

**МАТЕРИАЛЫ МЕЖДУНАРОДНОЙ КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ
«ПАКИСТАН: ПОТЕНЦИАЛ ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЯ С РОССИЕЙ
В УСЛОВИЯХ ДЕМОКРАТИЗАЦИИ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОГО ПРОЦЕССА»**

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Honorable Director Institute of Oriental Studies, Professor Alikberov,
Respected Chairman, Centre for the Study of Near and Middle Eastern Countries, Institute of
Oriental Studies Professor Belokrenitsky,
Distinguished Scholars,
Assalam Alaikum!
Dobrey Oootro (Good Morning)!

It is a great honor for me to address this distinguished gathering of scholars of one of the richest literary and advanced scientific traditions in the world. An opportunity to speak in the hallowed halls of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences is an experience I will always hold close to my heart.

I took up my assignment here in Moscow in September last year and as I experienced the dazzling array of art, culture and the warmth of Russian people I have simply fallen in love with this city. I am glad to note that Pakistan Embassy has established regular dialogue and interaction with the prestigious Institute of Oriental Studies and I assure you one of the goals for my tenure here is to strengthen interaction between the scholarly communities of our two countries.

I would now like to briefly apprise the distinguished guests here of the progress in Pakistan-Russia relations.

Strengthening relations with the Russia Federation remains an important priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. We believe that Pakistan-Russia relations not only serve our respective national interests but also contribute to regional and global stability and security. We intend to intensify cooperation with Russia in areas of trade, economy, security, counter-terrorism, defence as well as cultural, educational and people-to-people contacts.

Pakistan and Russia celebrated the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations in 2023 and in these 75 years, our bilateral relations have witnessed a sea-change. Our relations today are marked by increased warmth and trust. I am glad to share with you that during my official ceremony for presentation of credentials to President Putin, the President characterized Pakistan-Russia relations as "truly friendly".

We have established a strong architecture of dialogue at all levels. Last October, Caretaker PM Kakar held a very positive meeting with President Putin. We are keenly working on strengthening economic cooperation particularly in the fields of energy and connectivity.

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More specifically on the focus of today's conference Pakistan and Russia have solidified parliamentary cooperation with regular exchanges over the past years. Last year Pakistan Chairman Senate on the invitation of Speaker of the Russia Federation Council, had a very positive visit to Moscow. It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan-Russia parliamentary friendship group exist in Upper and Lower Houses of Parliaments.

Parliamentary cooperation is an important element of effective diplomacy and cordial relations between nations. Pakistan's parliament has been playing a dynamic role to enhance multilateral linkages and synergies between parliaments at key international parliamentary forums such Inter-Parliamentary Union, Common Wealth Parliamentary Association and Asian Parliament Assembly. Parliamentary leaders are true representatives of people and in this role; they are the true embodiment of the democratic will of citizens of states. Parliaments with their legislative powers, their role as national debating chambers, their oversight function and budgetary responsibilities are in a unique position to find innovative solutions for the complex unconventional challenges faced by the world today in the form of economic recession, pandemics, climate change, Islamophobia, extremism and trans-national terrorism etc. Parliament is the only institution in the democratic setup, which exists on the basis of direct contact with people.

I strongly believe that regular, open and constructive dialogue amongst the parliaments of the world can help develop a deeper understanding amongst nations. Both our countries have scheduled elections for this calendar year I wish all the success for this democratic endeavor to my Russian friends.

In the end, I once again thank you for inviting me to express my views here at your prestigious institute. I eagerly look forward to continuing this journey of friendship and cooperation.

Thank You!