

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

STATEMENT

BY

THE MINISTER OF EU AFFAIRS AND CHIEF NEGOTIATOR  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

H.E. EGEMEN BA I

AT THE

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PLENARY MEETING

ON

THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

NEW YORK, 19 AUGUST 2010

President of the General Assembly,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Foreign Minister H.E. Shah Mahmood Qureshi,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to begin my address by reading out a message from H.E. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to the UN General Assembly:

President of the General Assembly,  
Esteemed Delegates,

Pakistan has experienced the most destructive natural disaster of its history. On behalf of my nation and my government, I would like to extend our deepest sorrow for the flood disaster which has shattered the lives of millions of Pakistanis. The Government and the nation of Pakistan have mobilized all their resources against this disaster, but more needs to be done. This is an emergency that needs appropriate and immediate global response.

It is not only a necessity, but also a humanitarian responsibility for all nations to act in unity and solidarity against this and other disasters. The United Nations is certainly the primary organization to demonstrate this will. Today is the day for extending a swift, strong and a determined helping hand to Pakistan.

Turkey and the Turkish people will remain in solidarity with Pakistan and we will do our best to heal the wounds of the Pakistani people.

This was the message from My Prime Minister.

Excellencies,

In the spirit outlined in the message of Prime Minister Erdoğan, let me continue by expressing my heartfelt condolences to the people and the Government of Pakistan, for all those who lost their lives as a result of the floods. We wish strength to the bereaved families who lost their loved ones.

The disaster is one of the gravest that the international community has encountered. The scale of destruction is at unprecedented proportions.

We highly appreciate that the General Assembly has been convened for this special session to discuss this very urgent and important issue which coincides meaningfully with the World Humanitarian Day. I am confident that all of us are here to help mitigating this disaster.

I also wish to thank Mr. Secretary General for his personal engagement and commitment to Pakistan. The UN has a crucial role in evaluating, assisting and coordinating the needs of the affected populations. Mr. Secretary General, we praise your leadership and applaud the UN staff for their effective and hard work on the ground. We also would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for his leadership.

The tragedy in Pakistan outlines a new challenge for all of us. In the face of such unprecedented natural disasters, it is vital to win the hearts and minds of the affected people.

Natural disasters can generate social and political upheaval. Destabilized communities, displaced peoples and tragedies can transform to security problems. It is our common responsibility to heal the suffering as quickly as possible. It is encouraging to witness that the international community is taking this threat very seriously, and this high level session is a proclamation that the people of Pakistan is not alone.

Our early and prompt response, political determination, global solidarity, organizational efficiency, and logistical success should set an exemplary standard for similar emergencies and disasters in the future.

The noble people of Pakistan should hear and feel that their well-being is taken seriously by the international community and that we stand by them in this dire moment.

I am certain that the relief operations will respect the Pakistani sovereignty. Similarly, pride of the Pakistani people should be duly respected during the relief operations.

Excellencies,

Welfare and stability of brotherly Pakistan have always been of utmost priority for Turkey. My nation has always been in full solidarity with the people of Pakistan. Our relationship is time-tested and unique. Turkey, at all levels, has immediately expressed its strong resolve to support Pakistan and readiness to provide humanitarian assistance. This was unequivocally underlined by President Gül and Prime Minister Erdoğan on every occasion.

Until now, Turkey has sent four shipments of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan. 140 tons of humanitarian cargo which is worth more than two million Dollars has been transferred. The aid sent includes food rations, sheltering equipment and other aid material required by the Pakistani authorities.

Turkey has also transferred 10 million Dollars to the Pakistani authorities for their urgent needs.

Furthermore, the Turkish Armed Forces will be sending two C-130 cargo planes carrying medical supplies.

I am proud to state that the Turkish Red Crescent, volunteer groups and relief associations were among of the first international groups that reached Pakistan, and they have already distributed supplies in coordination with the local authorities.

We are in the process of constructing two field hospitals together with healthcare personnel. These hospitals will be operational on Saturday.

On the other hand, my government has initiated an additional nation-wide people-to-people donation campaign which will reflect the Turkish nations warm feelings towards Pakistan during this holy month of Ramadan. Turkish business world is also leading another campaign, and our Chambers have taken the lead with 1 million dollar donation. Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency of Religious Affairs will also initiate similar campaigns in the near future.

Yesterday, the Organization of Islamic Conference held an extraordinary session in Jeddah on this matter. Turkey has actively participated in that meeting.

Excellencies,

The international community, including the UN system, major development partners and EU are facing yet another test against an enormous tragedy. This plenary, the ongoing global efforts, and the responses expressed from this stand, are all very encouraging. This should be a long term and well coordinated effort. As a first step, we need to have an effective outcome from this meeting. Along with resolution we have just adopted, as always, our bigger challenge will start after the flood waters subside and once the emergency is over. We should remain vigilant and focused on Pakistan until normalcy returns to the displaced millions. Our attention span should not be limited to the evening news. The region, the continent and the world can not afford another case of instability. Turkey will be at the forefront of this great humanitarian effort. As always, our message is peace at home and peace in the world.

Thank you.