

TURKISH - ARABIC STRATEGIC DIALOG PROGRAM



Turkish - Arab Relations:
Strategic Dependence
and Trust Building

-STRATEGY-





(STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT)

TURKISH - ARAB STRATEGIC DIALOG PROGRAM

“Turkish - Arab Relations: Strategic Dependence and Trust Building”

(2017-2021, Turkey and Arab Countries)

Due to historical, cultural and social ties between Turkey and Arab World; both parties have to maintain close relations with each other. Turkey with its multi-dimensional and visionary foreign policy supports all the actions that would bring peace, prosperity and stability to Middle East.

In order to resolve common problems in the region; adapting a sense of regionalism is responsibility of each country. Maintaining permanent peace, stability and security and sustainable economy is vitally important for all Middle Eastern countries. Establishing security and stability is crucial for economic development and prosperity. Therefore; Actions like; resolution of conflicts through dialogue, increasing economic dependency between countries and strengthen social and cultural bonds should be endeavored.

While maintaining relations with Arab World, Turkey should not see this process as a political project but a platform where mutual interests are taken into consideration. Between Arab countries and Turkey; a healthy relation based on trade has been established. It is important to strengthen the structural base of relations and cooperation between Turkey and Arab countries.

Within this framework; Multi-Dimensional platforms like **Turkish-Arab Cooperation Forum** and **Turkey-Cooperation of Arab States of the Gulf High Level Strategic Dialogue** have become prominent. Besides with regards to dual relations, High Level Cooperation Councils have been established with Syria, Iraq and Lebanon. There are also efforts to establish cooperation councils with other Arab countries in the region.

Trade, finance, transportation, energy and tourism are the sectors that have become prominent in current agreements between Turkey and Arab countries. Development of relations in multi-dimensional security should also be evaluated. Sustainable stability can only be achieved through assuring public safety, security and prosperity.



In order to protect territorial integrity, sovereignty and political unity and prevent sectarian, ethnic and religious conflicts in Middle East, Turkey and Arab World should develop their relations. Also improving cooperation between Turkey and Arab countries in the fields of defense industry, cyber security, water, energy and food security; training of armed forces, preventing illegal immigration and human trafficking and protecting environment is necessary.

The word “**security**” basically means being far away from threats, anxieties and dangers. In the state of security, acquired current values are not under threat. With the end of the Cold War, realist security paradigm dominating military and political issues have begun to be questioned.

In a globalized world where non-state actors have become visible; approaches with regards to security problems which do not remove the obstacles that **prevent the will of the society and individual**, do not analyze the expectations of the people and ignore **security-freedom** relations are far away from providing solutions.

Societal, cultural, historical, environmental and individual securities have become the basic concept of security researches and policies. In brief, **security has a multi-dimensional characteristic at the level of both as a subject and an actor**. Within this regard; concepts like “Common Security”, “Mutual Security”, “Cooperative Security”, “Cooperative Security”, “Security Partnership”, “Environmental Safety”, “Information Security”, “Public Security”, “Regional Security”, and “Supplementary Security” have become important.

Due to technological advancements and change in global economical system; there has been a swift change in global balance of power. On the one hand, the power of the states has declined with regards to discussions about security; on the other hand organizations like **UN, NATO, EU, CICA, OSCE and SCO** have become prominent. The concept of security has become multidimensional and complicated so that one actor cannot maintain it alone. At this point **collective security** is very important. With globalization, security paradigms have changed and transformed **from national and international to regional and global**.

Due to security concerns of the last century, permanent security cooperation has not been established between Turkey and Arab countries. In today’s world where discussions on different dimensions of security, **prioritizing of governance and civil society, featuring regional security perspectives** have begun and cooperation in maintaining s multidimensional ecurity is in the interest of both Turkey and Arab World.



All security areas are connected to each other; therefore it is impossible for one country to maintain its security alone without **international cooperation and multi-dimensional governance**. International governance asserts the need of countries to go beyond collective security understanding and to adopt **institutionalized cooperation, consultation and interdependency** in every field. If the participation of individuals to NGOs, international organizations and state institutions cannot be provided, it is impossible to create a secure environment.

Within this framework; it is crucially important for Turkey and Arab countries to **cooperate in multi-dimensional security** with regards to their long term and midterm interests. Especially there is huge potential of cooperation between Turkey and Arab countries in the fields of defense, industry, training military personal and creation of a joint military force.

Technological superiority in Defense and Aerospace Industry are the bases of security policies and production of technological information which provides political and economical advantages. A Defense industry which can minimize its foreign dependency, use **its own resources at optimum level, produce high-tech** ; is the most important assurances of strong economy, peace, stability and security.

A decrease in defense expenditures of USA and European countries, an increase in defense expenditures of countries in the conflict zones are projected for the near future. Also it is foreseen that the countries in the conflict zones will improve the military technology that they import from Western countries. In this situation, with a proactive position, **Turkey and Arab countries can cooperate in order to acquire their own technologies in the long-term and midterm.**

Development of international cooperation in defense industry, improvement of infrastructure of defense industry, reducing foreign dependency, reaching scale economy, reducing the costs, managing risks, providing competitive advantage, reaching target markets, creating new technologies and administrative synergy will be beneficial for various sectors. Also strategy partnerships and development of balanced regional/global cooperation are necessary.

In order to deepen Turkish-Arab relations; **cooperation in military training and defense industry** should be strengthened between Turkey and friend - sibling Arab countries.

Building interdependence that will bring strength and justice to our civilization beyond religion, language, history and geography is the basic mental threshold in front of Turkish - Arab relations. The inclusion of the Diasporas of the Turkish and Arab Worlds in the mutual process is one of the main strategic areas.



With all the priorities detailed above, **Turkish - Arab Strategic Dialog Program** aims to contribute civilly and academically at healthy management of **Strategic Interdependence and Trust Building** parameters and creating a common consciousness between Turkey and Arab countries.

Main Theme

Turkish - Arab Relations: Strategic Dependence and Trust Building

Primary Sectors

Public Diplomacy, Education and Language

Culture and Tourism (Common History and Anthropology)

Construction, Construction Business and Infrastructure

Health and Health Tourism

Energy, Petro-chemistry and Investments

Logistics, Transportation and Communication

Banking and Finance

Economy and Trade

Media and Communication

Science and Technology

Brand Cities and Environment

Defence and Space Industry



Sub Themes

Multi-Dimensional Security Cooperation: Political, Strategic and Economic Bases

Soft Power Building and Expectations Management: Experiences and Acquirements

Multi-Dimensional and Supplementary Security Cooperation:

Environment

Terrorism

Smuggling

Energy, Food, Water Security

Demographics

Health

Climate

Urban Planning

Technology

Program Partners

Turkey : TASAM (Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies)

Arab World : TAIM (Turkish-Arab Relations Center)

Time Schedule

2017 - 2021 (5 years)

Program Performance Area

Turkey and Arab Countries



EVENTS / WORKING PLAN (DRAFT)

Method

Induction, Participation and Deepening

Press Conferences

Turkish - Arab Wise Persons Board Meetings / Studies

In the Program process, to create a “**Turkish - Arab Wise Persons Board**” included mainly doyens representing each sides; and at least one bilateral meeting to be done; and to be locally offered interactions and suggestions for the relations of the region based on the cProgram studies, by this board.

Round Table Meetings / Workshops

Multilateral Workshop / Studies

Congress(es)

Sector Workshops / Events

Practical Interactive Trainings

Strategic Reports

Publishing strategic reports for studies of both sides’ 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