



**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN  
ISLAMABAD**

**PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT CIVIC RECEPTION AT LAHORE FORT IN  
HONOUR OF TURKISH PRESIDENT ABDULLAH GUL**

LAHORE, APRIL 01, 2010

Following is the text of Prime Minister's speech:-

**“Your Excellency  
President Dr. Abdullah Gul,  
Distinguished Guests from Turkey,  
Governor, Punjab,  
Chief Minister Punjab,  
Federal Ministers and Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is my proud privilege to welcome President Abdullah Gul and our distinguished guests from Turkey to this historic city of Lahore that is the repository of cultural heritage of thousands of years.**

**The role played by the Muslims of Sub-Continent in the Turkish Freedom Movement is a manifestation of the love between our peoples. My great grandfather Syed Zain-ul-Abideen Gilani also had the honour and distinction of resigning from the Government job to participate in the Khilafat movement. He was arrested and imprisoned alongwith thousands of others who wished to stand by their Turkish brethren, in their hour of trial.**

**Pakistan and Turkey are bond together with common faith, culture and traditions. We have common thoughts, vision and heroes. Our freedom struggle drew inspiration from the thoughts, the actions and the achievements of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. The poet philosopher, Allama Muhammad Iqbal who provided our freedom struggle with intellectual nourishment was profoundly influenced by the inspirational thoughts of Maulana Rumi.**

**Long before Pakistan and Turkey emerged on the map as sovereign States.**

**Our nations were one and continue to be one.**

**Our cultures and civilizations blended over a thousand years.**

**Our wisdom and values.**

**Our ideals and identities.**

**Our senses and sensibilities.**

**Stem from the same seed.**

**No wonder then that the art and architecture of Lahore Fort bears striking resemblance to the art and architecture at Topkapi.**

**And no wonder then that our spiritual links, our sufi traditions are so deeply intertwined.**

**Our relations are deep rooted in the hearts and minds of our people. We have a distinct sense of shared destiny inspired by common aspirations. The feelings of brotherhood are mutual and I had personally experienced it when I visited your beautiful country to participate in the 85th Independence Day Celebrations of Turkey.**

**The Frequent exchange of high level visits between our two countries is a hallmark of our ties. It reflects our mutual desire to draw closer and take our cooperation to ever greater heights. It is also gratifying that Turkey-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group is one of the largest in Turkey. A similar friendship group in our Parliament is headed by our honourable Speaker herself.**

**While striving for closer collaboration we also need to visualize the challenges we confront. The challenges which are hampering our progress and prosperity. These are the trends of extremism and terrorism. The ideology of terror emerges out of poverty, illiteracy and unresolved political issues. While we focus on efforts to bring about socio-economic change our attention is frequently deflected and our efforts often diluted by continuous denial of rights to the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Turkish Cyprus.**

**Excellency,**

**The people of Pakistan will never forget your unstinting support for the cause of Kashmir, and the struggle of the Kashmiri people for their just struggle for self determination.**

**Let me reiterate our continued support to the just and legitimate cause of our Turkish Cypriot brothers.**

**Excellency, ladies and gentlemen**

**Time has now come that we translate our abiding cooperation and fraternity into even closer ties in the field of commerce, trade and economy. Together we must work closely to transform our special relations into partnerships among our peoples and businesses and economy to further strengthen our ties into a futuristic vision.**

**The agreements signed in Islamabad will go a long way in further consolidating our lasting friendship. Opening new vistas for the mutual benefits and for the benefit of our regions and the world as a whole.**

**Pakistan and Turkey are Blessed with abundant human and natural resources. The leadership of our two countries have the ability and resolve to lead our nations and the region into a new era of peace and prosperity. We only need to develop a futuristic vision that does justice to our historic ties as well as vast potentials. We must not loose time in developing new corridors of ideas and innovation, trade and investment, synergy and enterprise.**

**Pakistan-Turkey friendship is not only a source of strength for our two countries, but also a factor of regional peace and prosperity. Together we must work closely to translate our unique and special relations into win-win partnerships among our peoples and businesses, our intelligentsia and academia. We will continue to look to our Turkish brethren for support and inspiration in our quest to make Pakistan a modern, moderate welfare State.**

**Pakistan-Turkey friendship is not only a source of strength for our two countries, but also a factor of regional peace and stability.**

**Excellency, ladies and gentlemen**

**The people of Lahore embrace you with open arms and open hearts. The programme we have the pleasure of putting up here, is a befitting testimony to our longstanding relations, to the deeply rooted love for Turkey that permeates our hearts, souls and minds.**

**It is a humble effort, to reciprocate in small measure the love, the warmth and kindness you have shown to Pakistan, its leadership and its people over the years.**

**Let us dedicate this evening to our friendship, kinship and cooperation.**

**I pray Excellency, for your health, happiness and long life.**

**Pakistan-Tukey Dosti Zindabad.**

**Pakistan Paindabad**