

TURKEY - SOUTH ASIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

**“Thinking Diplomacy:
New World New Horizons”**



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VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

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(Turkey - South Asian Countries)

When we look at the main trends in the world, global competition in the age of new economy based on "information and knowledge-based products" following "soil and machinery" is developing through "micro-nationalism", "integration" and "unpredictability". Challenges that determine the new nature of life and state; such as " crisis in resource and sharing ", unsustainability of production-consumption-growth formula, purge of the middle class with Chinese leverage, energy, water, and food insecurity, transition to the 4th dimension, liquidation of human resources in the workforce, transition from hard power to soft power on the basis of the very changing state nature and anticipation management, can be formed as the basic references..

Within all these fundamental parameters, the transformations in technology are prone to change the whole human life and nature by developing with artificial intelligence, virtual / enhanced reality and mobility centered. It is obvious that the concepts of "Industry 4.0" and "Society 5.0", which have been heard for a few years and which have been introduced for the last year, are important topics for managing the transformation of the world. Another contributive factor is the turbulence that China creates as it begins to become intensively dominant on the world stage day to day. The New Silk Road project, "One Belt and One Road Initiative"; is shaped as a global integration project involving 64 countries, both on land and at sea, permanently changing the distribution of economic shares. In countries with no middle class, authoritarian regimes or chaos stands as 2 options in the fore-seeable future. How to make the division of labor in terms of regional and global security and how to share the costs is also a point of discussion in the coming period. The development of new alliances on security, particularly in Turkey, can be read from the risks and the initiatives undertaken by several countries. The quality of the concepts of property and power has changed historically. The future of the EU with the "Failure in Success" syndrome will be determined by the results of the polarization which revived in the West after the Brexit, similar to that before World War II. Along with all these developments, "Ecosystem of safety" changes with the law. The "Security - Democracy" dilemma will be experienced much more after that. Because democracy is very difficult to survive in countries where the middle class is melting and security leans to a sophisticated ground. The question "Will security bring us authoritarian regimes" needs to be discussed further.

Turkey distinguishes itself with an 84-million inhabitants, growing economy and geo-strategic status in the center of Afro-Eurasia. Turkey's historical, political and cultural ties between Europe, Black Sea, Caucasus, Asia, Middle East and African countries, rising activity in the international arena, especially in the United Nations, being an important member of organizations such as NATO, OSCE and CICA and with active foreign policy, it has become an increasingly important actor on the global platform.

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South Asia, consisting of India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka is the world's most important agricultural and textile producing region. This region of the world, which has a share of 3.5% in terms of area, 20% in terms of population and 3.8% in economic terms, also draws attention with its large contributions in different socio-cultural areas. The region has become a dynamic, competitive, regional force has been emerging against the global forces of the 21st century through its economy, which has recently achieved a stable growth line and the state structure focused on strengthening its democratic structure. Turkey and the Turkish people have an exceptional place among the South Asian nations. In both the Ottoman period or the War of independence or the Republican era, this sentiment never changed, without expecting a reaction, it always existed..

South Asia makes feel its presence as a region of global influence in the 21st century. Among the factors that increase the national power of the region are the economy that captures dynamic growth, the natural resources it has, the military power supported by nuclear power (India and Pakistan), the accumulation of space and information technologies, the strengthening of young, dynamic and cultivated human resources. These elements, with the support of the geostrategic position, give the Region an impressive impact on global developments.

South Asia and Turkey; has the world's largest young population, and the utilization of this potential positively will be beneficial for both countries and for the prosperity of other nations abroad. Another important point is that, Both sides are strengthening the central economies of their own countries by sending human resources trained abroad in different professions and with this policy, their impact on countries they are cooperating with is also increasing.

The competition between the intra-regional countries with China, the growing influence of the US and Western countries in South Asia, has increased the geopolitical importance of the region. Another important point is that South Asia has great importance for the commercial, cultural and development potential of Central Asia, Middle East, East and Far East Asia.

On the other hand, Turkey has strategic importance linking Europe with Asia, is a country that can play an important role in the international scene. The permanent socio-economic and cultural impacts of developed countries on underdeveloped or developing countries in the region should be reduced. These countries in the region can increase their own production, and on the basis of which they can strengthen the foundations of their own policies and alleviate the negative effects and offer a balanced solution to international forces.

Relations between Turkey and South Asian region trace back to very ancient times. First foreign aid to Turkey during the War of Independence was made from the Indian sub-continent. This helped to a great extent in the establishment of İş Bank. Democracy, secularism, membership to UN, OIC, World Trade Organization and having developmental economies are common features of both sides. The history of these relations; has left a great legacy with cultural ties including the Sufi / mystical tradition. This heritage should be revived and must form the cornerstones of mutual relations.

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South Asia and Turkey in the field of tourism are known as the most attractive potential power in the world. It is important that cooperation agreements in the tourism sector and the projects that will stimulate tourism to be passed on to bring about a more appropriate and strong economic factor. The continuation of the mutual flights of Turkish Airlines and other local air routes and the increase of these flights will strengthen the role of this field. Various fairs such as tourism fairs, trade fairs, trade days etc. to be held in South Asia and Turkey will contribute to strengthening economic co-operation. However, information sharing, mutual visits, cooperation and agreements on different production areas and sectors are also crucially needed. For example, it is important to reach agreement and cooperation between two sides in fields such as trade, economic and technical cooperation; cultural, military education and training cooperation, banking; marine; mutual encouragement and protection of investments; technical cooperation; cultural exchange program; airfreight; technical and defense industry cooperation; prevention of double taxation; military field training; technical and scientific cooperation, air transportation..

Bilateral trade agreement between South Asian countries and Turkey was signed at different times. In general, cotton, cotton yarn, synthetic fiber, bulk medicine, plastic products, chemicals, jute and jute products, iron and steel products and so on, are the main products exported to Turkey by South Asia. Turkey is selling the region chickpeas, steel and steel products, textiles machinery, fabrics and so on. In recent years, The participation of South Asia in trade fairs organized in Turkey has increased considerably. Another important factor is that the emergence of the New Silk Road will surely accelerate the commercial and economic relations of both sides. South Asia is considered among the best- economies showing the best performance during the 2008 financial crises like Turkey.

Turkey has tried to win the support of the South Asian countries over different international issues or disputes, mainly Cyprus. In the following periods, it will be possible to further strengthen cooperation between the two sides in political, economic, cultural and security-related fields within the context of organizations such as the UN, CICA, SAARC, ASEAN, D-8, and G20. The developments in the regions, especially the Gulf, where the energy dependencies of the parties are interdependent, should be closely followed and necessary to pay attention to these developments. The instability of the Gulf is a situation that will drag the whole world into instability and this situation does not seem very far away in the light of current developments. Therefore, these regional relations should be brought to a level of global activity that can also be effective in the region.

Both sides are struggling against local and terrorist organizations PKK, DHKP-C, ISIS, Al-Qaeda, DEM, Jamiatul-Mujahideen, All Tripura Tiger Force and so on. local or international terrorist organizations continue to fight against. Turkey, which the two-thirds of dependency in favor of the Western world, is the security regulator of the East and the West's and her preferences will affect the balance.

It has always been the case that in many respects the two sides act together from time to time and bring the matters to table to create mutually solutions in terms of combating terrorism and international relations. Urgently, each country must present its own solution principles and experiences one another, and concrete steps should be taken in cooperation with these international and local terrorist organizations.

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The basic tendency of globalization, which has gained momentum with the end of the Cold War, is the development of the countries not only by themselves but through certain regional collaborations and cross-regional partnerships. Countries are now turning towards an open structure based on dialogue and cooperation in economic, political and cultural terms, and incompatible ones are experiencing serious instabilities. In this context, development of long-reaching strategic cooperation relations between South Asia and Turkey is the spirit of this time.

Turkey - South Asia Strategic Dialogue; aims at revealing how mutual potentials and existing collaborations can be transformed into a strategic alliance and targets to contribute to the capacity building of the strategic ground. The Strategic Dialogue aims to promote the recognition of relevant institutions and foundations, to increase the influence of civil societies, to contribute to development, to utilize the expertise in the development of resources and workplaces, to contribute to promotional activities, to explore opportunities for academic cooperation and to develop a strategic approach to ensure that all these studies are evaluated in integrity.

Main Theme

Thinking Diplomacy: New World New Horizons

Sub-Themes

New Balances New Economy

Economic Relations: Opportunities and Challenges

Regional Peacebuilding Efforts: Turkey - South Asian Countries

Turkey-EU Relations and the South Asian Countries

Technological, Academic and Cultural Cooperation

Middle East, Africa, South Asian Countries Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

Energy, Geopolitics and Security Cooperation

Relations with US, China, Russia and New Partners

Basic Sectors

Public Diplomacy, Education and Language

Culture and Tourism

Construction, Contracting and Infrastructure

Health and Health Tourism

Energy, Petrochemicals and Investments

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Logistics, Transportation and Communication

Banking and finance

Economy and Trade

Media and Communication

science and technology

Brand Cities and Environment

Defense and Space Industry

STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES (DRAFT)

Method

Inductive Reasoning, Participation and Economic Deepening

Turkey - South Asia Committee of Wise Persons Meetings Workshop

Building Capacity and Ecosystem Inventory

Preparation of Research Projects and their Reports

Development of Pro-active Policy Recommendations

Round-Table Meetings/Workshops

Multilateral Workshops/Studies

Sector Workshops/Activities

Applied Interactive Modelings

Strategic Reports

Publication of sector studies as strategic reports for decision makers, private sector, media and public opinion of the sides. Providing literature and memory support.

Media Conferences

Other Academic Studies

Strategic Reports, Books, Articles, Thesis and so on Academic Studies