

# TURKEY SAUDI ARABIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

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



# **TURKEY** **SAUDI ARABIA** **STRATEGIC DIALOGUE**



## VISION DOCUMENT (DRAFT)

# **TURKEY - SAUDI ARABIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE**

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

### **( Turkey - Saudi Arabia )**

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 and smart 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" are important topics for managing the transformation of the world within the dimensions of industry and society. 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 more than hundred 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 two 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 can be read from the risks and the initiatives undertaken by dominant countries. The quality of the concepts of property and power, and the business model change 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. Along with all these developments, "Ecosystem of safety" changes with the law. The "Security - Democracy" dilemma will be experienced much more after that. Because, for the democracy, it is 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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Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is a country that attracts the attention of the world with its strategic location connecting Asia to Africa and Mediterranean to Indian Ocean, its leading role in the Arab and Islamic world, 34 million dynamic population, natural resources, 20% share in the proven oil reserves of the world, economic potential that it has thanks to its tourism and human resources, its activities in the international organizations. Saudi Arabia is among the principal economic actors in the Middle East and pursuing policies to diversify its economy and go beyond being dependent to oil.

In the Saudi Arabian economy, which has grown with oil revenues since the discovery of oil in 1938 and developed around oil exploration-extraction, operation-distribution activities, approximately half of the national income, more than 80% of exports and 90% of state revenues are obtained from oil revenues. In the recent years, it has given importance substructure investments, particularly in human capital and is trying to improve non-oil sectors and private sector. As of 2021, Saudi Arabia's GDP (nominal) is estimated as 804,92 billion dollars and the country is a member of G-20 and has improved its economy through recent reforms and increasing oil revenues.

In recent years, Saudi Arabia has been pursuing policies to play an active and constructive role in the efforts to solve regional and global problems. It attaches great importance to the establishment and preservation of peace and stability and to resolving political problems and disputes through dialogue. The country is actively contributing to the fight against international terrorism and pioneering in the efforts in the context of fighting against extremism. The tradition is quite strong in bilateral political relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey if periodic crises in political relations are excluded. The Relations have made progress in every field according to the principle of mutual benefit moving through the common denominator to preserve peace and stability in the region. Turkish and Saudi foreign policy perspectives, which aim to contribute in preserving regional and global peace and stability, mutually confirm each other and create synergy. Mutual high level visits between the two countries and strategic dialogue mechanism which was established between Turkey and the GCC in 2008 creates driving force for the efforts oriented in the region.

The bilateral trade volume between Turkey and Saudi Arabia stood at 5.107 billion dollars in 2019 and trade gap weigh against Saudi Arabia was 1.263 billion dollars. The main products exported by Turkey to Saudi Arabia are carpets, processed petroleum products, electrical panels, rebar and furniture. The main products exported by Saudi Arabia to Turkey are petroleum and chemical products.

The Turkish-Saudi Business Council was established in 2003 in Jeddah. The number of large scale Turkish firms which are doing business in Saudi Arabia, construction companies in particular, increases day by day. Similarly, interest in Turkey increases in Saudi business circles, too. The last meeting of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was held in 2013 and the first meeting of the Turkish-Saudi Coordination Council was held in 2017 in Ankara. 564,816 Saudi tourists visited Turkey in 2019.

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Numerous agreements signed between the countries in various fields constitute the legal basis for relations. Views of the both countries about regional issues are in the same direction. Saudi Arabia and Turkey continue to cooperate in the frame of such regional and international organizations as the UN, its sub branches and the OIC.

However, the level of relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey is well under the potential regarding the political affinity, populations and economic performance. The trade volume between the two has stayed under the existing potential, too. The growth rates of Turkey and Saudi Arabia compel both countries to take each other into account further in terms of economy. For Saudi Arabia, Turkey is a sally port to Balkans and Europe. Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, is a non-negligible country for Turkey in its relations with the OIC and Middle Eastern countries. Turkey sees Saudi Arabia as a partner with whom it has to improve its relations in the economic, political, cultural and security fields.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia, as two important regional countries, stand in a position to control world trade and energy transition. Both countries have common interest in the economic, strategic, political and security fields in terms of their relations with Western Asian, Middle Eastern and OIC countries. Today, when relations of mutual dependence are gradually deepening around the world, it is crucial for the interests of both countries to increase economic, social and political interactivities and to provide peace and security regarding such factors as necessity of improving economic relations, contributing in global energy security, struggling with smuggling and terrorism. It is crucial for Turkey and Saudi Arabia, as two important countries in the Middle East, to have a broader and deeper cooperation for the sake of regional and global peace and welfare.

Both countries can develop an effective strategic cooperation to ensure sustainability of the critical long term interests. At this point, it is necessary to look at the events through a broader perspective in terms of politics, economy, diplomacy and geo-strategy.

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 - Saudi Arabia 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 - Saudi Arabia Strategic Dialogue**, 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.

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## **Main Theme**

**Thinking Diplomacy: New World New Horizons**

## **Sub Themes**

**New Balances New Economy**

**New Multi-Dimensional Security Parameters in the Afro-Eurasian Region**

**Economic Cooperation**

**Transportation and Logistics**

**Multi-Dimensional Defence and Security, Struggle with Terrorism**

**Bilateral and Multilateral Capacity Building in Member Countries of the OIC**

**Innovation in Public Management and Technology Sharing**

**Academic and Cultural Cooperation opportunities**

**Common Regional and Global Perspectives**

## **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**

# **TURKEY SAUDI ARABIA STRATEGIC DIALOGUE**



## **STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES (DRAFT)**

### **Method**

Inductive Reasoning, Participation and Economic Deepening

### **Turkey - Saudi Arabia 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 two countries. Providing literature and memory support.

### **Media Conferences**

### **Other Academic Studies**

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