

**JOINT DECLARATION**  
**BY**  
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**AND**  
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The second meeting of the Turkish-Russian Joint Strategic Planning Group was held on 25 January 2012 in Moscow under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

During the meeting, held in a traditionally friendly and constructive atmosphere, the Ministers took stock of recent contacts between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries and their consequences, discussed issues on the agenda of the bilateral relations, as well as international and regional issues of importance to both countries and exchanged views on topics that are expected to be brought to the High Level Cooperation Council.

1. Ministers expressed their satisfaction about the progressive development of multifaceted relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Russian Federation, the continuation of political dialogue based on confidence and the expansion of contacts in all areas of bilateral cooperation.
2. Ministers stressed the importance of continuing high-level contacts in order to further deepen the collaboration between the two countries.
3. The Parties noted the importance of mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation between Turkey and Russia; the substantial increase in the volume of bilateral trade; the reinforcement of investment cooperation; the implementation of important projects of interest to both countries, such as the project of a nuclear power plant at the "Akkuyu" site, the construction of the "South Stream" gas pipeline and the implementation of the Samsun-Ceyhan oil pipeline project; and the development of strategic partnership in the energy sector.
4. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the steps taken in order to improve humanitarian contacts between the two countries, including the activities of the Civic Forum created under the auspices of the High Level Cooperation Council.
5. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the contributions to Turkish-Russian humanitarian relations of the developing cooperation between the two countries in the field of tourism and agreed on the importance of further advancing cooperation in this area.
6. The Ministers expressed the importance they attach to maintaining constructive contacts between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries and expanding regular consultations at the level of Undersecretaries, Deputy Undersecretaries and Director Generals of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries.

7. The sides noted the similarity or coincidence of positions on a number of important issues on the international agenda. This ensures the deepening of cooperation both bilaterally and within the UN, OSCE, BSEC and other international fora.

8. The Foreign Ministers stressed the key role of the UN in ensuring the provision, preservation and maintenance of international peace, stability and prosperity; in dealing with global problems and challenges of our time, such as terrorism and its sources of funding, narcotics trafficking and cross-border international crime, as well as efforts for sustainable development.

9. The mechanisms for multilateral cooperation based on the principle of looking after the mutual interests of the participants coming together on the basis of equal rights and common goals have become effective tools for a unified response to emerging global challenges. The Parties view the G-20 as the main forum for international economic cooperation among its member states. The G-20 will in the long term constitute an important tool for reforming the international financial and economic system on a more democratic and equitable basis. Given the growing crisis tendencies in the global economy, G-20 must develop its crisis management capabilities, in cooperation with the IMF, regional banks and financial mechanisms providing stabilization.

Taking into account the forthcoming G-20 presidency of the Russian Federation in 2013 and that of the Republic of Turkey in 2015, the Ministers Foreign Affairs of both countries agreed on the need to intensify bilateral cooperation on all questions regarding the current and future G-20 agendas.

10. The Ministers expressed their satisfaction regarding the completion of the Russian Federation's accession negotiations to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and agreed that Russia's accession to the WTO will make positive contributions to the Russian economy and to trade relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Russian Federation.

11. The Parties reiterated their determination to maintain and strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime on the basis of the principles of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes which constitute the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In this context, they expressed support for the implementation of the recommendations in the Final Document adopted by consensus at the 2010 Review Conference of the NPT (NPT RevCon); and their hope for the participation and positive contribution of all Middle Eastern states at the conference envisaged to be organized in 2012 regarding the establishment of a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East in accordance with RevCon decisions.

12. The Ministers support the political and diplomatic methods of countering the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery, including ballistic missiles, and in this context they expressed that they are in favor of the universalization of the obligations of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles.

13. The Ministers expressed their hope for an active and constructive development of integration processes in all regions of the world and agreed that the strengthening of global governance at the regional level is a prerequisite for the formation of a new world order and a condition for peace and stability. It was stressed that the establishment of regional integration,

unification efforts and resources in this direction are of particular importance in solving regional problems.

14. The Ministers agreed to hold bilateral inter-institutional regular consultations on cooperation in the fight against terrorism and organized crime in 2012 in Moscow. They confirmed that the bilateral consultation mechanism on this subject makes an important contribution to our cooperation in the security field. They agreed to expedite preparatory works regarding the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Combating Terrorism, to intensify efforts in order to achieve an inter-institutional accord regarding the agreement on cooperation in the sphere of combating the funding of terrorism and laundering of proceeds of crime, which is currently being negotiated.

15. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs confirmed their intention to develop their cooperation in the framework of the Council of Europe (CoE), which constitutes the key institution enabling the establishment of a pan-European common legal space, with a view to enhance CoE's visibility among the European institutions and organizations and to strengthening the leading role it assumes as a result of its multi-dimensional approach directed towards cooperation and its unique convention mechanisms.

16. The Ministers reaffirmed that the security and stability of the Euro-Atlantic geography were established on the principles of comprehensive and indivisible security and the security of all the countries located in the region being inseparably linked to that of all the others. With this understanding, they expressed their intention to cooperate in the direction of developing and strengthening the Euro-Atlantic security architecture and the fundamental international arrangements which form this architecture in line with current needs. Taking into account the dependence of the security of NATO and Russia on each other, they have expressed their interest in building up efforts to further broaden and deepen political dialogue and practical cooperation in the framework of the NATO-Russia Council.

17. The Parties noted the importance of regular consultations regarding relations with the EU at the bilateral level and in multilateral fora.

18. The Ministers agreed that the processes of change and transformation taking place in countries of the Middle East and North Africa stem from the just and legitimate demands of their people. Finding ways to tackle the crisis in the region should be conducted within the framework of international law and exclusively through peaceful means; without resorting to the use of force; respecting the independence, territorial integrity, national unity and sovereignty of the countries of the region and on the basis of establishing a comprehensive national dialogue. The Parties support the efforts of the Arab League, aimed at the peaceful settlement of the problems in Syria.

The convergence of views about the fact that the fundamental changes and transformations taking place in the Middle Eastern and the North African countries should not lead to the neglect of other issues on the agenda, in particular the Arab-Israeli conflict, was once again emphasized. The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting Arab-Israeli settlement on the basis of international law, including the framework provided by the relevant UNSC resolutions, the Madrid principles and the Arab Peace Initiative.

19. The Ministers encouraged increasing efforts aimed at maintaining stability in the Balkans and in this regard they reaffirmed their commitment to the preservation of the independence, territorial integrity, sovereignty and constitutional structure of Bosnia and Herzegovina as registered by the Dayton Peace Agreement, as well as their intention to contribute to its development as a democratic state. The Parties believe that the relevant international fora to discuss issues related to Bosnia and Herzegovina are the UN Security Council and the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) and its Steering Committee, therefore they rejected unilateral actions by-passing these fora. The Parties agreed to maintain regular dialogue and ensure coordination between themselves on issues related to Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the PIC and on a bilateral basis.

The Ministers supported the continuation of the dialogue process between Belgrade and Prishtina on Kosovo.

20. The Ministers confirmed that the solution of the Cyprus problem is possible only within the framework of the UN and by achieving a political settlement based on the mutual consent of both sides, and that a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus will make a significant contribution to ensuring peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and the region as a whole.

21. The Parties expressed their concern about the situation regarding Iran's nuclear program; and referring to the statement made by Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, on 21 September 2011 on behalf of Germany, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and France, they emphasized that a comprehensive and lasting solution to Iran's nuclear program can only be achieved gradually through diplomatic channels, by the resumption of negotiations without preconditions and on the basis of reciprocity. The Parties expressed their belief that additional sanctions, in particular unilateral sanctions, against Iran will not help solve the problem. Reaffirming the legitimate right of Iran to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in compliance with its obligations under the NPT, the Parties expressed their support for increasing dialogue and cooperation between Iran and the IAEA to ensure international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program.

22. The Ministers expressed their concern about the developments regarding Iran in the context of the navigation in the Strait of Hormuz. The Parties agreed that developments towards a confrontational scenario against the background of overall instability in the Middle East and North Africa are fraught with serious negative consequences, not only for the neighboring region, but also for the international community as a whole. The Ministers called upon the parties to be moderate and to refrain from statements and actions that can lead to an escalation.

23. The Ministers reaffirmed that the transformation of the Black Sea region into an area of cooperation, security and prosperity is the responsibility of coastal states, in this regard, they noted the importance of maintaining cooperation aimed at strengthening security and cooperation in the Black Sea Region under the "Operation Black Sea Harmony "(OBSH) and "The Document on Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) in the Naval Field in the Black Sea" which have been created to provide naval security in the Black Sea as well as the "Black Sea Naval Cooperation Task Group" (BLACKSEAFOR). Both Parties expressed their satisfaction with the development of bilateral cooperation between their Naval Forces.

24. The Parties appreciated the contributions of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), particularly in the development of economic cooperation, in strengthening peace, stability and prosperity in the Black Sea region over the last twenty years on the basis of regional ownership, and expressed their conviction that the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of BSEC will be a historic landmark and provide an opportunity for member countries to reaffirm their political will to strengthen their cooperation. The Parties agreed to hold regular consultations to further improve the cooperation within the BSEC. The Turkish side informed about the intention to organize a summit in Istanbul on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of BSEC. The Russian side took note of this. They agreed to keep in regular consultations on the preparations of the Summit and furthering of the cooperation within BSEC. The Parties also agreed to jointly update the document entitled "BSEC Economic Agenda for the Future" adopted in 2001 at the Moscow meeting of Council of Ministers in light of recent global and regional developments by covering the vision of the Organization and its activities for the coming decade. Furthermore, they emphasized the importance of the European Union's considering the BSEC as a key partner in implementing its initiatives for multilateral cooperation in the Black Sea region.

25. The Ministers exchanged views on the situation in the Southern Caucasus. They reiterated their common intention to ensure an atmosphere of lasting peace, security and stability in the region. The Parties believe that all Caucasian states should refrain from the threat or use of force and adhere to the peaceful methods of resolving protracted conflicts in the region. The Ministers noted the importance of humanitarian, cultural, and economic and trade relations as a factor in establishing and strengthening good neighborly relations in the region.

26. The Parties stressed their desire for a prompt resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. They also expressed their expectation that the works carried out by Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through the mediation of the OSCE Minsk Group soon produce results. The Ministers reaffirmed their belief in the unacceptability of maintaining the existing status quo; they also stated the possibility of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the provisions of the joint statements made by the leaders of the countries assuming the Co-Chairmanship of the OSCE Minsk Group in L'Aquila in July 2009, in Muskoka in June 2010 and at Deauville in May 2011. The Parties also confirmed that the joint statement by the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and the Russian Federation on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue made on 23 January 2012 gave an additional impetus to the peace process. Turkey and Russia's intention to continue to use their capacity to provide stability in the conflict zone was confirmed.

27. The Ministers exchanged views on what can be done for the development of closer cooperation in the Central Asian region, which has a high potential, and agreed to support the region's stability and security.

28. The Ministers noted that both countries exert efforts to stabilize Afghanistan and that they consider regional cooperation as crucial on this issue.

The Parties, in the context of regional cooperation, reaffirmed their commitment to the development and improvement of cooperation in the framework of already existing and well established structures for regional cooperation, including SCO, OIC, Recca, EurAsEC, CSTO and CICA. In this context, the importance of implementing the confidence-building measures

agreed at the regional conference on Afghanistan in Istanbul in November 2011 was emphasized.

The Ministers agreed that the reconciliation process in Afghanistan should be realized under the leadership of the Afghan people themselves and in strict compliance, without preconditions, by the armed opposition of the following three basic principles: laying down of weapons, recognition of the Afghan Constitution and breaking contacts definitely with "Al Qaeda" and other extremist organizations.

29. The Ministers, taking into account the growing weight of the Asia-Pacific region and its importance in terms of world peace, drew attention to the need for cooperation with the countries in the region. The Parties noted the advantages of the resumption as soon as possible of six-party talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. Furthermore, they also stated that the resolution of this issue will lead to positive results in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in Northeast Asia, and throughout the world. The Parties expect that the project of building a gas pipeline from the Russian Federation to the Republic of Korea through the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would contribute to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

30. The Ministers noted the usefulness and effectiveness of the Joint Strategic Planning Group and agreed that the group is a convenient mechanism for in-depth and constructive exchange of views on a wide range of issues on the agenda, for seeking new areas of cooperation between the two countries and for elaborating proposals to be submitted to the meetings of the High Level Cooperation Council.