashmir. They supported the peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN security council resolutions. They support also a just sustainable and realistic and mutually accepted settlement of the Cyprus issue as well as the issue in IGN and the eastern Mediterranean on the basis of international law during his address to UN general assembly in 2020 President Erdogan said Kashmir conflict which is also key to the stability and peace of South Asia is still a burning issue steps taken following the evolution of the special status of Jammu Kashmir further complicated the problem. We are in favor of solving this issue through dialogue within the framework of the United Nations resolutions and especially in line with the expectations of the people of Kashmir. As a result, relations between a Turkey and Pakistan are a kind of relationship based on fraternal law beyond the strategic dimension. Therefore, the faith and future of both nations are common and also as you know Azerbaijan and Turkey call each other as one nation two states. Before Mr. ambassador said that I agree with him I think we have to change to one nation three states Turkey, Azerbaijan and Pakistan. That's all I have to say. Thank you thank you for listening to me thank you very much.



## **Speaker 6**

**Ms. Maryam Raza, Research Associate, Center for Global and Strategic Studies**

**Islamabad**

**TOPIC: Role of Culture Diplomacy in the Greater Regional Connectivity**

**T**hank you so much and greetings to everyone. First, I would really like to comment on very interesting speeches by all the panelists and all worthy speakers have rightly covered all the significant aspects of the theme. So, the topic of my discussion is the role of cultural diplomacy in greater regional connectivity as we are aware that this is the era of awakening and which calls for a prosperous world with strong cultural ties and better understanding of each other so mutual accords and cooperation always pave the way for dispute settlement via negotiation between parties so. Now states are more inclined towards cooperation in this multipolar world order and in this regard, we have seen that advanced mechanism in international relations has been going through a profound transformation and evolutionary development. In this contemporary era international organizations and wider regional networks also play a wider role in connecting the countries and curtailing the differences. The multilateral institutions are the key drivers in shaping the state's relation and integrate people. Regionalization has emerged as a significant trend in international affairs now countries have deep incorporation in any in many aspects regarding we have also seen in this regard about the technological transformation as well that in the area of transport communication information sharing and economic development that has contributed to establish a cohesive global community of states to counter the global issues. In this regard the integrated organization or academic platforms provide enormous opportunities for the countries to increase their collaboration via cultural exchanges. Therefore, we have to respect all the cultures and understand diversities and enhance connectivity in this regard also play an influential role in shaping the relationship among countries. Here, I would also like to talk about incorporating the phenomena of academic cooperation in understanding each other cultures. Culture and economic cooperation play a central role in the process of region connectivity and a culture, is a very valuable tool for advancing on the road of integration it can make a decisive contribution to strengthen cohesion, dialogue and



also a social understanding among the countries which is also important factor to counter common challenges so there is a need to generate literature and build awareness among people regarding convergence. In this aspect, I believe that academic institutions and intellectual cooperation would bring regional countries together in order to eradicate the differences and enhance people-to-people connectivity. Academic cooperation would also establish cultural assimilations among countries so soft power diplomatic tools can also play a pivotal role in the greater regional connectivity and I believe that for greater cultural connectivity, joint ventures are very important for academic growth. Through exchanges of students and faculty members and providing easy visa regimes and enhancing tourist activities people-to-people contacts can be increased and it will help to understand, respect in strengthening the bilateral or multilateral partnership and enhanced cultural understandings so these all submissions were from my side. Thank you so much.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Mehmood UI Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, CGSS, and Regional Geo-Political Analyst, Pakistan**

First of all, thank you very much again for all our international strategic partner ANKASAM so you are the ANKASAM we are the ANKASAM. So history has made today because today is the first joint collaboration between CGSS and ANKASAM so during which it has been a learning experience for me to know about the level of intellect and general research or scholarship from our and ANKASAM scholars and who thoroughly discussed the each and every possible aspects of regional connectivity, prospects regional security the role of China, Russia even the occupied Kashmir issue one of the main hurdles of the regional greater regional connectivity between Southeast Asia and Pakistan and I really appreciate the in-depth knowledge of all the Turkish scholars regarding the deteriorating law and order situation in Afghanistan which is indeed a one of the main hurdles of the achieving the regional great regional connectivity with central Asia and southeast Asia. Nevertheless, as I have already explained the alternative or bypassing mechanism of Afghanistan and for the greater connectivity to Central Asia and Southeast Asia by Pakistan is already has already been started and we do hope that the dreams of the great regional connectivity will



be accomplished very soon so I must like to mention that on the 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> of July next month there will be a very big international conference will be held in Tashkent, emphasizing on the main topics that is the regional connectivity between central Asia and southeast Asia in which I do hope that most many of my Turkish brother will be there to educate us and the international audience. Thank you very much once again it is the first but definitely not the least international collaboration between ANKASAM and CGSS and we do hope that the next international conference of ANKASAM about Kashmir there will be lot of participants from Pakistan especially from the forum of CGSS thank you very much.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

### National Herald Tribune

<https://www.dailynht.com/epaper/page.php?id=6&edition=lahore&dt=29-06-2021>

ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "GREATER REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY: PROSPECTS, PARAMETERS AND ROLE OF PARTNER COUNTRIES" JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL & STRATEGIC STUDIES (CGSS), ISLAMABAD, AND ANKARA CENTER FOR CRISIS AND POLICY RESEARCH (ANKASAM)

### Ambassador Aydin Nurhan while emphasising the friendly relationship shared between Pakistan, Turkey and Iran describes them as One Nation and Three States

-Defines Turkey as a significant emerging economy of the world

#### **SALEEM RAIS**

ISLAMABAD, June 28: An Online International Conference on "Greater Regional Connectivity: Prospects, Parameters, and Role of Partner Countries" was jointly organized by the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, and Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research, ANKASAM.

The conference was commenced with the opening remarks of Dr. Mehmood-Ul-Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), and Regional Geo-Political Analyst.

He stated that the cooperation between ANKASAM and CGSS has proven to be a qualitative partnership as it will promote bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkey through the academic exchange of information. He further emphasized that this International cooperation will facilitate further enhancing the relationship between the two countries through initiatives like online conferences and seminars like the one organized today.

Ambassador Aydin Nurhan. He is the Senior Advisor to the President of ANKASAM, Turkey discussed "Intra-Regional Cooperation: Role of Turkey in Regional Development".

Ambassador Aydin mentioned that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, not immediate but a gradual vacuum emerged in Central Asia. According to him, the vacuum is gaining momentum. Ambassador Aydin discussed the contemporary global situation under which he stated Turkey as a significant emerging economy of the world. Additionally, emphasizing the friendly relationship

shared between Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran, Ambassador Aydin, stated them as One Nation and Three states.

He also stressed the need to improve the academic relations present between Pakistan and Turkey.

Dr. Mehmood-Ul-Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, Center for Global & Strategic Studies and Regional Geo-Political Analyst, Pakistan discussed "Uzbekistan-Pakistan's Holistic Model of Greater Regional Connectivity".

Talking about the enhanced connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, Dr. Mehmood explained the holistic model of regional connectivity created by Uzbekistan.

Dr. Mehmood also explained the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan and the linkages between the two countries in various sectors including education, agriculture, science and technology, banking, etc.

According to Dr. Mehmood, the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and Turkey, in recent years, has improved under the visionary leadership of both countries. He further stated that Uzbekistan, under President ShavkatMirziyoyev, has made significant efforts to improve its linkages with Pakistan.

Prof. CelalettinSencerImer, Senior advisor to ANKASAM & lecturer & Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at UFUK University, Ankara, Turkey discussed "Trade and Transport Connectivity for Sustainable Growth: Challenges and Opportunities".

Prof. Sencer briefed the participants about various ports that have been established by Turkey. He also stressed their benefits not only for the country itself but also for the region. According to Prof. Sencer, the ports will facilitate the transportation of goods from north to south.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the biggest port of Turkey was made functional in June. According to Prof. Sencer, the capacity of the ports is 25 million tons

each year which can be further enlarged. He also stated that these ports can be accessed via railway connections.

Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed, Assistant Professor from Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Sargodha, Pakistan discussed "Role of Pakistan & Turkey in the Afghan Peace Process: Prospects and Economic Cooperation".

He highlighted the Heart of Asia: Istanbul Process and discussed that it was launched by Turkey on November 2, 2011, to use CBMs and dialogues. The initiative aims at promoting regional security, economic wellbeing, and political cooperation in Afghanistan in collaboration with 15 regional states, 16 extra-regional countries, and 12 regional and international organizations. The platform is used to enable Ambassadors, Deputy Foreign Ministers, Foreign Ministers, and heads of states to hold meetings to find a negotiated solution to the Afghan conflict. He also highlighted that Peaceful Afghanistan located in the heart of Asia has the potential to convert geo-strategic/geopolitical competition into geo-economic cooperation. It ensures regional development and promises to transform regional economies. In conclusion, peaceful Afghanistan is a win-win situation for all stakeholders.

Dr. BarisAdibelli, Advisor to ANKASAM, Asia-Pacific Expert and Lecturer at Department of International Relations at Dumlupinar University, Turkey discussed "The Future of Turkey-Pakistan Cooperation in the Context of Rising Asia".

Dr. Baris explained the ties between Turkey, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan under the current Geo-Political Situation of the world. According to Dr. Baris, the three states share friendly ties. Appreciating Pakistan, he mentioned that Pakistan has stood with Turkey in all situations.

Moreover, he talked about different agreements signed between Pakistan and Turkey. According to Dr. Baris, Pakistan and Turkey have signed various defense



agreements which have led to improved defense cooperation between the two countries.

Additionally, Dr. Baris also stressed the implications of Turkey being part of CPEC. According to him, Turkey can facilitate CPEC by connecting China to Europe.

Ms. Maryam Raza, Research Associate, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad discussed "Role of Cultural Diplomacy in the Greater Regional Connectivity".

She highlighted that there is a need to generate literature and build awareness among people regarding convergence. In this aspect, Ms. Maryam emphasized that academic institutional and intellectual collaboration would bring regional countries together to eradicate the prejudices and enhance people-to-people contacts. Academic cooperation would establish cultural assimilation among countries. Soft power diplomatic tools can also play a pivotal role in regional connectivity.

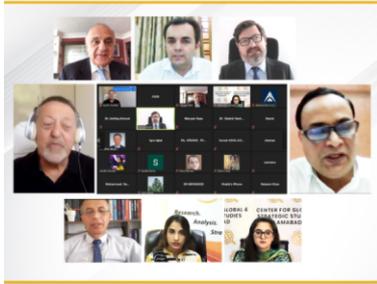
On behalf of the Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research, ANKASAM, Closing Remarks were delivered by Dr. OktayBingol, Senior Security and Strategy Advisor of ANKASAM and Associate Professor from Department of International Relations, Arel University Istanbul, Turkey. He stated that an actionable plan must be made by the collaborative institutions to enhance the bilateral ties. Furthermore, he mentioned that the two countries must cooperate in areas of Culture, Education, Culture, etc.

Dr. Mehmood-Ul-Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, CGSS, and Regional Geo-Political Analyst concluded the session by emphasizing the importance of Regional Connectivity.

## CGSS Website

<https://cgss.com.pk/index.php?CGSS/seminardetails/720>

### **Online International Conference on “Greater Regional Connectivity: Prospects, Parameters and Role of Partner Countries” jointly organized by the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, and Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research (ANKASAM)**



On 28th June 2021 an Online International Conference on “Greater Regional Connectivity: Prospects, Parameters, and Role of Partner Countries” jointly organized by the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, and Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research, ANKASAM. The conference was commenced with the opening remarks of Dr. Mehmood-Ui-Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), and Regional Geo-Political Analyst.

He stated that the cooperation between ANKASAM and CGSS has proven to be a qualitative partnership as it will promote bilateral ties between Pakistan and Turkey through the academic exchange of information. He further emphasized that this International cooperation will facilitate further enhancing the relationship between the two countries through initiatives like online conferences and seminars like the one organized today.

Ambassador (Retd) Aydin Nurhan. He is the Senior Advisor to the President of ANKASAM, Turkey discussed “Intra-Regional Cooperation: Role of Turkey in Regional Development”.

Ambassador Aydin mentioned that after the collapse of the Soviet Union, not immediate but a gradual vacuum emerged in Central Asia. According to him, the vacuum is gaining momentum. Ambassador Aydin discussed the contemporary global situation under which he stated Turkey as a significant emerging economy of the world. Additionally, emphasizing the friendly relationship shared between Pakistan Turkey, and Iran, Ambassador Aydin, stated them as One Nation and Three states.

He also stressed the need to improve the academic relations present between Pakistan and Turkey.

Dr. Mehmood-Ui-Hassan Khan, Member Board of Experts, Center for Global & Strategic Studies and Regional Geo-Political Analyst, Pakistan discussed “Uzbekistan-Pakistan’s Holistic Model of Greater Regional Connectivity”, Talking about the enhanced connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, Dr. Mehmood explained the holistic model of regional connectivity created by Uzbekistan.



### CGSS Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uc7v-hPLQ1E>

Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad, Pakistan & Ankara Center for Crisis and Policy Research, (ANKASAM), Ankara, Turkey Jointly organize

*Online International Conference*  
**GREATER REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY:  
PROSPECTS, PARAMETERS AND ROLE OF  
PARTNER COUNTRIES**  
28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

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