

JOINT DECLARATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

At the invitation of H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H. E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, paid an official visit to the Republic of Turkey on 2-3 May 2013 together with prominent representatives of Japanese business, whereby discussions were held on issues of common interest.

The Two Prime Ministers confirmed once again the strategic importance of the friendly relations between the two countries, which trace their roots back to the Ertugrul Frigate Accident in 1890, as was stated in the Joint Statement between Japan and the Republic of Turkey on the occasion of the visit by H. E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, to Japan in June 2008. They also agreed that a new momentum was created for furthering the relations between Japan and the Republic of Turkey through the visit of Prime Minister Abe in the symbolically significant year of 2013, which is the 90th anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic of Turkey.

The Two Prime Ministers underscored that deepening bilateral relations will provide vast opportunities to the two countries which share fundamental values such as democracy, respect for human rights and free market economy and will contribute greatly to the stability and prosperity of their respective regions and beyond.

The Two Prime Ministers, in view of the foregoing, decided to upgrade their level of co-operation to a mutually beneficial strategic partnership in order to promote common interests of both countries through bilateral, regional and multilateral co-operation.

To this end, the Two Prime Ministers decided to be jointly committed to the areas below:

Political Co-operation

Prime Ministers:

1. Emphasised the importance of strengthening political co-operation with a view to reinforcing the foundations of the strategic partnership between Japan and the Republic of Turkey and affirmed that they will accelerate and strengthen political co-operation through more frequent meetings between the Prime Ministers, periodic meetings between Ministers of Foreign Affairs, consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs at the level of Undersecretary/Vice-Minister and other senior officials.
2. Encouraged increased co-operation including dialogues and exchanges between relevant authorities in various fields such as economy, finance, health, education,

culture, public security and disaster management.

3. Encouraged consultations between the defence authorities based on the Statement of Intent signed between the Ministry of Defence of Japan and the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Turkey in July 2012.
4. Concurred on the importance of strengthening co-operation between their respective parliaments as well as public and private institutions through increased contacts.

Co-operation on Regional Affairs and in International Fora

Prime Ministers:

5. Emphasised the importance of strengthening their co-operation on enhancing stability and prosperity of their respective regions and co-operation in international fora.
6. Emphasised the importance of holding bilateral consultations related to the regional issues that are closely followed by the two Governments, particularly on the Middle East, Central Asia, East Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific. They exchanged views and expressed their deep concern about the serious and aggravating situation in Syria and reaffirmed the importance of close co-ordination as well as taking necessary measures for providing urgent humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people. They also emphasized the need for a Syrian-led political transition as early as possible in accordance with the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. On the Arab-Israeli conflict, they confirmed their co-ordination toward encouraging the relevant parties to resume direct negotiations for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement based on a two-state solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions and economic assistance to Palestine. They also confirmed their co-ordination in addressing issues related to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly issues of concern regarding North Korea, including abductions, nuclear and missile issues.
7. Concurred on continuing co-operation in the fields of nuclear security, counter-terrorism, elimination of weapons of mass destruction and prevention of nuclear proliferation by using various platforms, particularly the Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI); co-operation within the United Nations, including the reform of the Security Council, resolution of disputes as well as the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda; dialogue and co-operation within the G-20 regarding issues such as international economy and development; mutual support of candidacies in international fora as appropriate; as well as co-operation on aid for third countries.

Economic Co-operation

Prime Ministers:

8. Taking note of the vast complementary economic potential of the two countries, encouraged further advancing co-operation in the economic field in a mutually beneficial manner.
9. Based on the “Memorandum on Establishing a Framework for Co-operation in Economic Relations between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey”, signed in July 2012 in Tokyo, decided to strengthen the investment and trade relations between the two countries in a mutually beneficial manner and to exert renewed efforts to accelerate the process for eventually concluding the Japan-Turkey Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) official negotiations and the negotiations on Social Security Agreement.
10. Welcomed the recent progress of co-operation between the two countries in the fields of health, agriculture and food, where Japanese companies are increasing their participation in various projects and investments, the field of infrastructure construction where Japanese companies are playing a prominent role through such projects as the Marmaray Rail Tube Crossing Project and the Izmit Bay Bridge Construction Project, as well as the fields of communication and broadcasting satellites, and decided to further develop co-operation between the two countries in these fields.
11. Expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the “Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey for Co-operation in the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes” and the “Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Co-operation for Development of Nuclear Power Plants and the Nuclear Power Industry in the Republic of Turkey”, and the granting of the exclusive right of negotiations to Japan regarding the construction of the Sinop Nuclear Power Plant. They also affirmed their hope that the negotiations will lead to establishing a new avenue of co-operation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Cultural and Scientific-Technological Co-operation

Prime Ministers:

12. Referring to the success of the “2003 Year of Turkey in Japan” and “2010 Year of Japan in Turkey”, emphasised the importance of strengthening co-operation in the fields of culture and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries in order to consolidate their strategic partnership and to further reinforce the friendship between the Japanese and Turkish peoples, and underlined the significance of the year 2014 in this respect which coincides with the 90th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

13. Concurred on strengthening the co-operation and co-ordination between the authorities of the relevant institutions in the fields of education, culture and science and technology; on establishing a joint international university of science and technology in Turkey with the aim of strengthening educational cooperation between the two countries including the training of experts in the nuclear energy field, on reinforcing support for activities of the Turkish-Japanese Foundation Cultural Center in Ankara, which is celebrating the 15th anniversary of its establishment on this day, and on the establishment of the Yunus Emre Cultural Center in Tokyo at the soonest possible time, both of which are important instruments for cultural exchange; and in addition, on accelerating co-operation on space-related matters, including the establishment of a Turkish Space Agency, expert staff training and the sustainable use of space.

Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey