



# TURKEY - IRAN ROUND TABLE MEETINGS - 10

“Turkey-Iran Sustainable Strategy”



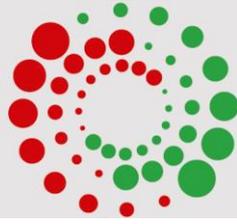
**IPIS**

دفتر مطالعات سياسي و بين المللي  
Institute for Political and  
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**TASAM**

TÜRK ASYA STRATEJİK ARAŞTIRMALAR MERKEZİ  
TURKISH ASIAN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES



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## VISION PAPER

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## “Turkey - Iran Sustainable Strategy”

( 12 February 2018, Istanbul )

Turkey-Iran Relations, whose main pillars are composed by cultural and geographical affinity has a background of a thousand year. Despite the problems caused by very long and problematical background, the recovery of Turkey-Iran modern diplomatic relations which has started with appointment of Esad Efendi as Ambassador to Iran in 1835, seem to take a strong acceleration after the establishment of Republic of Turkey.

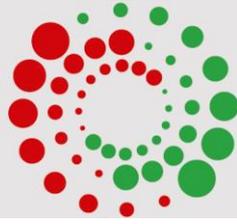
The bilateral relations that fluctuated due to the Cold War conditions since the II. World War followed a positive course in general terms. Cooperation steps to be developed in areas such as security, politics, trade, transportation and communication in the framework of regional organizations such as CENTO and RCD have revealed the inevitability of the need of the two countries to each other.

Turkey-Iran political relations have followed steady rising line in general since 1979. In this respect, the two countries' mutual history and cultural denominators have played a key role as well as common interests and good neighbor relations. During the last years of the Cold War and after the Cold War, assertive initiatives such as the D-8 and ECO have lost their momentum and left their places into relations dependent on periodic conditions.

The '**Nuclear Negotiation Process**', which is one of the most important developments of the past years and which had suffered of displeasure by US with a clear negative attitude after the US president Donald Trump has come to power, has brought a regional view to Iran's foreign policy approach.

Turkey's changing foreign policy towards the region has been bringing together the two countries on the same plane. In this context, the relations of these two countries, which are the only elements to provide regional stability, require interventions with institutional infrastructure to produce long term policies.

In recent years, with the influence of the emergence of regional developments, the two countries have moved closer together to develop many inter-country relations. Turkey and Iran, which can be considered as regional power centers and also historically rivals, should be in in search of transforming this rivalry into power and advantage rather than trying anything that doesnt have place in real plane, such as annihilate the rivalry.



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It is vital to make the cooperation processes that started within regional issues such as "**Astana Process**" to become permanent and to support the process firstly with bilateral, later multilateral and regional organizations. The starting point of bilateral relationship should be **the institutional reconstruction of economic relations** which would inevitably make direct and indirect contributions to other fields, and besides, the assessment of available opportunities and provide new opportunities according to construct an economic cooperation.

Developments in bilateral relations that would make a contribution to positive aspects of economic relations such as the use of national currencies in trade, enliven the border gates and support of logistics; should also take its place with cooperation in global scale projects such as "**Silk Road Project**" and get benefit from this project at the highest level.

**Turkey - Iran Round Table Meetings** which are being held since 2008 in cooperation with **TASAM** and **IPIS** and subsequently **Turkey-Iran Forum** initiative which based on economics and will be held for fourth time this year in Tabriz in 17-19 April 2018 aim to institutionalize the Relations of two countries and deepen the relations by prioritizing some specific areas.

In this framework, it is aimed to recognize relevant institutions, increasing the impact of civil society, contribute to sectoral and financial deepening, utilization of expertise in the development of resources and workplaces, contributing to promotional activities, research on academic cooperation opportunities and to develop a strategic approach that will ensure that all these studies will be evaluated in integrity through the agency of **Round Table Meetings**.

## Main Theme

**Turkey - Iran Sustainable Strategy**

## Sub-Themes

Prior Economic Cooperation Opportunities for Turkey-Iran (Current Projects and OBOR)

Stable and Institutional Relation Models

Regional Relations in the Context of Geopolitics and Energy Politics

Bilateral Views for Regional Developments