



# Online International Conference Report

## "Pakistan-Turkey Strategic Partnership & Prospects for Strengthened Bilateral Cooperation"



Jointly Organized by

Center of Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad &  
Center for Diplomatic Affairs & Political Studies (DIPAM), Turkey  
on  
25<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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## **Brief Overview:**

On 25th November 2020, Online International Conference on Pakistan-Turkey Strategic Partnership & Prospects for Strengthened Bilateral Cooperation was jointly organized by Center of Global and Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad & Center for Diplomatic Affairs & Political Studies (DIPAM), Turkey.

The conference aimed to highlight the significance of cooperation between Turkey and Pakistan to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, especially for the young generation of Pakistan. Furthermore, to help the young students to learn more about Turkey-Pakistan relations and its geostrategic, economic, and social significance.

The online international conference was commenced with the opening remarks of Brigadier Akhtar Nawaz Janjua (Retd), Senior Member Advisory Board, CGSS.

The conference was concluded with the closing remarks of Mr. Tolga Sakman, Chairman, Center for Diplomatic Affairs & Political Studies (DIPAM), Istanbul, Turkey.

The online international conference was moderated by Ms. Laraib Fatima Hassan, Communication & Coordination Manager, CGSS, and was attended by 60 participants from Pakistan and Turkey. The conference was also viewed live on Facebook.

## **Summary/Analysis**

### **1. Brief Summary of Pakistan-Turkey bilateral ties:**

- Pakistan and Turkey enjoy a very special cordial and friendly relationship ever since the creation of Pakistan. Important geo-strategic location, historical and cultural ties, religious affinity, common aims, and an aligned vision of foreign policy have paved the way for both of the states to strengthen their bilateral relations more.
- Pakistan-Turkey are the states with Muslim majority and in this context, they share an extensive geopolitical and cultural links
- A great positive image of these mutual relationships can be seen at every regional and international platform. Both the countries share a similarity of ideas/visions on a wide range of regional and international issues and supporters of each other at all international forums.
- Since both nations are the founders of the Economic Cooperation Organization, and are also affiliated with the D-8 Organization, so, this factor enabled them to cooperate in more domains. For example, commercial/economy, culture and tourism, health, transportation, infrastructure building, telecommunication, technology, higher education, and accommodate overseas diaspora.
- Both states are also monitoring a comprehensive plan to make feasible policies in providing dual nationality for their citizens. Which will add more reliability and significance to the existing partnership.
- It is important to give information to our young generation that these two states Pakistan and Turkey are interlinked in so many aspects. For example, in historical and cultural domain, Lahore and Karachi have Turkish cultural institute that are facilitating the students and researchers who wants to learn about the Turkish culture or norms.

## **2. Pakistan-Turkey Strategic Partnership:**

- Ranging from armored vehicles to new-generation corvettes and also strengthening the trade, the two countries are vigorously targeting and exploring the co-production of weapons, in recent days.
- Pakistan-turkey had built intimate relations in terms of strategic and core security interests. But this bilateral partnership got pace in 2000.
- The flourishing ties between two states can be seen through military to the military relations. The defense and military ties are synchronized and exemplified by joint armed forces drills and training programs.
- Turkey also helps Pakistan in maintaining a fleet of F-16 aircraft.
- Turkey is the second larger arms supplier to Pakistan and also showed deep interest to purchase *Super Mushshak* trainer aircrafts from Pakistan.
- Furthermore, Turkey's security and police experts have also played a vital role by helping Pakistan to establish more upgraded and secure security and surveillance systems around all the major cities.

## **3. Future Prospects to strengthen bilateral relationship:**

- Turkey is a member of G20 and also becoming an industrial giant. On the other side, Pakistan also has immense potential in the industrial sector. Hence, it provides an ample number of opportunities and areas to collaborate further and improve economic ties.
- There is also a great room for educational and professional training opportunities as well. Through cultural exchange programs, tourism activities, and providing higher education scholarships, the young generation can be benefitted. It will also help in strengthening people to people contact.
- The academic relations are very important for bringing nations together. In this regard, student-teacher research program on the region should be strengthen which will enhance people to people connectivity. In which scholars, intellectual, poets, students are facilitated to go in each other states.
- Feasible banking system and more industrial zones should be established.

- Scholarship schemes should be strengthening in both states. Also, the training program should be facilitated via cultural activities.
- Both countries have remarkable tourist destinations. In this aspect, less expensive tourism packages should be facilitated by government.
- Visa schemes should be more conducive and facilitating for those who wants to conduct the research and explore historical ties of both countries.
- There was a project to create joint TV channel and make dramas to tackle Islamophobia. There should be efforts to operationalized the project.
- There are only 17 Turkish companies working in Pakistan and only 233 Pakistani companies are working in Turkey, in which there is a need of more integration in this sector to enhance trade and economic ties.
- In 2018, the Turkish import to Pakistan was \$550million, whereas Pakistan import to turkey was \$330 million. so, the overall economic ratio of both nations should be increased.
- Free trade and custom policies should be finalized.
- Ports cooperation like Gwadar is really important. Joint programs should be developed more between the countries to work on the CPEC projects.
- Research and assistance in IT and Aviation fields should be enhanced.
- Both states should start cooperation to fight against Covid-19 and build nation's resilience.
- Both states have capacity to meet the business targets so new business investment should be incorporated in the areas of interest in present times.
- People to people contact should be increased because if they understand each other in a better manner, it can facilitate the establishment of social, cultural, political and economic cooperation in the region.

## **Scripts of the Speeches by the Speakers**

### **Brigadier Akhtar Nawaz Janjua (Retd), Senior Member Advisory Board, CGSS (Opening Remarks)**



He welcomed all the national and international participants. He talked about the historically great relations of Islamic states Turkey and Pakistan. He said that Turkey always supported Pakistan and always been on the forefront to help Pakistan in any issue whether it is of Kashmir or in any natural calamity. He explained the prospects for the cooperation in many different areas. He also appreciated the effort to strengthen bilateral relations by organizing these types of conferences that can help in people-to-people connection and strengthen cordial relations.

**Speaker 1:**

**Mr. Burhan Kayaturk, Former MP, Member of Turkey-Pakistan Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group, Turkey**



I want to welcome all the participants. I think Pakistan-Turkey relationship is going very well. Even before the establishment of Pakistan, there was love of the people who were going to establish Pakistan for the Turkish people. At the same time there is love and affection of Turkish people is there for Pakistan. We should have more close relations. The cordial relations should be reorganizing more i.e. in business terms. At the moment, there are two strong leaders, president Erdogan and PM Imran Khan. These two people probably can take the relation of both states further stronger. But at the same time, I think these two states having wonderful relation should try to increase the number of countries moving together, like Malaysia, Indonesia and some of the Arab countries should be able to join these kinds of unity. In this way the matter of Kashmir can be carried out in much stronger way. Like UNSC decision regarding Kashmir which was accepted. This is what Mr. Erdogan bring into line that India has to ultimately accept the situation. Importunely, India being a huge nation is leading by a small group of ultra-nationalists, radical. In the last I would like to say that Pakistan should also be more visible in some of the international organizations, specially, Asian Parliamentary Assembly. There are really wonderful Pakistani parliamentary people who can name the problems of Pakistan mainly Kashmir issue in that parliament assembly. In future there should be more parliaments in which Asian people could disperse their problems. We should work on this as well and provide support to this project. Thank you very much.

**Speaker 2:**

**Prof Dr. Muhammad Saleem Mazhar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Punjab  
Lahore, Pakistan**



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to listen the thought-provoking speech and ideas and learn from the panelist. As I am from University of Punjab, I would like to discuss some of the prospects in detail. The UOP was established in 1870 in the cultural hub of Lahore city. It started for the first-time higher education teaching and research, this is the first seat of higher learning in South Asia, in 1870. In this era of globalization, multi-dimensional efforts are required to strengthen the relation between individual, state and international level. In my point of view, two things are very important. You can see the positive impact of bringing Pakistan and Turkey that is the drama Ertugal Ghazi. You can see many embassies and cultural programs could not do what this only one drama has done and created impression and has brought both states very near. Even in villages, people are talking about the Turkish culture, food, clothes and feeling very close by heart with Turkish people. The other thing which Mr. Burhan has mentioned the academic relations are very important for bringing nations together. There are so many other things, that is the historical relation of both states. For example, very close follower of Mulana Jalaludin Rumi, is Pakistan's national poet Allam Iqbal. A little part of clay has been brought from Konya and kept in the mausoleum of Allama Iqbal. When someone visit mausoleum of Iqbal, he witnessed that his spiritual guide is from Konya. There is another important thing that the creator of Turkish national anthem, Mehmet Akif Ersoy is the follower of Allama Iqbal. He also narrated so much work of Iqbal in Turkish language. Last year, we organized international conference under the title of "Cultural and Social relations of Turkey: Case study of Mehmet Akif's and Allama Iqbal". So, these things impact a lot in strengthening close relations of both nations. It is important to give information to our young generation that these two states Pakistan and Turkey are interlinked in so many aspects and

always praises Allama Iqbal's poetry and ideas. We in Lahore and Karachi have Turkish cultural institute and facilitating those who wants to learn about the Turkish culture or norms. Pakistan, Iran and Turkey are working together as an organization for the economic development and now it has been incorporating the central Asian states. Its cultural secretariat is at Tehran and they have organized so many events to bring people close and inform about the culture. Lastly, we have passed some regional integration program which will be approved by the senate and we will start working about the research of the region. So, both of the nations have so many things in common. In future, I think that student-teacher research program on the region should be strengthen which will enhance people to people connectivity. In which scholars, intellectual, poets, students are facilitated to go in each other states. Scholarship schemes should be strengthening for both states. Visa schemes should be more conducive and facilitating for those who wants to conduct the research and explore historical ties of both countries. I think if people understand each other in a better manner and learn, it can facilitate the establishment of social, cultural, political and economic cooperation in the region. Thank you very much.

**Speaker 3:**  
**Mr. Mehmet Emre Aktuna, Regional Development Expert, Turkey**



Bismillah, first of all, I would like to thank CGSS and DIPAM for organization special webinar. I think this online event is an opportunity to enhance brotherhood between two countries. From the last two an unbreakable bound has been created between me and Pakistan. Common historical grounds of both states, support in Tehreek-e-khilafat, support in natural disasters has enhanced the bilateral relations more. I want to talk about the current relations of both countries. I will talk about the military, economic and cultural exchange. I will also try to give the remedies in which areas I think there is illness. Let me start with the political relation. Pakistan and Turkey have integrated cooperation in political and economic domain. Similarly, Turkish stance on Kashmir issue has made both states to come closer. I can count many examples since the Bagdad Pact, SEATO AND CENTO and like UNSC meetings and Islamic cooperation and removal of Pakistan from FATF blacklist. So, I think that diplomatic and political relations are very good. Certain things were there, the loopholes that did not add to make the relations solid in last decade. But now, both the political and diplomatically teams of both states and the leaders are optimist to cooperate. We are also best at the military cooperation. Pakistan has world's great army. Turkey is working in joint projects with Pakistan. Also, modernization and maintenance of F16. Turkey is planning to buy Mushshak air crafts from Pakistan. The relationship is at the stage of strong brotherhood. Also, there was a project to create joint TV channel to tackle Islamophobia. There are only 17 Turkish companies working in Pakistan and only 233 Pakistani companies are working in Turkey, in which I think it need more integration in this sector to enhance trade opportunities. Also, in 2018, the Turkish import to Pakistan was \$550million, whereas Pakistan import to turkey was \$330 million. so, this number should be increase. This solidarity should go beyond words and actions should be made in more domains. Pakistan is a nuclear power and I believe that it is one of the most strong and resilient country in the world. Now I will talk about the prospects for strengthening strategic

partnership and bilateral cooperation. Luckily, Pakistan has jumped to the 28<sup>th</sup> position in the world in ease of doing business. Alhamdulillah, Turkey has also capacity to establish these business targets as well. Both states can start in multi-lateral COVID-19 cooperation. Then ports cooperation like Gwadar, it is really important. We should research on what we can do in IT and Aviation field as well. Free trade and custom policies should be finalized. Joint programs should be anchored more between the countries to work on the CPEC projects as well. Small large multi-lateral cooperation should be strengthened. Feasible banking system and more industrial zones should be established. For cultural and tourism, Pakistan is named as one of the top tourist destinations. So, tourism packages should be facilitated by government. Training sessions should be established. Cultural programs should be conducted more. To sum up, both states have active relations. We should identify and overcome the existing obstacles for future collaboration in every domain. Thank you very much.

#### Speaker 4:

**Major General Dr. Shahid Hashmat, PHD, (Retd), Senior Advisory Board Member,  
CGSS, Islamabad, Pakistan**



First of all, I would like to pay my thanks to CGSS and DIPAM for organizing this webinar for giving this opportunity to many of us to listen to our Turkish brothers. Both states have so much things in commonalities. We share a detailed cultural, historical and religious legacy. The diplomatic relations of Pakistan and Turkey were established in 1947. Turkey was one of the earliest states to recognize Pakistan's independence. Both countries have always supported each other at international fora. Now these diplomatic relations have transformed into a new era of diplomatic relationships. There are certain issues in economic trade that there are certain areas in which the cooperation is needed. However, both states are the member of ECO and G-8. In 2020, the economic relation is strengthened by the signing of so many MOUs in defence, technology, economic and several other areas. Turkish support for Kashmir in freedom struggle is very essential for Pakistan. I would also like to give some recommendation for further strengthening Pakistan-Turkey Strategic partnership. First, both states need to facilitate and promote people to people contact. Second, cooperation and collaboration in research, education fields, technology is very important. Third, enhancing bilateral commerce and trade by finalizing FTA is also very important. So, the governments should provide special incentives for the investment. Similarly, government should promote tourism and introduce grant visa on arrival for 30-60 days. Establishment of joint TV channel and broadcasting organization to promote co production of films and dramas in both languages is vital. Furthermore, we should promote and sponsor conflict resolution patterns among OIC members. These were my suggestions. Thank you very much.