

TURKEY - RUSSIA **STRATEGIC DIALOGUE** **PROGRAM**

**"Civil Diplomacy Capacity Building:
Sectoral and Financial Deepening"**



VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

TURKEY - RUSSIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE PROGRAM

“Civil Diplomacy Capacity Building: Sectoral and Financial Deepening”

(Turkey - Russia)

Turkey distinguishes itself with a 80-million inhabitants, growing economy and geo-strategic status in the center of Afro-Eurasia main land. Depending on its historical and cultural ties between Europe, Black Sea, Caucasus, Asia, Middle East and Africa, and rising activities in international organizational areas particularly in the United Nations, and leading membership of the international organizations such as NATO, AGIT, and CICA, and recent efficiently developed foreign policy, Turkey has become an actor, which has been gaining importance in global scene.

On the other hand, Russian Federation is a recognized power in global arena with its acreage, population of 144 million, development in industrialization and technology, growing economy, natural resources, historical accumulation, veto power in the United Nations, position in CIS and SCO.

There are strong historical, cultural and geographical ties between Turkey and Russia which share both European and Asian characteristics. Turkey recognized USSR in 1920 and Soviet Union was the first major power to recognize Ankara Government during Turkish War of Independence. Despite ideological polarization during Cold War; the relations between Russia and Turkey have always proceeded on a certain level. After the Cold War; diplomatic relations between two countries have been strengthened by bilateral official visits and new Russian foreign policy.

Turkish-Russian relations have gained a different perspective and new opportunities of cooperation have occurred with Russia's tendency towards pluralistic democracy and market economy. Both countries have taken steps to improve their relations, strengthen mutual trust and diversify the areas of cooperation. Within time these steps resulted in signing “Eurasia Cooperation Action Plan” under the theme “From mutual cooperation to multidimensional partnership” in November 2001. With the plan; the dialogue and cooperation in Eurasia is believed to resolve conflicts peacefully and permanently. Developing mutual economic relations between Russia and Turkey were also mentioned in the plan.

Main frame of the economic relations between Turkey and Russia have been determined by signing “Trade and Navigation Agreement on 8th of November 1937. After the collapse of the USSR, legal ground on economic relations between Russia and Turkey have been determined by signing “Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement” on 25th of February 1991. Trade volume between two countries had reached to 38 billion dollars in 2008. However; due to global crisis and certain problems between two countries, the trade volume decreased to 24 billion dollars in 2015.



Turkey exports food products, textile products, chemicals and automobile industry products to Russia and imports oil, natural gas, iron-steel, coal from Russia.

The biggest problem in trade between Russia and Turkey is that; this relation has begun to shape in favor of Russia. In long term; this situation may cause political and economical problems with regards to sustainment of relations. Turkey's growing need for energy and high energy prices are some of the reasons behind this unbalanced trade relation. Russia's specific rules on foreign trade are also deepening this problem.

Turkey and Russia; in the areas of geopolitics and security in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Middle east have common interests. Considering energy security and growing terrorism; maintaining peace and security in these regions are vital for both countries.

Both Turkey and Russia as growing economies have to take each other in to account. For Russia, Turkey is a good economic partner in Balkans, Middle East and Central Asia. Turkey sees Russia as a partner in the areas of politics, economy and security. In order to develop its relations with Asian countries; Turkey gives special importance to its cooperation with Russia. In this regard, Turkey gives great importance to CIS, CICA and SCO. By becoming a member to these organizations Turkey aims to develop mutual relations with Russia in many fields including international trade and security cooperation.

Turkey has been trying to gain the support of Russia (as a permanent member of UN Security Council) in many international disputes including the issue of Cyprus. In the following term; in parallel with Turkey's growing influence in international platforms; as members of UN, CICA, CIS and SCO, both countries will find to develop their cooperation in the fields of politics, economy, culture and security.

Both countries can develop strategic cooperation with regards to sustaining long term interests. At this point, a wider geographical point of view is needed to look at the events.

The point where the two countries come is defined as "strategic cooperation". Also it is being deeply felt that there is an urgent necessity for collaborative works of the two countries so that the solutions for the regional issues can be found. Now it is required that the two countries head towards a future structure, in order to uplift the Turkey - Russia relations an ideal point within a world power schema which takes its form in a multi-dimensional way, by creating a mutual deepening not only in political and strategic basis but also in its each parameters. History offers both the two countries opportunities for deepening their interdependency. In this regard, the **Turkey - Russia Strategic Dialogue Program**, which will bring together the representatives of the related sectors in a comprehensive way that includes the strategic dimension of the relations, will play a significant role.



Main Theme

Civil Diplomacy Capacity Building: Sectoral and Financial Deepening

Sub Themes

Turkey - Russia Economic Relations: Opportunities and Obstacles

ASEAN Region and Turkey-Russia

Energy Security, Energy Supply Policies and Opportunities

Technology Sharing

Turkey - Russia Security Cooperation

Middle East- African Countries and Turkey - Russia

Central Asian Countries and Turkey-Russia

Academic and Cultural Cooperation

Primary Sectors

Public Diplomacy, Education and Language

Culture and Tourism

Construction, Construction Business and Infrastructure

Health and Health Tourism

Energy, Petro-chemistry and Investments

Logistics, Transportation and Communication

Banking and Finance (Strategic Investment Fund)

Economy and Trade

Media and Communication

Science and Technology

Brand Cities and Environment

Defence and Space Industry

Program Performance Area

Turkey and Russia



EVENTS / WORKING PLAN (DRAFT)

Method

Induction, Participation and Economic Deepening

Press Conferences

Turkey - Russia Wise Persons Board Meetings / Studies

In the Program process, to create a “**Turkey - Russia Wise Persons Board**” included mainly senior economists composed of regional and local representatives of each country; and at least one bilateral meeting to be done; and to be locally offered interactions and suggestions for the relations of the two countries/regions based on the cProgram studies, by this board.

Turkey - Russia New Ecosystem Research Project

Round Table Meetings / Workshops

Multilateral Workshop / Studies

Congress(es)

Sector Workshops / Events

Practical Interactive Trainings

Strategic Reports

Publishing strategic reports of sectoral works for both two countries’ decision makers, private sectors, media and public opinion. Providing feedback to ensure the related literature and public’s memory.

Briefing Meetings to Decision Makers

Preparation of Research Projects and Reports

TV Programs

Media Conferences

Other Academic Studies

Academic Studies as Strategic Reports, Books, Articles, thesis and so on.