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GENERAL DEBATE: 6TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT

Speech

**Hon'ble Syed Yousaf Raza
Gilani,**
Chairman, Senate of Pakistan



SENATE SECRETARIAT
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE

Honourable Chairman;

Honourable Speakers; and

Head of delegates;

It is an honour for me to address this prestigious gathering.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the IPU, United Nations and the government of Switzerland for jointly organizing this Conference.

When we last met at the Fifth Conference in 2021, the world was in the grip of a devastating global pandemic; and we had together reaffirmed our shared commitment to multilateralism to manage the crises.

Today, as we meet again, this platform provides the opportunity to assess new realities and shape a better future.

Honourable colleagues,

Theme of this conference aptly reminds us that the world is indeed in a state of turmoil.

Raging conflicts, rising economic uncertainty, widening inequality, climate emergency, and digital disruption pose grave challenges.

The trust between people and institutions continues to erode.

We are witnessing blatant disregard for international law and humanitarian norms.

Acts of aggression and violence unfold without accountability.

This is on full display in occupied Palestine where international justice mechanisms remain paralysed despite the ongoing genocide. For seventy five years, the people in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir still long for self-determination.

Distinguished delegates,

Parliaments have a vital role to play in such a world.

Pakistan Parliament has long advocated for peace, cooperation and inclusive development.

At home, the Senate of Pakistan continues to advance inclusive legislation, ensuring representation of women, youth, and marginalized communities.

Landmark social safety initiatives like the Benazir Income Support Programme launched during my tenure as Prime Minister, continue to uplift millions from poverty.

In my dual role as Chairman Senate of Pakistan and founding Chairman of Inter-parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC), I have laid a special focus on strengthening parliamentary diplomacy to build regional and global connectivity and cooperation to address common challenges.

In this context, Pakistan is hosting Speakers Conference in Islamabad from 11-12 November 2025. I invite you all to participate in this Conference and looking forward to meeting you in Islamabad.

Excellencies,

Let us leave this conference with the resolve to act and to ensure that our parliaments become beacons of justice, equity, and peace.

Pakistan remains ready to work with all partners for a more peaceful, stable and democratic world.

I **thank you** once again for this opportunity and extend my best wishes for the success of this conference.

I would also like to acknowledge the pivotal role that Malaysia played in facilitating peace efforts for the recent conflict between Cambodia and Thailand.

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