



## ( STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT )

### **TURKEY - INDIA ROUND TABLE MEETINGS - 1**

#### **“Turkish - Indian Relations in the New Term: Rising Powers in the Changing World Order”**

**( 21 - 22 January 2013, New Delhi, India )**

Turkey has increasingly grown as an important actor with its 75 million population, developing and expanding economy, geostrategic position in the middle of Afro-Euro-Asian mainland; historical, political, cultural connections with the European, Black Sea, Caucasian, Asian, Middle Eastern and African countries, its activity in the international arena, particularly in the UN; its stand as one of the most important members of NATO, OSCE, and CICA; and its recently advanced activist foreign policy.

On the other hand, India, as largest democracy in the world, is the second in terms of demography, the seventh in terms of geography and the fourth in terms of purchasing power parity. Capturing a steady line of development in the last period, India has become a global power focus at the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. India has the potential to increase its growth rate above 10% in line with the loss of effect of the financial crisis. Like Turkey, India is considered among the best performing economies during the global financial crisis. India is expected to be the third largest economy in the world.

India is perceived as a country which is to become a global power in the 21<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the factors that increase the national power of India are its vast natural resources, military power which is supported by its capacity to produce nuclear weapons, its accumulations in space and information technologies and its young, vast and dynamic human resources. Supported by its geopolitical position, these elements give a decisive influence upon the developments in both regional and global scale.

Turkish – Indian relations dates back to much earlier periods. During the Independence War of Turkey, the first foreign aid came from India, and this aid provided great contributions in the establishment of ISBANK. The first official relations between Turkey and India has initiated in 1948. Two countries have common peculiarities like democracy, secularism, membership in the G-20 and WTO, and both have developmentalist economies.



The first trade agreement between Turkey and India was signed in 1973 but the relations had not yielded significant results until 1990's when the trade has visually begun to improve. The volume of trade reached \$634 million in 2002, \$790 million in 2003 and exceeded \$1 billion in 2004. India's main products exported to Turkey are cotton, cotton yarn, synthetic fiber, bulk drugs, plastics, chemicals, jute and jute products, iron and steel products and so on. Turkey, on the other hand, sells to India chickpeas, steel and steel products, textile machinery, fabric and so on. In the recent years, participation of Indian companies in the fairs in Turkey highly increased.

Turkey attaches great importance to India which is in the way to become a global power with its developing economy, broad market, military power, superior space and IT technologies. Both countries are in an endeavor to initiate new and realistic perspectives in their dealings with one another and re-inventing each other with increasing qualified contacts in every field. In the upcoming period, ground for cooperation may be strengthened within the scope of the organizations such as the UN, CICA, and ASEAN.

The basic trend after globalization which has gained momentum since the end of the Cold War is in the direction that the developments of the countries will not be alone but through regional cooperation and trans-regional partnerships. Countries are evolving as open structures based on respect, dialogue and cooperation in all fields. On the other hand, countries that have problems in adapting this new situation experience serious instabilities. In this regard, necessity of establishing “strategic partnership” relationships between Turkey and India is obvious. **Turkey-India Country Roundtable Meetings** aim to reveal how the mutual potentials and existing cooperation can be transformed into a strategic cooperation and to contribute to capacity building on the strategic grounds.

With the Roundtable Meetings, it is aimed to recognize related organizations closely, to increase the effectiveness of civil society, to benefit from the expertise accumulations in order to develop working areas, to contribute promotional activities, to investigate possibilities of academic cooperation, to develop a strategic approach in order to evaluate all these studies with integrity.

Both countries can develop an effective strategic cooperation ground regarding the sustainability of the long term interests that bear great importance for both India and Turkey. In this context, it is important to look at the events in a broader geopolitical point of view.



**In order to bring the Turkish-Indian relations to an ideal point in the world system that is increasingly gaining a multidimensional appearance, Turkish and Indian policy makers must steer for a structure that may constitute mutual depth not only on the political and strategic grounds but in the all parameters.**

Here, the aim of **Turkey – India Country Round Table Meetings**, which is planned to be held every year alternately, is to display the opportunities and complementary relations between Turkey and Brazil in the forthcoming period before the public opinion of both Turkey and India with a strategic point of view without disregarding the problematic areas. Depending on the momentum captured, medium and long term potential to transform the event into a forum with broad participation must separately be assessed.

**The main and sub themes of the meeting:**

### **Main Theme**

**Turkish - Indian Relations in the New Term: Rising Powers in the Changing World Order**

### **Sub-Themes**

**Turkish - Indian Economic Relations: Opportunities and Obstacles**

**Energy Policies: Geopolitical and Security Outcomes**

**Technology Sharing, Academic and Cultural Cooperation**

**Social, Economic and Political Developments**

**ASEAN Region and Turkey - India**

**Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and Turkey - India**

**U.S., EU and Relations with New Partners and Regional Strategies**

**Emerging Powers and Adaptation to Global Governance Structures in a Multi-Polar World System**