

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
AND  
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

**PREAMBLE**

The Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

*Based on* the centuries-old friendship between the Turkish and Afghan people, which was registered with the "Turkish - Afghan Alliance Treaty" of March 1, 1921;

*Affirming that* the said Treaty, through which both countries have committed themselves to strengthen their long-term cooperation and solidarity based on mutual interests and responsibilities, constituted the basis guiding Turkish - Afghan relations in the past 93 years;

*Underlining that* the close friendship enjoyed by the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reflects the spirit of the 1921 "Turkish - Afghan Alliance Treaty", which states that "the prosperity and adversity of any of these two countries is considered the prosperity and adversity of both of them";

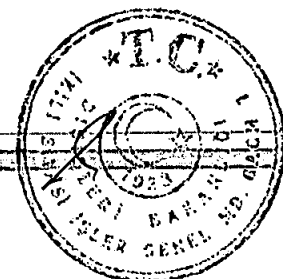
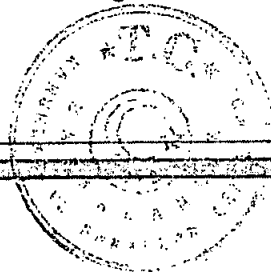
*Recalling* the subsequent Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Afghanistan and Turkey of May 25, 1928, through which both countries further intensified their cooperation and solidarity;

*Recognizing* the time-honoured multi-faceted cooperation between Turkey and Afghanistan, which covers, inter alia, the areas of capacity building in public administration, security and socio-economic development, on bilateral and regional levels;

*Expressing* profound satisfaction of the manner in which these relations have evolved and matured over decades through genuine goodwill, mutual respect, sincere understanding and a spirit of cooperation;

*Believing that* the further comprehensive development of their bilateral ties would promote progress and prosperity in both states and the region as a whole;

Hereby solemnly declare their commitment to perpetuate their friendship and cooperation as laid out in the following articles:



## Article 1 – Objectives

With this Agreement, the Parties aim to further their long-term comprehensive cooperation, based on the spirit of mutual interests and responsibilities, towards the common objective of ensuring lasting peace, security, stability and prosperity, both for their countries and the region, as well as to promote and protect basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations arising from membership of the Parties to international organizations and arrangements.

## Article 2 – Security

The Parties shall work together to overcome challenges to regional peace and security which also have direct negative implications on the development of their countries. To that end, the Parties shall cooperate through their competent authorities, primarily in the fields of counter-terrorism and fight against transnational crimes such as, extremism, organized crimes and money laundering, by way of training, experience sharing, information sharing, personnel exchanges and grants. They shall also cooperate in the field of illegal immigration and border management.

The Parties shall share operational, technical and strategic information regarding narcotic crimes through their competent institutions.

The Ministries of Interior of the Parties shall cooperate in the field of information technologies and their applications that are utilized in internal security.

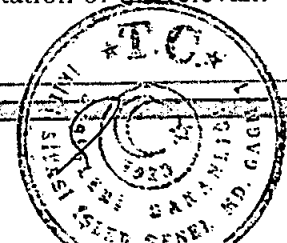
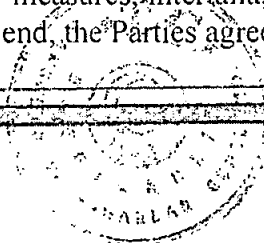
## Article 3 – Socio-economic Development

The Parties acknowledge that tackling common challenges which afflict the region requires a comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach and recognize that progress made in the security realm must be bolstered by long-term sustainable socio-economic development.

In this regard, the Parties commit to further intensifying education, scientific, technology, economic, trade, investment, industrial, energy, mining, transport, agricultural and health cooperation, as well as reform and capacity building in public administration, in addition to promoting cooperation between relevant bodies of business and industry representatives.

## Article 4 – Economy, Industry, Commerce and Investment

Being committed to enhancing their economic and commercial relations to their full potential, in order to facilitate and increase their bilateral economic activities and trade, the Parties shall take all necessary measures, inter alia, the augmentation of the relevant bilateral legal framework. To that end, the Parties agree;



- to intensify their cooperation through existing mechanisms such as the Joint Economic Commission,
- to explore new areas of economic cooperation and develop appropriate measures for closer commercial partnership,
- to facilitate and promote regional economic cooperation and integration,
- to take necessary measures to encourage private sector investment that contributes to job creation and employment.

The Parties shall cooperate in the regulation and control of the banking system.

The Parties shall share knowledge and experience regarding Small and Medium Size Enterprise (SME) related organizations, SMEs and supporting entrepreneurs.

The Parties shall explore concrete cooperation opportunities such as, construction of industrial infrastructure facilities, knowledge and experience sharing on organized industrial zone and industrial site implementations.

The parties agree to develop their cooperation among institutes of quality assurance and standardization and use modern technology in order to further promote the quality of their products for competing with international products.

The Parties agree to cooperate in introduction and application of new standards and new technologies in the mining sector in Afghanistan.

The Parties shall continue their efforts towards the establishment of a trade regime which will contribute to peace and prosperity in the region, through the development of economic cooperation in regional and multi-lateral fora.

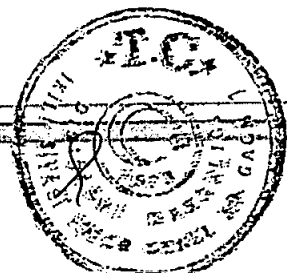
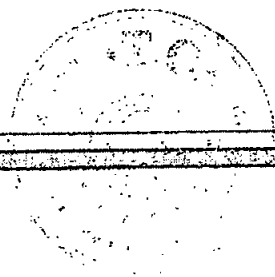
The parties agree to encourage extended cooperation among their chambers of commerce in order to achieve sustainable development of trade between two countries. The Parties shall encourage their private sector companies to take advantage of the investment opportunities in all economic, commercial, industrial and infrastructural sectors available in each other's country.

#### **Article 5 –Transport**

The Parties agree to take all necessary measures to increase access to each other's markets and stimulate economic growth through improved transportation connectivity.

The Parties shall cooperate with a view to overcome the difficulties in the implementation of the TIR Agreement to facilitate bilateral and regional trade.

The Parties agree to utilize the full potential of existing regional transport infrastructure by enhancing bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation within the framework of relevant regional bodies with a view to extending the coverage of railway and other overland corridors/networks.



The Parties shall bolster their cooperation in civil aviation through training programmes in accordance with ICAO international aviation instruments and increased routes and frequency of commercial flights, to the interests of both parties.

The Parties agree to cooperate in the development of transport infrastructures; in particular of railway networks and roads.

#### **Article 6 – Health**

In the field of health the Parties shall continue and increase cooperation in the following areas:

- increase popular access to health services in Afghanistan,
- technical and consultancy services for re-structuring the Afghan health system,
- exchange of and short term training programmes for medical personnel,
- medicine and medical equipment,
- experience sharing in health services in times of emergencies and disasters.
- encouraging Turkish and Afghan private sectors to cooperate in health sector investment.

The Parties shall also cooperate in the construction and development of health facilities in Afghanistan and their management.

#### **Article 7 - Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development**

The Parties agree to cooperate in achievement of food self-sufficiency and in improving living standards in rural areas in Afghanistan, as well as facilitate the export of agricultural products from Afghanistan.

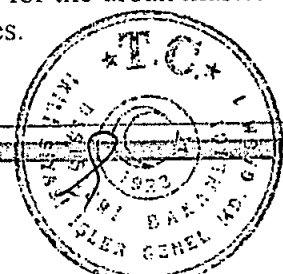
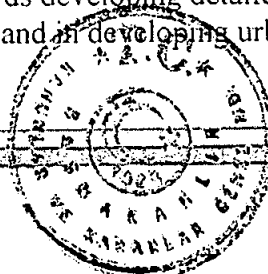
In the fields of agriculture, livestock and rural development, the Parties commit to continue and expand cooperation through technical training programmes, joint project implementations, experience sharing, expert exchanges, technology transfer and document and publication exchanges.

The Parties shall collaborate, through their competent institutions, on rural development programmes to curb poverty, as well as, on agricultural infrastructure development, modern irrigation techniques and land improvement.

#### **Article 8 – Environment and Urban Planning**

The Parties agree to explore possibilities of cooperation in the field of environment, urban planning and public housing schemes.

The Parties agree to cooperate towards developing detailed outlines for the urban master plans of major cities in Afghanistan and in developing urban policies.



The Parties agree to explore avenues of cooperation in the field of municipal services.

The parties agree to initiate, continue and develop their cooperation in the areas of environment protection and natural resources preservation by launching technical training courses and participating in implementation of projects, exchange of experience and transfer of technologies.

### **Article 9 – Institutional Capacity Building**

The Parties agree that strengthening institutions and improving governance are crucial to stability and self-sufficiency and recognize the need for efficient and accountable institutions to deliver public services.

The parties shall cooperate on building the capacity of central and local entities through sharing and exchanging of experiences and technical support.

The Parties shall cooperate in the field of local governance, through technical assistance and experience sharing.

In this context, the Republic of Turkey will continue to support the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan through capacity building programmes conducted by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), as well as through programmes carried out by other Turkish institutions.

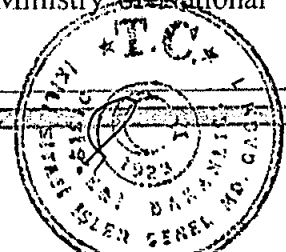
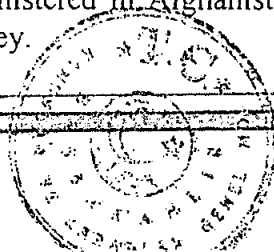
Afghan civil service personnel trained with the resources and facilities provided by the Government of the Republic of Turkey upon the request of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan shall be employed in accordance with the professional competence and specialization they acquired in their training.

The Parties agree that, adequate contribution and participation of relevant local authorities, in the framework of project partnership principles, to the projects and programmes carried out by TIKA in Afghanistan will increase their success and impact. The Parties shall ensure the participation of local authorities in project implementation, control and follow-up.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan shall accredit TIKA Programme Coordination Offices as aid organizations; and ensure the security of its personnel either assigned or employed by TIKA for projects undertaken in the field.

### **Article 10 – Education and Science**

The Parties shall further increase the level of cooperation between the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministries of Education and Higher Education of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan through initiatives including education programmes; they shall take the necessary measures to facilitate the activities of the schools founded and administered in Afghanistan by the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey.



The Parties shall promote interaction between their higher education entities and academic institutions, and in this regard, shall continue collaboration on higher education scholarships.

The Parties shall encourage direct contacts between their scientific research institutions to establish scientific and technological cooperation.

### **Article 11 – Culture and Cultural Heritage**

In order to build on the shared culture and people-to-people bonds which constitute a defining features of Turkish-Afghan relations, the Parties shall take all necessary measures to promote closer interaction among their people.

To that end, the Parties shall foster cultural and historical ties through projects which carry significant meaning and symbolism for their shared culture and history, as well as making joint efforts on the preservation of cultural heritage.

The Parties shall continue to develop collaboration and interaction between state radio and television networks and work together in increasing the capacities of radio and television professionals in Afghanistan.

The Parties agree to encourage fostering bonds between their local government entities and in this regard encourage signing twinning agreements between the provinces or cities, as applicable, of the respective countries.

### **Article 12 – Youth and Sports**

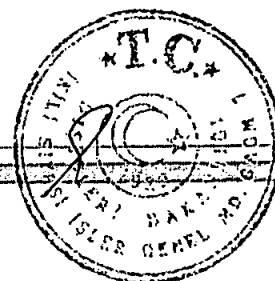
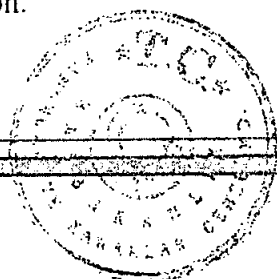
The Parties shall promote training, experience sharing and personnel exchanges in order to develop bilateral relations in the fields of youth and sports.

The Parties shall support the realization of joint programmes and projects on youth and sport by their relevant organizations.

The Parties shall explore the possibility of signing a protocol on youth and sport cooperation in order to ensure cooperation on conducting common policies and joint projects concerning the youth and athletes of the two countries.

### **Article 13 - Regional Cooperation**

The Parties recognize that the stability of Afghanistan and that of the region are mutually reinforcing; and agree to continue their joint efforts to promote regional cooperation, with the shared vision of creating a stable and prosperous Afghanistan that is firmly integrated into its region.



In this regard, the Parties shall continue their efforts resolutely within the framework of the "Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan" to implement the Confidence Building Measures thereof.

The Parties reaffirm the valuable contribution that the "Ankara Trilateral Summit Process among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey" has made to regional dialogue and cooperation since 2007 and agree to pursue their efforts within its framework.

#### **Article 14 – Implementation Mechanism**

In order to monitor progress and provide political guidance towards the implementation of this Agreement the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both Parties shall hold annual meetings.

At the annual meetings, the activities carried out within the framework of the Agreement will be evaluated and the agenda of the following year will be identified.

#### **Article 15 – Amendment**

This Agreement may be amended by written mutual consent of the Parties, through diplomatic channels. The amendments shall enter into force in accordance with the same legal procedure prescribed under Article 17 of this Agreement.

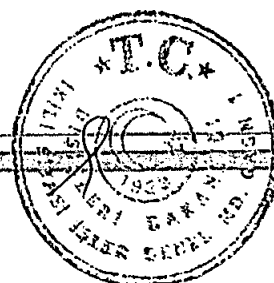
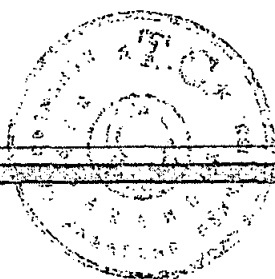
#### **Article 16 – Dispute settlement**

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled amicably by negotiations by the Parties through diplomatic channels.

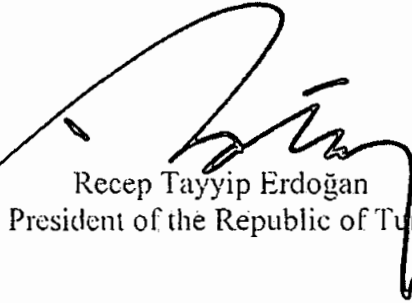
#### **Article 17 – Entry into Force**

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the receipt of the last written notification by which the Parties inform each other, through diplomatic channels, of the completion of their internal legal procedures required for its entry into force.


This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of 10 years, and unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate the Agreement 6 months prior to its expiration, shall be extended automatically for successive periods of 10 years.



Done in Kabul on October 18, 2014 in two original copies in Turkish, Dari, Pashto and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.



Recep Tayyip Erdoğan  
President of the Republic of Turkey



Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai  
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

