



2015

**TURKEY - INDONESIA
ROUND TABLE
MEETING**

**New Era in
Turkish - Indonesian Relations
“Opportunities and Risks”**



(STRATEGIC VISION DOCUMENT)

TURKEY - INDONESIA ROUND TABLE MEETINGS 2

“New Era in Turkish - Indonesian Relations: Opportunities and Risks”

(22 October 2015, Istanbul)

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 growing 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.

Indonesia, on the other hand, has become apparent as an important power that grabs attention worldwide with its strategic situation in a region which bound Indian Ocean to Pacific, with its population reaching 250 million, developing economy and standing out performance in the last economic crisis, maintaining industrial and technological progress, natural resources, activities in the international organizations, and developed strategies in the foreign policy.

Because of historical ties, **friendly relations have always prevailed** between Turkey and Indonesia. Political and cultural relations between the two countries date back to the 12th century. Despite the geographical distance, the two countries have established close relations in the political, cultural and educational fields. There is Cultural Cooperation Treaty of 1973 between the two countries which constitutes a real basis for bilateral cultural and educational relations. The two countries have continuously supported each other in the international issues as Cyprus and East Timor. However, economic relations have remained well below the real potential. At this point, main reason may be that both countries have focused on their own regions for many years.

In Addition to bilateral relations, Turkey and Indonesia continue to cooperate within the framework of international and regional organizations such as specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), D-8 and G-20. Close relation between the two countries are also reflected in the mutual high level visits.

Turkey and Indonesia, which are located at two of the most important corridors that control world trade and energy transfer, **have common interests in the economic, political geopolitical and security areas** in respect with the relations with the South Asian, Middle Eastern and the Islamic countries and Western world. Today interdependency relationships are gradually deepening.



Therefore, **the two countries should have improved economic relations, contribute in global energy security and fight against gradually increasing terrorist actions and smuggling.** Interests of both countries require enhancing economic, political and social interaction and ensuring peace and security in these regions.

Recently achieved growth rates of Turkey and Indonesia pushes both states **to take each other into consideration in terms of economy.** For Indonesia, Turkey is a road to the Balkans and Europe and an economic partner in the Middle East and Central Asia. Turkey, on the other hand, should see Indonesia as a partner in order to strengthen mutual relations in the political, economic, cultural and security fields. Turkey attaches special importance to cooperate with Indonesia to develop good relations with Asian countries. In this regard, Turkey signed Friendship and Cooperation Agreement with ASEAN and attaches special importance to the organization. Turkey considers developing its relations ranging from international trade to security cooperation by becoming a member of the organization, and therefore developing its relations with other international organizations in the region and having opportunities to be a member of other regional organizations.

Trade volume between Turkey and Indonesia had been well below the existing potential over many years. However, since 2001, the trade volume between two states has steadily grown. It reached \$1.54 billion in 2007 and the targeted \$2 billion trade volume for the end of 2008 was achieved. However, these figures are below the potential when we look at the political affinity between the two countries, their demographic structures and economic performances. Indeed it was predicted that \$5 billion goal would be reached for the year 2011 and a new goal for a \$10 billion began to be voiced.

Both countries can develop an effective strategic cooperation ground regarding the sustainability of the long term interests. In this context, **it is important to look at the events in broader political, economic, diplomatic and geostrategic perspectives.**

In order to bring the Turkish-Chinese relations to an ideal point in the world system that is increasingly gaining a multidimensional appearance, Turkish and Chinese 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 **Round Table Conferences of Turkey-Indonesia** that planned to be hold every year alternately is to display the opportunities and complementary relations between Turkey and Indonesia in the forthcoming period before the public opinion of both Turkey and Indonesia with a strategic point of view without disregarding the problematic areas.

It should also be assessed that the potential of this activity to be transformed into a well-attended forum in the medium and long terms depending on the captured momentum.



The main and sub themes of the meeting:

Main theme

New Era in Turkish - Indonesian Relations: Opportunities and Risks

Sub-themes

New Multidimensional Security Parameters in Asia Pacific

Economy

Transportation and Logistics

Multidimensional Security and Fight against Terrorism

Bilateral and Multilateral Capacity Building with the member countries of the OIC

Advanced and High Technology

Academy, Culture

Regional and Global Common Perspectives