



9TH ISTANBUL SECURITY CONFERENCE



Strategic Transformation in the Ecosystem

Climate, Nourishment, Demography, Meritocracy, Economy,
Health, Education, Employment, Family-Youth and City
Security



VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

9TH ISTANBUL SECURITY CONFERENCE (2023)

“Strategic Transformation in the Ecosystem: Climate, Nourishment, Demography, Meritocracy, Economy, Health, Education, Employment, Family-Youth and City Security”

(23-24 November 2023, Istanbul)

Strategic Panorama

The scope of "geopolitics" and the meaning of the underlying geopolitical realities are changing rapidly. Geopolitics is either being updated or upgraded by this change. Geopolitics is still a dynamic phenomenon with its many underlying factors, and its pressure on the "power elites" is significantly increasing, despite the "immutable", as some geopoliticians suppose, or "intransigent" facts of geography.

It appears that the major factor of the underlying "politics" and therefore the underlying ideologies of geopolitics is the power elites, not physical geography, since the political power elites can change hands as well as their position or location. If this is the case, then the arguments for geography would weaken, or become completely questionable.

In today's world in which asymmetrical power relations have already become prevailed, the status quo policies-based 20th century strategies can no longer be effective. The arguably unipolar world, since 1990, is also not the any longer, as well as the absence of bipolar power relations. What we observe now is a tendency towards a real political multipolarity. It appears that it is not possible to achieve a multipolar world order simply based on the strategic thinking marked by outdated ideologies, so it is imperative to develop new perspectives.

Current sophisticated environment of conflict tends to expand along with changing warfare strategies, modes of deployments, engagement positions etc., and becomes persistent in a way of widespread small or medium-scaled warfare. What makes even sharper the need for new approaches is the current global landscape, which is often called "World War III".

The idea that capitalism, which is the epicenter of imperial impositions driven (exacerbated, aggravated) by hegemonic competition, has already come to a head (grind to a halt, shudder to a halt, reached its limit) and cannot any longer pass a new enlargement phase have become more common. The structural crisis persists and the capability of the system to sustain itself is dwindling away in economic terms.



The efforts to deal with the current structural crisis include certain changes in geopolitical objectives, increased hegemonic competition over the resources, and most ironically, leveraging the instruments such as conflicts or wars.

The current centers are targeting to enlarge their peripheries, thus preventing the new centers to emerge. As Barry Gills puts it, "underpinning all hegemonic transitions is a secular developmental and under-developmental process which restructures the hierarchy of center-periphery relations". The center-periphery relations, which is defined as "unequal distribution of capabilities between states", pave the way for hegemony, since it seeks to establish some kind of order in the areas of accumulation.

The rivalry over the Eurasian geopolitical area, one of the parts of which is the Middle East, is among the key factors that will be able to make the transition to hegemony possible. The rise of the region as a new center of production and consumption or simply capital or capitalism is fueled by certain factors such as the regional availability to "political power centralization", abundant resources but mostly from its integral part, the Middle East, especially in terms of energy resources, as well as its growing economic dynamics.

It appears that Russia and China are still rising as hegemonic powers driven by anti-US ambitions, thus moving to the center of a political and economic expansion. The Ukraine War, which is one of the noticeable results of power struggle between global hegemonic actors, is sort of a laboratory for "World War III".

Major difference between previous wars and a potential world war would be the prudence against or avoidance of a total or destructive war without abandoning or relinquishing the current geopolitical objectives. The nature of hegemonic rivalry and the modalities of cooperation are changing, while the competition is getting sharper.

It appears that it is not possible to understand the pursuit of a hegemonic transition without any consideration about a potential World War III, which originated in 1991, the collapse of the USSR. This pre-war period can be broken down into four phases: "preparation", "beginning", "deepening" and "expansion".

The world soon realized that how narrow, as the facts surfaced, the perspective is when it comes to the efforts to establish a new world order, driven by the USA's ambition to impose a unipolar world under its domination as top superpower, suggested by certain theories such as the "end of history", "clash of civilizations" etc.

Today, hegemonic powers are in a frantic scramble for the African continent, which has the youngest population, dynamic economies and richest resources in the world. It is this frantic scramble that ended up increasing military coups across the continent, especially over the last three years. The major problem, however, is that the Africans themselves are still not able to access Africa's abundant resources.



The Bering Strait with its both sides has emerged a new area for struggle, as well as the North Pacific Ocean, which is another region that is under the impact of power struggles. The Arctic Ocean has the potential to be a new global trade route, as the role of the South Pacific region would decrease over time as a result of global warming. Joint air and maritime patrol operations and drills conducted by Russia and China in the North Pacific Ocean are increasing, thus indicating the increasing importance of the region.

It appears that the US entered a new period in terms of its Defence measures as part of its National Security Strategy (2022). It is thought that, during this period, the current modes of warfare might be abandoned, the need for keeping the balance between preparing for a large-scale and long-lasting war and day-to-day rivalry. And the failure of the US in focusing on or investing in non-military capabilities might result in the risk of leaving both the field and the domains where seizing the superiority is most preferable by the rivals stepping up their ambition. Briefly, what needs to be taken into account is that the US will maintain its competitive edge by giving priority to closing critical gaps in its capabilities.

Potential or characteristic developments or actions that we may expect to emerge over the years to come are as follows: China's increasing activities in the Middle East, especially around the Gulf region and the tensions between China and Taiwan as well as China and India, China's increasing initiatives as part of the Belt and Road project in the countries of its neighboring region including Uzbekistan, Russia's efforts to maintain its military and economic capabilities despite its war with Ukraine, the organizational efforts by the Organization of Turkic States, the increasing scramble for the South Caucasus region, the ambitions concerning the Pacific-centered security structures that the US has not been able to achieve yet, increased terror activities across the world especially in Africa, the prolonged tensions in the Balkans, the increased space exploration activities, Poland's possible strategic moves as the new central power leveraged by the US, the attempts or preparations for the coup observed/revealed in Germany and the US, the questions about whether the act, which is not handing over the post to the newly elected representatives, in South America, after the elections, tends to become a habit (which would imply that Plato is proved right once again!), the increasing role of media as an integral or even essential part of the national power elements, achievability of "grand" strategies, negative developments concerning the future of efforts against global warming, potential answers to the question "Digital trust or digital insecurity?", search for effective instruments to resolve the blocked diplomacy, the increasing role or effectiveness of Defence diplomacy and humanitarian diplomacy, the increasing measures against a potential surveillance society model.

Among the issues or problems that need to be discussed are as follows: growing populism, the impacts of increasing global warming and migrations including the Mediterranean and Central Asian regions, food and water security including Africa and underdeveloped countries, change in demographic structures as a result of increasing populations, contribution of smart cities to security and public health, the possibility of a workforce, which might be able to emerge as a result of the replacement of humans by robots, as a new source of employment for private military companies and terrorist groups, as well as the issues mentioned in previous passage.

Strategic Transformation

Today's national or international politics is characterized by a change and transformation at an unprecedented pace manifested by the concepts such as "information age", industry 4.0", "society 5.0", "big data", "blockchain", "social media" etc. The domain that is most impacted by this change and transformation is security, regardless of whether it gives priority to the state or the people.

In fact, not only the scope but also the very meaning of the security concept are constantly evolving and expanding. A series of major or even revolutionary changes to business and meritocratic governance models as well as to security perspectives is observable when we look at the global arena, in which the distributed ledger instruments used by sort of an unidentifiable "center", except as "decentralized center" because it is not "visible, identifiable, accountable" and whose influence surpasses the capabilities of individual states for the first time, combining with all other historical and conventional dynamics.

Given these background, and even if the current security infrastructure appears resilient, it is imperative to think more broadly over the issues concerning more specific security domains such as climate security, food security, demographic security, economic security, health security, employment and job security, protection and improvement of family structures and youth, city security, maintenance of the state in harmony with meritocratic governance, institutionalization, necessary professional qualifications and certifications for a profession or occupation, constant/active updates/upgrades in education.

These specific areas of change, which have great potential for innovation and new platforms in security and Defence sectors, tend to be the integral part of the ecosystem.

Crisis concerning the environment or climate has reached a critical level, which represents a threat to the future of humanity. It appears that the frantic capitalist production and consumption patterns have a tendency consuming up the non-renewable resources, during just a few centuries, which need billions of years to be built up. Living elements such as underground resources, water resources and the atmosphere have simply become sort of consumption materials, which are on the verge of extinction or contamination. So it is necessary to consider the current production and consumption patterns again.

The climate change, which is one of the most important specific environmental security issues, threatens the security of countries in many aspects. The climate change causes a series of negative consequences, including the changes in annual rainfall patterns, glacier melting, rise in sea levels, the extinction of certain species, public health problems and negative effects on food production. The climate change is a global threat so it requires political, economic and social cooperation at the national, regional and global levels.



Rise in global temperatures causes some countries to alert against floods, drought to a certain degree, decreased natural resources, increased social and political crises, as well as serious security risks for fragile countries in particular. Climate change is still being used by developed countries as a restrictive and transformative pressure instrument on underdeveloped and developing countries in particular. The global governance network that emerges in the fight against climate change is organized mostly in favor of the interests of developed countries, neglecting or even hindering the development efforts of underdeveloped or developing countries. This poses a serious economic security threat for underdeveloped and developing countries. The measures and the policies for environmental security should address this challenge through an inclusive and fair approach.

Food security, which specifies the availability of healthy food necessary for nutrition, has recently become an increasingly complicated issue that needs to be dealt with its all aspects including politics, economics, society and culture. The food security is defined by UN's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as physical, social and economic access, by any person and any time, to adequate, safe, nutritious food that meets the food preferences and nutritional needs of people.

Climate change, increase in global population, rise in food prices as well as environmental challenges will have significant but difficult-to-manage impacts on food security over the decades to come. It is necessary to develop certain policies and adaptation strategies concerning water use, land use patterns, food trade, food processing following the harvest season, food prices and safety.

It has been expected, since the 20th century and with the help of technological and scientific developments, that food security issues will be resolved permanently in all countries without any exception. However, it turned out very differently. In fact, it is understood that the technological developments in the food sector have negative effects on health security including potential threat to humanity posed by GMO products, political regimes in certain countries etc. Food production and trade has become a powerful instrument used by countries against each other as is the case for the Ukraine crisis. It is imperative for the countries to find solutions for the food problem in order not to lose their grounds in the domains such as demography, politics, economics, society and culture, and not to lose the battle of survival.

When it comes to demographic security, the major problem is lack of capabilities in terms of policy making and coordination activities concerning family planning, education, employment etc. This situation causes severe problems including internal migration or moving within a country, international migration flows and brain drain. It is believed that the global population growth causes problems including climate change, deforestation, as well as the extinction of certain species. However, it also appears that these problems have simply resulted from the lack of coordination and proper planning. Furthermore, rewarding "genderlessness", which is directly targeting the very nature of man, through "intentional inducement" is one of the major threats to humanity itself.



The declining share of the western populations in the global population, as a result of sharp increase in Asian and African populations, tends to be perceived as a severe threat by western countries, which are trying to cope with the effects of an aging population that is seen as a burden on the state and society. Western countries, therefore, seeks to take strict measures in order to control the demographic changes in other countries. This would be a threat to the demographic security of non-western countries.

Historically, those who uplift civilizations to the higher levels have been the elite segments of societies. Civilizations that have lack of capabilities in raising elite segments are prone to collapse. A famous aphorism, "the death of the âlim (polymath, wise-man) is like the death of the âlem (universe, world)", goes to the very heart of this situation.

One of the most important flaws of democracies, which is often referred to as "faute de mieux" type of regimes, is that their anti-elite character. A society, however, without elite groups in certain areas such as science, art, culture and politics has practically no future at all. It is the elite segment of a society who communicate or transfer the institutional or historical accumulation of a state to new generations and make both the state and society resilient. This idea does not necessarily mean "elitism" or social monopoly. Rather, the elite segment that we suggest here is a class of wise-persons each member of which is supposed to be a mentor of sorts or a figure par excellence. Being an elitist, however, is an attitude that downgrades the society, or humiliates the people, sets barriers to the movement of the brilliant minds within the society from which often disconnected and to which harms instead of benefiting.

Today, the people give more importance to vanity, panache and gimmickry instead of the essence and character or quality. Current trend, especially social trend, represents an environment in which quality is neglected and even assumed unnecessary. So it has become more important to have an artificial elite profile, rather than a real distinguished character. This situation becomes more crucial when it comes to security and the survival of the state, even though the negative effects of it have been felt in every aspect of life.

Recent developments in the economics domain have direct impact on all security related issues, including the survival of the state. Governments that have lack of capabilities to stabilize their economic security cannot achieve their objectives in other security domains such as energy and food security as well as military and social security.

Access to strategic/rare earth elements has also become extremely important for countries if they are to take more active role or a better position in the global economy. Rapid developments that are defined as Industry 4.0 and Society 5.0 shows that it is necessary to engage in the trends in the international arena, to update outdated economic policies constantly, and to develop proactive and guiding policies. There have been radical structural changes in global economy, during this period some sectors have disappeared or weakened, some others have emerged. So, the share of the production sector in the entire economy is decreasing, those of the financial sector or secondary sectors, however, is increasing.



Considering even strong countries entrenched in the current economic environment are in recession, the countries that are able to survive are only those that have the certain capabilities such as guiding innovation, managing the emerging issues, following the agenda or conjuncture in an effective way in coordinating the financial, industrial and financial sectors, as well as producing high added value products.

Economies of many developing or underdeveloped countries have become more and more trapped in a spiral of debt, thus rapidly moving away from the capability of maintaining the state and society, which is a consequence that is a threat to survival of the state. So, most recent developments and new instruments in economy, including production, commerce, finance and fiscal policies, should be carefully updated or sometimes upgraded by leveraging intensive high added value product development policies.

The stronger the society, the stronger the state. If public health is in danger, then not only the political structure of the state but also the social life and economy would be under threat. Threats to public health are also the threats to the economy and social integrity, and consequently to the survival of the state.

Although the technologies are developing in an unprecedented manner and at an unprecedented pace in many areas including public health, social security, environment, agriculture etc., the problems related with Covid-19 crisis, environment, GMO products, social security systems etc. have shown that humanity is still far from facing the threats to its survival in this field. The fact that significant part of the threats to health are caused by man's actions increases the potential threats to life itself and makes health security more fragile than before. So it is imperative to develop medical intelligence instruments, update national health policies without any interruption, and improve the combat capabilities against global threats to health.

It is clear that the recent developments in the education sector are closely related to the national security. In fact, education is essential for a society not only to survive itself but its civilization. The survival of the state depends on the citizens who are educated on the basis of national awareness principle. So the improvement of education policies, in a way that is able to protect the integrity of society and ensure the survival of the state, should always be in the agenda of priorities.

One of the other important issues is to achieve a good balance between education/training and employment. One of the biggest issues to be resolved urgently is the failure to find qualified staff in many sectors, even though there is a qualified staff surplus in certain sectors. One of the other most important problems is the brain drain. It is significant to develop policies that is able to manage to maintain qualified staff in the homeland and even attract qualified staff from densely populated countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.



Cities have always been favorable environments for civilization to flourish and progress throughout history. The countryside, which are more safe spaces in terms of certain factors such as economy, culture and society, have become a center of attraction for thousands of people. Some important cities, however, have eventually disappeared, since they have failed in terms of the factors in question. Fair and highest access to the basic rights and freedoms including inviolability of family life, safety of life and property, health, education is only possible if there is safe, and well-coordinated public and civil society cooperation as well as well-organized cities. Cities are significant for peace and security or stability in terms of both domestic and foreign politics as well as the safe environment available for human life. In fact, the location of the capital city of a country or the characteristics of the chosen city as the capital have always been directly connected with the conventions concerning the survival and international recognition of a state.

Security of the cities has gained a special importance as a result of the urbanization process, which is a significant factor in transition to modern life. Today, city security is essential in terms of more specific factors such as keeping national culture and national awareness alive, effectiveness of economic policies, preservation of social and political integrity, and peaceful and strong relations with other countries, including neighboring countries. Foreign policy engagements of countries as well as the security of cities are affected by migration movements. These effects are deeply felt by certain countries, such as Türkiye, where most of the population is concentrated in a few major cities, and which adjacent to hotspots of unrest. So, security of the cities has already become a significant factor that directly affects national and regional security. In fact, geographic, demographic and economic characteristics of the cities should be taken into account in order for their planning, managing and controlling or monitoring processes to be effective, which requires more security measures, more effective balance between human rights and criminal sanctions, more strict control on migration movements.

Security field is still growing in scope, and becoming more and more sophisticated not only because of the new challenges driven by recent developments in politics, economics, technology etc., but because of more diversified and more profound large-scale field studies. The need for more studies in security, which is indispensable for a safer environment, is also increasing. So the conference in this framework aims to make a contribution to meet this need.

Sub-Themes

Strategic Transformation in Ecosystem

New Products and Platforms in Ecosystem

Climate Security (Water, Environment, Energy)

Food Security (Nutrition, Hidden Hunger or Micronutrient Deficiency, Immunity and Epidemics)

Demographic Security

Meritocratic Security

Economy Security

Health Security

Education Security

Employment Security

Family and Youth Security

City Security

CO-EVENT | VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

2ND ISTANBUL CYBER-SECURITY FORUM

“New Cyber Economy and Turkish Products”

(23-24 November 2023, Istanbul)

Potential impacts of emerging and disruptive technologies on the cyber domain will shape the various aspects of future security environment, including artificial intelligence or machine learning, autonomous systems or vehicles, telecommunications and information technologies, satellites and space vehicles, human-machine interfaces, quantum computing and cyber-attacks. These elements or factors are the integral parts of a hybrid warfare of which “cyber-space” considered as the 5th aspect.

A future epidemic, which is still not a hypothesis, but a probability, will may include "the challenges concerning cyber-security domain and competitive governance in the ecosystem" during the post-Covid-19 period. In fact, the increasingly sophisticated cyber-security technologies have now become indispensable. The business models and sustainable development perspectives are changing, based on the idea, which is one of the results of epidemic crisis, that the shift from "linear economy" to "circular economy" is not an option but a necessity, and driven by the concepts such as "green economy" and "digital revolution". This shift, which implies new global standards, has the potential to completely change the competitiveness indexes. Information economies driven by the "digital revolution", which gives a new meaning or value to "power and property" concepts or "capitalism", will be at the heart of the agenda over the coming decades.

It is a priority for Türkiye in this context to reconsider, so as to make contribution to friendly and brotherly countries, the scale of the cyber industry and to establish a national investment and capacity building program in the ecosystem. Cyber industry, which includes more effective and strategic aspects compared to usual foreign trade products and services will contribute to interdependence, prosperity and a modern security model underpinned by the economic capacity that it will be able to build during its transformation process.

The 2nd **Istanbul Cyber-Security Conference** will be held in this framework and with a motivation to offer policy options for decision makers from public or private sectors and civil society, proactive economic cooperation, model project/program proposals, and to make a strategic contribution to global academic/expertise accumulation/experiences.

Sub-Themes

New Cyber Economy and Turkish Products

Industrial Cyber-Security



Internet of Things and Cyber-Security

Mobility and Cyber-Security

Deep Fake and Cyber-Security

Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality and Cyber-Security

Cyber-Security in Critical Infrastructures

Cyber-Security for Decision Makers

CO-EVENT | VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

5TH MARINE AND MARITIME SECURITY FORUM

“New Opportunities in Maritime Economy and Türkiye”

(23-24 November 2023, Istanbul)

Almost 98% of the crude oil needed by the energy markets, according to the Chamber of Shipping report, and 90% of the commercial cargoes, according to the UN sources, are transported on sea routes at the beginning of this century. Today, maritime transport contributes just about 500 billion dollars to the world economy, and 30% of this share flows through the routes of the Mediterranean basin. Given the surface area of the Mediterranean Sea is almost 1% of the world's seas, it can be seen how important the Eastern Mediterranean Sea in geostrategic terms and the extent of the international rivalry which Türkiye is facing recently.

The problems that Türkiye, which is a peninsula almost completely surrounded by the seas with moderate climate and abundant resources with rare characteristics, a large variety of ports, 8,333 kilometers of coastline, key transportation lines, is facing now are the challenges driven by maritime geopolitics --foreign policy-based problems in connection with the region which is destabilized for gaining to access to the Mediterranean in northern Syria and maritime zone in the eastern Mediterranean sea. It appears that Türkiye's determined and confident operations, which implies the awareness about being a seafaring nation, are only likely to be effective in the long run due to the contribution of the sea-based economy in the country's economy is not proportionately effective to its potential.

It is of great importance to raise public awareness about "maritime zone and seafaring nation" both in Türkiye and in potential partner countries, to uplift the level of researches or studies as required by recent global developments, to establish maritime-based exchange networks between Türkiye and other countries, if of course Türkiye seeks the advantage to perfectly manage the changing “maritime zones and seafaring” parameters, with an integrative understanding and an inclusive historical vision including all maritime elements such as navies, maritime fleets, ports, shipyards (shipbuilding industry and all segments of engineering applicable to ships), fishing activities, seabed mining (metallurgy, geology, oceanography, hydrography, seismology etc.), marine tourism, marine law, maritime education and training institutions and activities, maritime environmentalism, supporting sectors (search and rescue, agencies, pilotage services, ease of navigation-communication, ship traffic services, maritime meteorology, etc.), maritime history, maritime literature, cultural and sportive activities (water sports, museology, etc.) and partnerships with national/international, military/civilian maritime organizations. So, scaling up the capacities of certain elements such as container ports, transfer (freight) port, dryport, logistics zone (village), intermodal transportation, cruise port and marina, as well as the rehabilitation of port infrastructures should be among the priorities.



National geopolitics concerning Defence and security domains, however, remains problematic, since its effectiveness about whether it is able to meet the requirements in building capabilities of being a seafaring nation and turns its potential into economic prosperity is questionable.

The efforts by the Turkish Naval Forces and the Turkish Defence Industry Complex to change the picture in this context have increased significantly in recent years. Intellectual capabilities, or know-how capacity, is also significant especially in terms of guiding the way forward for Türkiye in essential seafaring domains such as maritime trade, shipyard and shipbuilding, port and agency services, maritime tourism, fishing, seabed mining and related sub-sectors, and maritime sciences. To meet this need, the **5th Marine and Maritime Security Forum**, which will be held by TASAM National Defence and Security Institute, has a strong motivation to perform well.

Sub-Themes

A New Opportunities in Maritime Economy and Türkiye

The Future and Vision of the Turkish Maritime Ecosystem

Turkish Maritime Trade Vision and Future

Turkish Nautical Tourism Vision/Future

Turkish Ship Marine Technologies and Industry

Maritime Security; Turkish Defence Industry

Türkiye Shipbuilding Capabilities and Shipyard

Turkish Maritime Defence Ecosystem; New Products and Technologies (İDA, SİDA etc.)

Turkish Ports, Marina, Ship and Yacht Tourism; Hinterland and Growth Strategies

Türkiye Deep Sea Drilling Capabilities

Structure and Force Distribution/Focus of the Turkish Naval Forces

Turkish Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and Competition

Turkish Naval Bases Scenarios

B Seafaring Nation Doctrine

The Turkic World in the Asian Century and the Building of the Future on the Blue Planet

The New Maritime and Maritime Geopolitics

Türkiye's Capacity Building and Oceans in the Black Sea, Mediterranean and Red Seas

New Variables in Marine Geopolitics; Arctic, Channel Istanbul etc.

Climate Change and Its Effects on the Maritime Ecosystem

CO-EVENT | VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

6TH TÜRKİYE-AFRICA DEFENCE SECURITY AND AEROSPACE FORUM

“Turkish Military Presence in Africa, and New Horizons”

(23-24 November 2023, Istanbul)

Current international military strategies for Africa are fueling regional security crises in the continent. Africa's lack of capabilities to strengthen its military capacity, which mostly due to the problems blocking its industrial development or more specifically its Defence capabilities, paves the way for some extreme interventionist and neo-colonial tendencies.

It appears that the motive of "terrorism" in the African continent will continue to be leveraged for a long time as a "pressure instrument" for “systematic manipulations” by “the states competing over resources”.

The current policies that prioritize "structural adjustment" for either development or security problems, which are also among the major causes of the migration problems, have had the opposite effect and been still feeding political and economic crises in Africa. These problems have had extremely negative impacts on the efforts of Africa for socioeconomic transformation, which is not only dependent on security but also science, technology and innovation.

Türkiye's potential for new strategic projects that are compatible with the future vision of the continent and that will contribute to mutual capacity development is quite high in the fields of Defence, security, informatics and space explorations.

The impacts of the developments (Covid-19 crisis etc.) over the last decade, which are comparable to those that may only take place over a century, represents a milestone for the change in mode of production, consumption, growth, conventional power standards etc., as well as security and Defence.

Policy scenarios and readiness for analyzing the national and international immune system and strategic transformation in a new approach have become a priority on the agenda. Studies and cooperation in this context for the “Security/Defence/Space Ecosystem and Strategic Transformation of the Future” have also become the major priority for all countries.



Türkiye, in the context of its foreign relations that have reached the level of "Strategic Partnership", should carefully observe the activities of certain actors (US and EU, and especially China) in the continent and develop its strategic policies with a reflex open to multilateral negotiations.

The 6th Türkiye - Africa Defence Security and Aerospace Forum, which brings together representatives from the Defence, security and space domains as well as institutions of both Türkiye and African Countries, will be held at the same period of time with the Istanbul Security Conference, which achieved a position for itself as a global brand. The forum have the objective, in order to meet the inventory/ecosystem needs while strengthening its background and network, to make updated contribution to the strategic cooperation and mutual capacity building.

Sub-Themes

Turkish Military Presence and New Horizons in Somalia

Turkish Military Presence in Libya and New Horizons

Turkish Military Presence and New Horizons in Sudan

Turkish Military Presence and New Horizons in the Central African Republic

Turkish Military Presence in Mali and New Horizons

3. Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit and Security Cooperation

Defence Industry | Land | Sea | Air | Space | Police | Gendarme | Intelligence | Strategic Sectors

CO-EVENT | VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

7TH TÜRKİYE - GULF DEFENCE AND SECURITY FORUM

“New Discoveries in the Turkish - Arab Security Ecosystem”

(23-24 November 2023, Istanbul)

Türkiye-Middle East relations or more specifically Türkiye-GCC relations, in which more strategic dialogue is yet to be developed in a coordinated way despite the common historical and cultural roots, need to be uplifted from a fragile level to a stronger strategic cooperation level that is able to adapt to new balances, new roles and new alliances, which is a necessity rather than an option. Historical facts and state of affairs have long reminded this through a large number of crises, which is a clear picture for a farsighted vision.

Türkiye gained Strategic Partner Status (2008), as the first country outside the region, except the US and the EU. This status implies a high-level regular institutional dialogue embraced by the region's countries, particularly in terms of commercial relations, which is perfectly portrayed by the exponentially increased trade volume.

The search for strategic dialogue, among other factors, based on trust has a significant role in these developments, which have had remarkably positive outcomes for both sides of this bilateral or multilateral relations. The need for “building strategic interdependence and trust” is still an integral part of the relations between Türkiye - Gulf Countries, despite the brotherhood rooted in religion, language, history, geography etc. Acting vigilantly in managing the priorities and divergences between the countries in the region is significant so that they do not become exploited regional vulnerabilities and security gaps, which would only be closed by concentrating more on common risks and opportunities.

Considering the Gulf's geopolitics and geostrategic position, Saudi Arabia-Iran rivalry rooted in the regional and sectarian divergence between Shiite and Sunni, which dates back to the Safavids, is another significant issue.

The impact of Tehran - Riyadh rivalry, which is characterized by a regional power struggle fueled by Iran Islamic Revolution (1979) have been felt by the Middle East region, Gulf countries in particular. The Shiite regime, which is established after the revolution, and the its foreign policy approach underpinned by expansionist strategies have been perceived, by the Gulf or the Arab countries in general, almost as a threat to national security.

The Arab Spring, which started in December 2010, gave further momentum to Iran across the Middle East region and fueled the Shiite-Sunni sectarian tensions in terms of the Gulf countries. The ongoing civil war, including Syria and Yemen, has brought along with it a large variety of geopolitical and geoeconomic problems in terms of the Gulf countries.



The impact of Iran's Shiite-based expansionist and containment policies, following the invasion of Iraq by the US, on Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Sana'a has increased the perception of threat to national security among the Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia in particular, and the Arab countries in general. It appears that a regional "alliance belt" in the Middle East region has emerged from the fact that the Shiite Houthis' control over capital city Sana'a and the northern parts of the country.

It appears that a newly emerged explanation model, which is called Ideo-Pragmatic Model (IPM), fits the case perfectly when it comes to understand or explain the security perspectives and foreign policy engagements of authoritarian regimes such as Iran. The country tends to pursue either pragmatic or ideological perspectives, which are often interchangeable depending on the character of the threat to the survival of the state. This model can also be used to analyze the security perspectives and foreign policy engagements of certain countries such as Cuba, North Korea and Venezuela.

The developments witnessed by history over the last decade, which have had the impact that almost equates to those may only felt in a duration of up to a century, represent a milestone for the change in standards for production, consumption, growth and conventional power, as well as security and Defence. Policy scenarios and some exercises for fresh insights into the national/international "immune system" and strategic shift have become a priority issue on the agenda. So, studies/researches and collaborative works together with the Gulf Countries for the "Security/Defence/Space Ecosystem and Strategic Transformation of the Future" represent a priority for an essential balance.

Sub-Themes

New Discoveries in the Turkish - Arab Security Ecosystem

Safe Crescent of Fertility and Balance Partnership

New Threats and Opportunities in the Ecosystem Cyber Security, Food Security, Production-Consumption Security

Cooperation in the Security and Defence Ecosystem of the Future

Defence Industry | Land | Sea | Air | Space | Police | Gendarme | Intelligence | Strategic Sectors