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**Human Rights Council - 14<sup>th</sup> Session of UPR  
Country Under Review: Pakistan**

Thank you Madam President,

Turkey welcomes the high-level delegation of Pakistan headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Hina Rabbani Khar and thanks them for their comprehensive National Report.

Pakistan and Turkey historically enjoy excellent relations based on mutual trust. As a respected member of the international community, Pakistan continues to be an active and constructive partner in the international fora. Further progress in this democratic country must be supported, especially since Pakistan continues to be a vital factor for stability in the region.

We are glad to observe the positive steps that Pakistan, which is a democratic country with an elected parliament, an independent judiciary, a free media and a vibrant civil society, have taken in implementing its international human rights commitments in national laws in many important areas, and the establishment of an independent Human Rights Commission that is mandated to look into human rights abuses across the country.

We welcome the passage of the 18th, 19th and 20th amendments to the Constitution of Pakistan in the last two years, which have strengthened human rights in the country. As a result, anti-democratic practices introduced by military rulers to the Constitution were removed. They also improved the position of Election Commission of Pakistan, by making it more independent and impartial.

Finally, we commend Pakistan for the positive steps taken towards a more consolidated democracy and recommend the Pakistani Government to take necessary measures for carrying those reforms rapidly into effect.

Thank you.

Amb. Oğuz Demiralp

or

Counsellor Yaprak Alp