



# TURKEY - MEXICO ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS



**Turkey and Mexico: Rising Powers in the Changing  
World Order, Opportunities & Risks**



## STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT ( DRAFT )

# **TURKEY - MEXICO ROUND TABLE MEETING 1**

## **Turkey and Mexico: Rising Powers in Changing Global Order, Opportunities and Risks**

**( 23-24 June 2014, Mexico City )**

Turkey with its population of 75 million, growing economy and its geostrategic position in the middle of Afro-Eurasian main continent has become a prominent country. Turkey has political, historical and cultural ties with Europe, Black Sea, Caucuses, Asia, Middle East and Africa. It is an important member of NATO, OSCE and CICA, and with its recent active foreign policy it has become an important player in global arena.

Mexico with its population of 120 million, area of 2,000,000km<sup>2</sup>, strategic position in Central America, human resources, GDP of 1,68 trillion dollars and developing economy is a prominent country. Mexico also is a notable member and observer to many international organizations such as; UN, OAS (Organization of American States), Rio Group, OECD, ANDEAN, SICA (Central American Integration System), G-20, NAFTA.

The first diplomatic contact between Turkey and Mexico was established in 1927. Turkey - Mexico relations have a positive course in mutual and multilateral platforms. There is an increasing trend of high level official visits between Turkey and Mexico. Besides the dual relations between Turkey and Mexico; there is cooperation of both countries in multilateral forums. Turkey and Mexico had become permanent members in United Nations Security Council in 2009 and 2010. Both countries share the same views about the reform of United Nations. Both countries are members to G-20 and OECD.

Turkey is a suitable partner for Mexico to be influential in Central Asia, Middle East, Balkans and Caucasus. On the other hand; Mexico is an important country for Turkey with regards to its relations with North and Central American countries. Cooperation between two countries at regional and global level will increase their diplomatic prestige and will contribute to the regional and global peace and stability.



The studies have been carried out in order to create a base for Turkey - Mexico economic relations. The trade volume between Turkey and Mexico has reached to 845 million dollars in 2011. When both countries' GDP is taken into consideration; the trade volume is way below from actual potential.

Despite both countries' close cooperation in political relations, adaptation of liberal economical policies and democratic values; economical relations do not reflect the expectations. Major trade partners of Mexico are NAFTA countries. Likewise; major trade partners of Turkey EU member states. Both countries were affected less from the global economic crisis which has begun in 2008 due to precautions that they took in their financial systems. Countries like Turkey and Mexico should cooperate more in order to avoid the long term negative effects of global economic crisis.

Despite geographical distance, there are many cooperation areas between Turkey and Mexico. For example; Mexico has signed Free Trade Agreement with 44 countries and offers opportunities like Free Trade Zone for Turkish businessmen.

Both countries have unique cultural richness. This can be used to improve cooperation in tourism, public diplomacy and international relations between two countries.

Promotion of areas of cooperation is necessary between Turkey and Mexico. Main problems which prevent the improvement of Turkey - Mexico relations are lack of knowledge and advertisement. In order to solve these problems student exchange programs, cooperation in media, informatics and technology sectors should be introduced.

On the other hand; Turkey and Mexico share common interests in geopolitics and security at regional and global levels. With regards to "need for security of energy supply and demand"; maintaining peace and security serve both countries' interests.

Both countries, in order to sustain critically important long term interest; can develop an effective strategic cooperation. At this point a wider perspective should be adopted with regards to Turkey - Mexico relations.

In order for Turkey - Mexico relations to be carried to an ideal point in today's multi-dimensional world order; every parameter should be taken into consideration.



The aims of the **Turkey - Mexico Round Table Meetings** are to prepare a civil, institutional and intellectual strategic base to improve and strengthened the Turkey - Mexico Relations.

**Main Theme and Sub-Themes are as follows:**

### **Main Theme**

**Turkey and Mexico: Rising Powers in Changing Global Order, Opportunities and Risks**

### **Sub-Themes**

**Global Challenges, Multi-Dimensional New World and Foreign Policy Perspectives**

**Economical Relations: Opportunities and Obstacles**

**Resources System: Mutual Supplementary Opportunities**

**Multi-Dimensional Security Cooperation**

**Multilateral Cooperation Perspectives**

**Civil Society, Academic and Cultural Cooperation Perspectives**