

**JOINT POLITICAL DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
HIGH LEVEL STRATEGIC COOPERATION COUNCIL BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY AND THE STATE OF QATAR**

The Republic of Turkey and the State of Qatar are determined to continue strengthening their relations in every field, based on strong cultural and historical ties between their peoples with a view to enhancing their solidarity and cooperation which would serve their common interests as well as contribute to peace and stability in their region and beyond.

With this understanding the two sides have agreed to establish a "High Level Strategic Cooperation Council".

The High Level Strategic Cooperation Council will be headed by the Heads of State of the two countries. The Council will convene at least once a year, alternately, in Turkey and in Qatar. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers responsible for the fields of trade, economy, banking and finance, investments, industry, transportation, energy, agriculture, culture, tourism, education, health, labour and social security, security, defense and information will also be the members of the Council. With the development of cooperation to cover other areas of mutual interest, the Council may be enlarged to include the ministers responsible for such areas in their respective countries.

The coordination of the work of the Council and the finalization of its agenda for each meeting will be undertaken by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries. In this respect, the Ministers attending the Council meeting will convene at least once a year before the Council meeting under the chairmanship of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

The two sides shall establish joint preparatory committees, on the level of senior officials, under the supervision of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both countries in order to prepare and coordinate the Council's meetings.

In addition, the Ministers attending Council meetings will also meet with their counterparts at least once a year and will develop Action Plans in their respective areas of responsibility in order to accelerate cooperation between the two sides with concrete steps.

On the basis of the above, two sides have agreed on the following issues.

A. Cooperation in Political and Diplomatic Fields

1. Concluding bilateral agreements on issues of mutual interest to solidify already

existing strong bonds between the two countries.

2. Intensifying consultation and cooperation on regional issues that are of interest to both countries and coordinating their policies and stances towards various international and regional causes and crises within the framework of mutual understanding of each party's particular positions and obligations.
3. Holding regular political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.
4. Consulting and harmonizing, to the maximum extent possible, the efforts of the two parties' delegations to different international and regional organizations and gatherings; including reciprocal support for candidacies in international and regional organizations, committees, and posts as well as cooperating and coordinating their policies in these organizations.
5. Providing, as appropriate, assistance by diplomatic missions of each Party wherever the other Party does not have diplomatic missions, in accordance with the laws and established practices of the receiving countries
6. Supporting mutual education programs for the diplomats of the two countries, in accordance with the **Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of the State of Qatar.**

B. Cooperation in the Fields of Economy, Trade, Banking and Finance, Investments, Transportation, Maritime Affairs, Tourism, Health, Labour and Social Security

1. In accordance with the **Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the State of Qatar, (11 March 1985)** enhancing economic cooperation and integration between the two parties and to further increasing the bilateral trade.
2. Affirming the importance of achieving economic interdependence on a mutually beneficial basis, taking into consideration the regional economic commitments of both countries especially with neighboring countries.
3. Expanding the cooperation between the Ministries and governmental authorities in the economic field, as well as between industries, unions and investors unions, the chambers of commerce, trade unions and businessmen associations in both countries.
4. Taking into consideration the **Memorandum of Understanding between Investment Support and Promotion Agency of the Republic of Turkey and Qatar Investment Authority**, encouraging the companies of both countries to increase high value-added investments especially in the fields of

construction, infrastructure, transportation, health, banking and finance, energy, housing, urban development and technology transfer.

5. Enhancing cooperation in the fields of industrial zones, SME promotion and mechanic and electronic industries
6. Providing equal treatment to Turkish and Qatari foreign investors without discrimination in accordance with the **Agreement concerning the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Qatar.**
7. Enhancing the implementation of the **Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Qatar.**
8. Increasing the efficiency of the existing economic cooperation mechanisms between the two countries, namely Joint Economic Commission and the Joint Business Council as a catalyst and facilitator for the establishment of partnerships and joint ventures between the two countries.
9. Enhancing cooperation in the field of banking and finance encouraging joint ventures; initiating exchange and training programs between the relevant economic and financial institutions of both countries.
10. Intensifying cooperation in the fields of land and maritime route transportation and civil aviation.
11. Enhancing cooperation in the fields of IT and communications.
12. Promoting cooperation in the field of tourism and facilitating tour operations between the two countries.
13. Enhancing cooperation in the field of health, including medical training, through exchange programs between health institutions.
14. Enhancing cooperation in the field of local and social development as well as poverty reduction.
15. In accordance with the **Agreement Concerning the Organization of Manpower Employment Between the Republic of Turkey and the State of Qatar and its Additional Protocol**, Enhancing dialogue and cooperation in the field of labour as well as in the field of social security.
16. Encouraging cooperation with the third parties primarily in the African continent.

C. Cooperation in the Fields of Energy, Agriculture, Environment, Forestry, and Meteorology

1. Expanding the scope of existing energy cooperation between the two countries within the framework of Joint Energy Working Group, established in accordance with the **Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey and the Ministry of Energy and Industry of the State of Qatar.**
2. Enhancing cooperation in hydrocarbon exploration and production.
3. Increasing cooperation in the field of water, agriculture, environment, forestry, and meteorology.

D. Cooperation in the Fields of Culture, Education, Science and Technology

1. Creating mechanisms to augment the cultural dimension of bilateral relations.
2. Supporting cultural exchange programs, including exchange of fine arts exhibitions, folkloric groups, cultural events and festivals in order to further strengthen common socio-cultural bonds.
3. Expanding projects of literature and TV and cinema productions, and providing governmental support for educational programs about Turkish and Arabic languages and cultural heritages in both parties' universities.
4. Reviewing their school textbooks in order to further develop existing brotherly relations between two peoples sharing same faith, history, culture as well as common future and expectations.
5. Enhancing educational and scientific exchange programs and cooperation between universities and relevant research centers and institutions.
6. Supporting the establishment of Turcology Departments in Qatari universities.
7. Exchanging expertise in the fields of preservation, restoration, and usage of common historical heritage with a view to passing them to the future generations.
8. Supporting the establishment of Turkish and Qatari Cultural Centers in their respective countries and engaging in cooperation in order to facilitate the cultural and educational activities of these centers.
9. Celebration of Turkish-Qatari Cultural Year in both countries.
10. Encouraging cooperation in the fields of science and technology through conclusion of cooperation agreements.
11. Encouraging the conclusion of twining agreements between Turkish and Qatari cities.

E. Cooperation in the Fields of Security, Military and Defense Industry

1. Promoting cooperation in the field of security.
2. Developing a long term strategic partnership in combating terrorism, organized crime and their financial sources.
3. Establishing regular meetings and visits between Turkish and Qatari high level military and security officials.
4. Enhancing cooperation in the field of defense industry, in accordance with the **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the State of Qatar on Defense Industry Cooperation.**
5. Further encouraging cooperation in the field of defense industry and joint ventures between public and private sector companies operating in defense and supplying sectors.
6. Enhancing cooperation in accordance with the **Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the State of Qatar on Cooperation in Military Fields of Training, Technique and Science** as well as with the **Agreement on Military Training Cooperation**
7. *Concluding new agreements in the field of military and defense cooperation as needed.*

F. Cooperation in the Fields of Communication and Information

1. In accordance with the **Memorandum of Understanding between Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) and the Qatar Media Corporation on Cooperation in the fields of Radio, Television and News**, promoting cooperation between respective official radio and TV institutions as well as media agencies.
2. Enhancing cooperation in the fields of media, press and information, by establishing cooperation mechanisms and by concluding *the Protocol between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the State of Qatar on Cooperation in the Fields of Press and Information*"

G. Cooperation in the Field of Consular and Humanitarian Affairs

1. Further developing consular relations between the two parties, based on bilateral and multilateral agreements, and by signing new bilateral agreements and by renewing the existing agreements, where necessary.

2. Developing cooperation in the field of humanitarian assistance through signing a protocol towards collaboration in response to regional and international humanitarian crises.

The fields of cooperation may be expanded upon mutual agreement of the two sides.

This Joint Political Declaration was signed in Ankara on .../.../2014 in two original copies in Turkish, Arabic and English, each being equally authentic. Should any dispute concerning the interpretation of the texts arise, the English version shall prevail.

On Behalf of Republic of Turkey

On Behalf of State of Qatar

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
President

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad AL THANI
Emir of Qatar