# THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### DEPUTY DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIA

# TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFGHANISTAN

JUNE 2010





In Turkey, we are reminded daily of the critical nature of our strategic location, sometimes in positive, other times in challenging ways. Definition of a region goes beyond merely geographic boundaries. A region also reflects history, culture, politics, economics and security. As such, Turkey is part of a diversity of regions including South Asia, which has Afghanistan at its core.

Turkey considers Afghanistan a friendly and brotherly country. Our relations take strength from our deep-rooted historical and social bonds. It is therefore only natural that Turkey feels a particular responsibility and utmost care for the peace and prosperity of the Afghan people.

Our efforts in Afghanistan aim to support a historic transformation. Time and experience has demonstrated that civilian efforts, conducted within an environment secured by police and military forces, hold the key to stability and prosperity in Afghanistan. From our vantage point, Afghanization is both vital and necessary. Ultimately, only the Afghans can ensure the irreversibility of progress in their country. Turkey works with Afghanistan and the international community to enable the Afghans to assume ownership of their own affairs, particularly by supporting capacity building efforts.

The Republic of Turkey has been contributing substantially in terms of resources and manpower. While Turkish Armed Forces have assumed considerable responsibilities in the security realm, the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA) together with my Ministry and others have been the driving force of our comprehensive civilian efforts in Afghanistan.

Another key emphasis has been on providing a favorable regional environment. With this understanding, we have launched the Trilateral Summit Process, which has evolved, within three years since its inception, into a robust platform for dialogue and multi-dimensional cooperation among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey. Since January 2010 the regional focus was expanded with the Summit on Friendship and Cooperation in the "Heart of Asia" that has produced the Istanbul Statement, which is the most comprehensive document to date underpinning a regionally-owned and steered cooperation framework in support of Afghanistan.

The expressed support for our efforts by the Afghan people and the international community motivates us in implementing our result-oriented comprehensive approach which is showcased in this brochure.

**Ahmet DAVUTOĞLU**
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Turkey



Turkey is committed to a secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. In carrying out the most substantial development assistance program in the history of our Republic, we have invested considerable resources and manpower in support of security, reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

The Turkish Armed Forces have provided outstanding support to efforts in the security realm, including the command of ISAF and leadership of the Regional Command Capital which we assumed twice. In addition, we have been training significant numbers of the Afghan security forces. Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA) has been in the forefront in extending civilian assistance with projects in over two thirds of the country. The civilian-led Turkish Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Wardak, the first of its kind and a role model for the evolution of the PRT concept, provides one of the main arteries in supporting civilian efforts at local level. Soon, we will replicate its success with a second civilian-led PRT in the north of Afghanistan.

We welcome the remarkable strides Afghanistan has made so far. Yet, challenges remain, as security, development and governance need further nurturing. These are ultimately Afghan responsibilities. Yet, Afghanization cannot proceed steadily without continued engagement of the international community, and unless there is strong local awareness, ownership and capacity.

In its efforts in Afghanistan, Turkey has two primary goals in mind. The first is to bring peace and stability to the country by winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. The Afghans already know that we are there for their future to be brighter.

The second goal is to ultimately entrust the responsibility to the Afghans. In pursuit of this objective, we focus our contributions on capacity building efforts in support of Afghan ownership.

We concurrently promote enhanced cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbors, knowing that the regional dimension constitutes a key component of the comprehensive approach.

All in all, more troops and more money alone cannot remedy the challenges faced by the Afghan people. Therefore, Turkey will continue to do its utmost to empower the Afghans while promoting Afghanistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity within which all segments of the society are represented.

**Feridun Hadi SİNİRLİOĞLU**
Ambassador
Undersecretary of the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Turkey

# RECENT AND UPCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Security**

• Turkey took command of the Regional Command Capital (Kabul) with approximately 1800 troops and three utility helicopters as of 31 October 2009 for one year.

**Development**

• Work is under way to establish the second civilian-led Turkish PRT in the Jowzjan province in north Afghanistan. The PRT's area of responsibility will also cover the Sar-e Pol Province, one of the poorer and underdeveloped areas in Afghanistan. Two police training teams, consisting of 10 experts each, and civilian development experts will be embedded in the PRT, to replicate the model applied at the Turkish PRT in Wardak. The Civilian Coordinator of the PRT has been deployed in theater as of 3 June 2010.
• Turkey is providing ongoing support to the Jumhuriyat Hospital in Kabul.

**Training**

• Five Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLT) have been deployed.
• Training of 450 ANA personnel/six infantry companies at the Mountain Commando School is under way.
• 6- to 8-weeks of training is being provided to battalion-size Afghan troops in Turkey. The total number of the Afghan troops to be trained over the next year will thus amount to a full brigade (3,000-4,000 troops).
• Additional training opportunities will be provided to Afghan officers in military branch schools.
• A feasibility study is under way to provide training to significant numbers of mid-rank Afghan National Police officers in Turkey.
• The "Gazi" Military Training Centre, established with the contributions of the Turkish Armed Forces, Afghan National Army, Kabul Military Command and ISAF, was inaugurated on 2 February 2010. The Center will focus on training battalion-size ANA contingents (around 600 personnel at a time). The center is located at Camp Invicta within the Kabul Regional Command area of responsibility. A team of Turkish trainers (27 personnel) was deployed in early February 2010. The first batch of 598 ANA troops completed their 8-weeks training and graduated on 1 April 2010.



• A gendarmerie OMLT may be assigned to the European Gendarmerie Force to be deployed in Afghanistan under the NTM-A.
• POMLTs may be deployed.

**Regional cooperation**

• The Fourth Trilateral Summit among the Presidents of Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan was held in Istanbul on 25 January 2010.
• The Regional Summit of Afghanistan and its neighbors, as decided at the last Trilateral Summit held in April 2009, was held in Istanbul on 26 January 2010. In addition to Afghanistan and its neighbors, 9 countries and 6 international organizations attended the Istanbul Summit on Friendship and Cooperation in the "Heart of Asia" as observers. Both the Summit and the Istanbul Statement adopted at its conclusion has been welcome by the United Nations Security Council in its Resolution 1917 (2010).
• The first meeting of the "Minds Platform", as agreed at the Istanbul Summit, will be organized in Turkey in 2010. The event will assemble prominent academics, journalists and think tank experts from Afghanistan and its neighbors to discuss ways of addressing regional challenges through regional ownership.
• A live military exercise among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey will be conducted in Tuzla, Istanbul in October 2010.
• The Fourth Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) will be hosted by Turkey in 2010.

**DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**
Excluding Turkish PRT in Wardak

**" IF YOU EDUCATE A BOY, YOU EDUCATE AN INDIVIDUAL. IF YOU EDUCATE A GIRL, YOU EDUCATE A COMMUNITY." EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY THAT OF GIRLS CONSTITUTES A FOCAL POINT OF TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN AFGHANISTAN.**

## EDUCATION

- 68 elementary and secondary schools with 466 classrooms have been built or repaired and furnished. 65,000 students benefit from these facilities.
- The Turkish Ministry of National Education and the Ministry of Education of Afghanistan jointly operate a girls' school in the Jowzan province where Turkish and Afghan teachers provide education to approximately 460 students.
- Construction and furnishing of nine new schools are under way.
- Construction of a sports complex for the Kabul University has been completed.
- A midwife education center has been established in Maymeneh (Faryab province) and a midwife training program was initiated in January 2010. Operating costs are met by the Turkish Government.
- A public education center has been constructed and furnished in Mazar-e Sharif.
- 1,211 higher education scholarships have been awarded to Afghan students through various government programs since 2003. Currently, 583 Afghan students benefit from these scholarships in Turkish universities. Since 2003, 208 scholarships (40 on vocational training) have been granted for theology faculties.
- Special vocational training courses are offered to Afghan women.

**• 100 MILLION USD WAS PLEDGED AT THE LONDON DONORS' CONFERENCE IN JANUARY 2006.**

**• AN ADDITIONAL 100 MILLION USD WAS PLEDGED AT THE PARIS CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN IN JUNE 2008.**

**• 5 MILLION USD OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED PLEDGE HAS BEEN EARMARKED TO SUPPORT THE ELECTIONS IN AFGHANISTAN. (3 MILLION USD WAS TRANSFERRED TO UNDP ELECT TRUST FUND IN SUPPORT OF THE AUGUST 2009 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; 2 MILLION USD PLEDGED IN SUPPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER 2010 GENERAL ELECTIONS).**



## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Distribution of around 250 tons of humanitarian assistance has been provided throughout Afghanistan every year.

## AID CAMPAIGNS

31,000 families and 10,000 children received around 200 tons of food, clothing and school material.

**THE TURKISH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (T‹KA) HAS CARRIED OUT OR SPONSORED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN 27 OUT OF 34 PROVINCES OF AFGHANISTAN. THE VALUE OF THE COMPLETED PROJECTS IS WORTH 307 MILLION USD.**

**FARUK SUNGUR PRIMARY SCHOOL, NAMED AFTER THE TURKISH COLONEL WHO DIED IN AFGHANISTAN IN 2009 AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF WHICH HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES THROUGH ITS CIMIC (CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION) PROGRAM, HAS BEEN HANDED OVER TO THE AFGHAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN JANUARY 2010.**

# HEALTH

17 health clinics and hospitals have been built or repaired (one million Afghans have benefited from these facilities).

Currently, two hospitals and four clinics are operated by Turkey.

- Regular health checks are provided in villages to Afghan citizens with the mobile clinics operated by the Turkish government in Takhar and Jowzjan provinces. Furthermore, in the last four years 4,000 children have been circumcised by special campaigns organized at the two hospitals and two clinics run by the Turkish Government.
- Nine fully-equipped ambulances have been donated.
- The Turkey-led Kabul Regional Command regularly conducts CIMIC activities, which include extending medical services and donations in its area of responsibility (AOR). The Turkish military contingent has thus provided health services to over one million Afghans.
- 358 Afghan military personnel or their family members have received health treatment at hospitals in Turkey.
- Annually, 200 Afghan civilian patients are offered free medical treatment in Turkey.
- 25 ANA veterans severely injured during military operations will receive treatment and rehabilitation at the specialized military hospitals in Turkey.
- A vocational health school is planned to be constructed and operated by Turkey in Jowzjan in 2011.

- **TURKISH ENTREPRENEURS HAVE UNDERTAKEN 2 BILLION USD WORTH OF PROJECTS SINCE 2002.**
- **INVESTMENTS OF 21 TURKISH FIRMS AMOUNT TO 200 MILLION USD.**



# CONSTRUCTION AND INVESTMENT

- The total value of projects that are planned for and implemented in 2008 within the framework of development aid to Afghanistan is 97 million USD.
- A bridge on Kabul River has been built.
- A project to pave and asphalt streets (100 km long) in Kabul continues.
- Three mosques have been repaired.
- 168 potable water wells have been drilled in rural areas. Roughly 520,000 Afghans use these wells.
- 80 new potable water wells will be opened this year.
- Two bridges destroyed during seasonal floods in 2009 will be reconstructed in the Samangan and Takhar provinces. The first interchange of Afghanistan is being built in Kabul.
- Construction of a recreation park is still ongoing and will be completed in a few months in Mazar-e Sharif. Another recreation park is planned to be built in Akcha district of Jowzjan province.
- A strip of road has been asphalted in Akcha district of Jowzjan province.

## CIVILIAN CAPACITY BUILDING
Excluding Turkish PRT in Wardak

• Training opportunities are offered to Afghan civil servants in Turkey.

• So far, more than 500 Afghan officials have attended these programs.

• Representatives of Afghan political parties attend training programs in Turkey.

• Since 2007, the Turkish National Police Academy annually accepts five Afghan police cadets and covers all costs. The slot for the Afghan National Police cadets may be increased to 10 per annum, starting in 2011.

• Over 200 Afghan police officers have received counter-narcotics training in Turkey.

• Furthermore, 300 Afghan police officers received training in various other fields in Turkey.

• Since 2006, 113 health officials including 58 doctors, 10 midwives and 24 nurses have received training in Turkey.







# CONTRIBUTIONS TO SECURITY

• Continuous troop contribution since the beginning of ISAF.
• Support to Mr. Hikmet Çetin as NATO Senior Civilian Representative (SCR) in Afghanistan (January 2004-August 2006).
• Lead of ISAF-II between June 2002-February 2003 with 1,300 troops.
• Lead of ISAF-VII between Feb-Aug 2005 with 1,430 troops, three utility helicopters (May 2004-Aug 2005) and concurrent leadership of the Kabul International Airport.
• Participation in SEEBRIG HQ which assumed command of Kabul Multi-National Battalion between February-August 2006.
• Establishment of the RC(C) with France and Italy and command of the RC(C) between April-December 2007.
• Deployment of 1,200 troops and two utility helicopters during the Turkish Command of the RC(C) between April-December 2007.
• Staff support consisting of 161 officers to ISAF composite HQ by the NRDC-TU between August 2008 – February 2009.
• Command of Kabul Regional Command with approximately 1,800 troops and three utility helicopters as of 31 October 2009, for a year.
• Deployment of five Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLT).
• In support of the Election Support Force for 2009 Presidential and Provincial Council elections -- one CIMIC team, one medical support team, two information support teams, one amphibious platoon (40 personnel for force protection of Turkish teams) -- in RC(N) AOR.
• Availability of bilaterally agreed airports for Allies' cargo aircraft flying to/from Afghanistan.

**TURKEY IS ONE OF THE MAJOR SPONSORS OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY ACADEMY OF AFGHANISTAN. 84 AFGHAN STUDENTS FINISHED THE ACADEMY AND WERE DECORATED AS LIEUTENANTS ON 25 JANUARY 2009. THEY WERE THE FIRST GRADUATES OF THE ACADEMY SINCE 1985. OF THESE OFFICERS, NINE CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION FOR A YEAR IN VARIOUS BRANCH SCHOOLS OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES.**



# TRAINING SUPPORT TO AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY (ANA)

• In-place training to over 8,000 ANA members.
• More than 950 ANA personnel trained in Turkey. This includes:
  • Courses for 51 ANA personnel at the Center of Excellence for Defense Against Terrorism (CoE-DAT).
  • Courses for 74 ANA personnel at the PfP Training Center.
• 11 instructors/trainers at the Kabul Military High School (The Kabul Military High School Project has been completed through Turkey's financial – 8.7 million US Dollars-- and in kind contributions --1.4 Million US Dollars). The school is operated by Turkish training personnel.
• 16 instructors/trainers at the Kabul National Military Academy.
• 1 instructor/trainer at National Defence University in 2010 (to be increased to 3 in 2011).
• 27 trainers at the "Gazi" Military Training Center established to train battalion-size ANA contingents (around 600 personnel at a time).

MILITARY CAPACITY BUILDING

# CONTRIBUTION TO THE TRAINING OF THE AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES, THEREBY EMPOWERING THE AFGHANS TO TAKE OVER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING SECURITY FOR THEIR OWN PEOPLE, IS AMONG THE TOP PRIORITIES OF TURKEY.

- Turkey has provided military aid and donations valued at 100 million USD since 2001.
- Afghan officers are regularly invited to the courses in the Turkish military training centers by the Turkish Armed Forces by covering all expenses.
- Reform of the Afghan military justice system is supported through various courses and other cooperation programs.
- 24 units of 155 mm artillery guns, their spare parts, 950 pieces of 81 mm mortars, a "Cobra"-type armored personnel carrier, and 2,200 artillery ammunitions have been donated.
- A 14-week program aimed at training of 110 Afghan artillery personnel in Turkey has been completed.
- 859,000 USD worth of support has been provided to the Afghan Military Sewing Facility.
- Approximately 50 million USD worth of military equipment, seven million USD worth of military training/education and 184,000 USD worth of health assistance have been provided to the ANA.





- 2 MILLION USD HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED IN SUPPORT OF THE UK-FRANCE HELICOPTER TRUST FUND AS OF FEBRUARY 2009.
- 1.5 MILLION EUROS HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTED IN SUPPORT OF THE ANA TRUST FUND AS OF MARCH 2009.
- OVERALL, 61 MILLION USD WORTH MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO AFGHANISTAN SINCE 2001.

# CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

- An agricultural vocational high school and a dormitory in Maydan Shahr (16 classrooms for 600 students).
- A 400 m3 water storage facility in Maidan Shahr.
- Two cold storage facilities for agricultural products in Maidan Shahr and Saydabad districts.
- Restoration of the mosque in Maydan Shahr and construction of its social complex.
- A sports complex and a playground in Maidan Shahr.
- A veterinary clinic in Maidan Shahr.
- Two elementary schools and two girls' high schools in four districts. Construction of 8 high schools and 4 primary schools for 3000 students in 7 districts is underway.
- In addition to the already completed women's health clinic in Saydabad district, 10 other clinics in 5 districts are under construction. Two of them will be inaugurated shortly. One hospital has been renovated.
- Two dried-fruit processing facilities.
- Three potable water wells have been completed and construction of 14 wells continues.
- A Computer Training Center to provide basic computer training to the provincial officials (also for female students) in Maidan Shahr. 62 students have completed these courses so far.
- Maydan Shahr FM Radio station has been established. The station started its broadcasts on 21 January 2010. Technical training for Maydan Shahr FM Radio personnel in Maidan Shahr and Turkey (Süleyman Demirel University) has been sponsored by the PRT.
- Other completed PRT projects include the construction of:
  - Maidan Shahr Road Lighting.
  - Irrigation Directorate Building.
  - Wardak Provincial Council Compound.
  - 4 bridges in two districts.
  - Three police checks points.
  - Various "Quick-Impact Projects" in the fields of security, agriculture, health and infrastructure.

**TURKISH PRT IN WARDAK, THROUGH THE TURKISH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (T‹KA), HAS CARRIED OUT ALMOST 200 PROJECTS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES VALUED AT 27 MILLION USD SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN NOVEMBER 2006. AS OF 2010, AT LEAST TWO PROJECTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN EACH OF THE NINE DISTRICTS IN WARDAK PROVINCE BY THE TURKISH PRT. WITH THE 2010 PROJECTS, THIS AMOUNT WILL REACH 37 MILLION USD.**




- A civilian-led Turkish PRT in Wardak Province was established on 12 November 2006.
- PRT Head is a career diplomat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Experts and trainers who are members of different Government institutions in Turkey work at the PRT for up to one year.
- The Turkish PRT, through the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA), develops and implements various projects in the sectors of education, health, water sanitation, empowerment of administrative and civilian infrastructures, strengthening of social and economic infrastructures, agriculture-forestry-animal husbandry, industrial development–construction, emergency humanitarian relief operations and capacity building.
- The PRT's local purchases have generated 6 million USD worth direct contributions to the local economy.
- Planning processes of the projects are realized in close consultation and coordination with the Afghan authorities. Projects are planned in line with the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and Provincial Development Plan (PDP).

# PRT SUPPORT TO POLICE TRAINING

• An embedded police training team of 10 police officers (1 course director and 9 trainers) in the PRT.
• The PRT provides training to ANP since 23 December 2006.
• The PRT constructed a Police Training and Education Center in January 2008. The PRT provides basic police training for police officers who may later join the Focused District Development (FDD) program.
• Courses are 8 weeks long.
• All costs are covered by Turkey.
• The center accepts 80 police trainees at a time. 400 ranking ANP have successfully completed the course; 630 have enrolled in Basic Police Training Courses.
• The Center has provided 4,700 hours of training as of June 2010, since its establishment.
• Course curriculum is in line with international standards and prepared in coordination with Afghan Ministry of Interior, NTM-A / CSTC-A and the IPCB.
• Mid-level ANP courses are also conducted: Combat Against Terrorism (24 ANP), VIP Protection (37 ANP); Crime Scene Investigation (16 ANP), Intelligence Gathering (10 ANP), Crime Investigation Techniques (10 ANP), Traffic Course (24 ANP), Smuggling and Counter-Narcotics Course (7 ANP), Career Improvement Course (for ranked ANP – 1st group's training continues).
• In addition, 10 ANP were sent to Turkey for scene investigation training.
• A "Train the Trainers" course was offered in January 2009 (17 ANP officers have been trained).
• Courses on vehicle search and driving techniques have also been conducted.
• 17 Afghan students are enrolled in Turkish Police Academy in Ankara.
• The PRT built a "model police station" at international standards.





# GOVERNANCE, THE RULE OF LAW AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

• Support of Good Governance program of the Wardak Governor's office (February 2010 – June 2011).
• Training program for Wardak District Governors (March 2010 in Wardak and June 2010 in Turkey).
• Training of Wardak Judges and Prosecutors in Turkey (April 2010).
• Modular project comprising a carpet weaving course and distribution of looms to families.
• Literacy courses for Afghan women since February 2007. Around 3,000 women have been reached so far. Together with other capacity building activities, courses continue in 6 districts across the Wardak province for approximately 1,000 female students.
• Computer and foreign language (Turkish and English) courses are conducted for Wardak students in midterm school holidays (45 students in January 2010).
• Courses are offered for women on food processing, conservation, and handicraft. In these sessions, equipment and food assistance has been provided.
• Carpet weaving courses as part of capacity building efforts for Afghan women were conducted in 2009.
• Courses on birth and family planning as well as maternal and child health-care have been organized as part of "train the trainer midwives program."
• In May 2010, the PRT launched a new capacity building program for the civil servants at the Wardak Provincial Agriculture Directorate. The program focuses on project planning methods, agriculture sector analysis and interaction with the local population. Upon the request of the Agriculture Directorate, the capacity building program will continue throughout the year.
• Training visits to Turkey in the field of Agriculture (especially for Wardak Gardener's Union members).
• A media training program for journalists from Wardak has been prepared by the Turkish Directorate General for Information and Press and will be implemented in Ankara and Istanbul in October 2010.





# HUMANITARIAN AID CAMPAIGNS

34,000 families and 12,000 children received around 300 tons of food, clothing and school material from the PRT.




# TRILATERAL SUMMIT PROCESS (ANKARA PROCESS)

• Turkey hosted four Trilateral Summits with the participation of the Presidents of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
• Each summit had a particular focus:

I. Ankara, 29-30 April 2007: Dialogue
II. Istanbul, 5 December 2008: Economic cooperation
III. Ankara, 1 April 2009: Security
IV. Istanbul, 25 January 2010: Education

• The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Parliamentarians, Chiefs of General Staff and Army Staff and Highest Intelligence Officials as well as the business community took part in the multidimensional work under the Ankara Process.
• The Ministers of Education of the three countries convened in Ankara on 19 January 2010 in preparation of the Summit and developed a package of recommendations on bilateral and trilateral cooperation.



The security dimension of the Trilateral Summit process will be bolstered with the organization of a trilateral military live exercise among Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan in Istanbul in October.





Enhanced regional cooperation has been an underlying theme and tenet of the Trilateral Summit process between Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

President Gül hosted the preparatory meeting of the Regional Summit of Afghanistan and its Neighbors in Istanbul on 9 November 2009. Several Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers and Ambassadors attended the meeting which has helped set the stage for the Regional Summit. Accordingly, the Istanbul Summit on Friendship and Cooperation in the "Heart of Asia", borrowing a reference to Afghanistan from the renowned poet Iqbal, was held on 26 January 2010. The vision set out by the Istanbul Statement, adopted at the conclusion of the Summit, was welcomed by the UN Security Council.

The Istanbul Statement is;
• noted by the London Conference Communiqué, 28 January 2010
• welcomed by the UN Security Council, Resolution 1917 (2010)
• supported by the Organization of Islamic Conference Council of Foreign Ministers in its 37th Session, Dushanbe, 18-20 May 2010

In support of the regional dimension, Turkey will host the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) in 2010.



TURKEY ASSUMED THE ROLE OF THE COORDINATOR IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO AFGHANISTAN AS OF JANUARY 2010.

**REGIONAL COOPERATION CONSTITUTES AN INDISPENSABLE PILLAR OF THE COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH REQUIRED TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES IN AFGHANISTAN AND BEYOND. TURKEY'S APPROACH AIMS TO UNDERPIN THE NOTION THAT "REGIONAL COOPERATION STARTS FROM THE REGION" AND SUPPORTS A VARIABLE GEOMETRY BUILT ON MUTUALLY INTERLOCKING AND COMPLEMENTARY REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND MECHANISMS.**





# ISTANBUL STATEMENT ON FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IN THE "HEART OF ASIA"

We the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of the Republic of Turkey, the First Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Special Representative of the President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan have met in Istanbul on 26 January 2010 upon the invitation of the Republic of Turkey and agreed on the following Statement.

The Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Minister of State in charge of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, the Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization, the Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, the senior representatives of the United States of America, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, the United Nations, the European Union, and NATO joined them at their meeting in Istanbul as observers.

**THE SHARED VISION**

Forming the very heart of Asia, Afghanistan is a country whose present and future is inseparably bound with those of its neighbourhood.

The vital element of regional peace and stability is a safe, secure, stable and prosperous Afghanistan, which, in turn can be ensured within a regional framework that reflects friendship and cooperation.

Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries have been moulded by intensive mutual exchanges and interactions throughout history. Our cultures, populations and languages are profoundly intertwined. Rich human potential, cultural depth and promising economic potential are shared by us all. Similarly, several of the risks and challenges we face are also shared. Threats such as all forms of terrorism, extremism and all aspects related to illicit narcotic drugs are interlinked and affect all of our countries.

The success of one regional country in standing up against challenges positively reverberates in neighbouring countries, while shortcomings also afflict the neighbours. We are convinced that our region as a whole should take determined and coordinated action to address the complex challenges that characterise the contemporary regional environment.

This is equally true for the economic potential of our countries and for the attainment of a prosperous future for our countries. Enhanced and effective regional cooperation in key fields such as trade and transit, transport and energy would exponentially benefit not only Afghanistan but indeed all of our countries and peoples.

Regional cooperation starts from the region. It has great potential. It is effective when it is regionally owned, steered and governed in a sincere, transparent and constructive manner, bringing positive synergy.

In the region that surrounds Afghanistan we aim to weave a rich, positive, and progressive mosaic of initiatives and efforts that each shoulders a part of the common task to ensure peace, stability and prosperity.

The bonds between us constitute a strong basis to establish a consensus underwriting a code of conduct that is based on fundamental principles of good neighbourly relations. Our solidarity today with Afghanistan will be a facilitator and a test for the irrevocable establishment of timeless friendship and cooperation in our region.

**PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION**

In order to fulfil the foregoing vision for the region that finds Afghanistan at its core we:

Note that the invitation for this Summit was issued by Turkey which acted on the Joint Statement Adopted at the Conclusion of the Third Trilateral Summit on 1 April 2009 among Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey which stated that the "Presidents of Afghanistan and Pakistan requested the Turkish President to organize in Turkey a regional summit that would underline their political will to enhance cooperation on regional issues";

Reaffirm our strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan and of each other;

Reiterate our commitment to continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan as they develop their country, reconstruct their economy, and further improve their human capital;

Support the ongoing efforts of the Afghan Government and the international community to address its development needs;

Support the program that is set out by the President of Afghanistan with his inaugural speech on 19 November 2009;

Support, therefore, the Afghan national process of reconciliation and reintegration in accordance with the Constitution of Afghanistan in a way that is Afghan-led and -driven;

Recognize the interconnected nature of the challenges Afghanistan is facing and the fact that no neighbouring country is immune from them;

Recall the Kabul Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations of 2002, as well as the objectives and principles laid therein, including the shared determination to defeat terrorism, extremism and narco-trafficking, common desire for peace and stability in the region, and the commitment to constructive and supportive bilateral relationships based on the principles of territorial integrity, mutual respect, friendly relations, cooperation and non-interference in each other's internal affairs;

Underscore the key significance of the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan for promoting peace stability and prosperity,

Reaffirm that sustainable progress on security, governance and development is mutually reinforcing;

To enhance the coordinating role of the United Nations/UNAMA and increase the Afghan ownership, urge the contributors to provide as much transparency as possible in their assistance efforts;

Stress the importance of a comprehensive approach which should include regional cooperation as an indispensable pillar in addressing the challenges in Afghanistan and beyond;

Recall the existence of various processes aimed at contributing to enhanced cooperative ties among regional countries, including among others the Trilateral Summit processes among Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan; among Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan; among Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan; among Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan; among Tajikistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Russian Federation and among the Russian Federation, Pakistan and Afghanistan; the Regional Economic Cooperation Conferences on Afghanistan (RECCA); the Special Conference on Afghanistan convened under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in March 2009;

Welcome these processes that add substance and value to regional cooperation and are mutually reinforcing;

Pledge therefore to give strong emphasis and further impetus to the ongoing regional cooperation endeavours;

Acknowledge that terrorism poses a common challenge that could only be addressed through concerted efforts;

Aim to reinforce efforts in countering terrorism, extremism, illicit narcotics production and trafficking, drug abuse, organized crime and trafficking in human beings;

Commit to deepen cooperation to prevent cross-border illegal flow of weapons, production and trafficking of narcotics and precursors, and trans-national organized crime, by among other means, strengthening national capacities to address these challenges;

Emphasize the need to address the situation of refugees by creating conditions within Afghanistan conducive to the safe, voluntary, gradual and dignified return and settlement of Afghan refugees in Afghanistan with the support of the international community;

Commit to coordinating work with a view to underpinning economic and human capital development and security at the national and regional levels;

Agree to enhance region-wide connectivity through the establishment and further development of trade and transit, energy and transport corridors and to encourage participation of their private sectors in regional development programmes including through joint ventures;

Agree to give impetus to project-based cooperation in the areas of trade, energy, transport, industry, mining, agriculture, livestock and environment;

Remain ready to use our membership in various international and regional organizations and participation in various processes in fulfilment of our shared vision and principles as set out above;

Call on the international community to recognize and give strong support to our regional cooperation objectives and projects, and;

Stress the central and impartial role of the UN in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

As we cooperate with regard to supporting Afghanistan in its rightful quest for peace, security and prosperity, we agree on the following:

a) Establish a Minds Platform that would bring together selected members of academia, media, and think-tanks. Turkey has offered to host the first meeting of the Minds Platform in 2010;
b) Work towards Regional Capacity Building Programmes in selected areas that would bring together senior officials of relevant national institutions with a view to promoting joint training dialogue and activities;
c) Organize natural disaster response simulation exercises;
d) Commission a joint expert study to foster targeted projects on job creation, and infrastructure building;
e) Organize a joint cultural exhibition to highlight commonalities as well as cooperation among countries and peoples of the region.

We agree to meet annually and as appropriate.

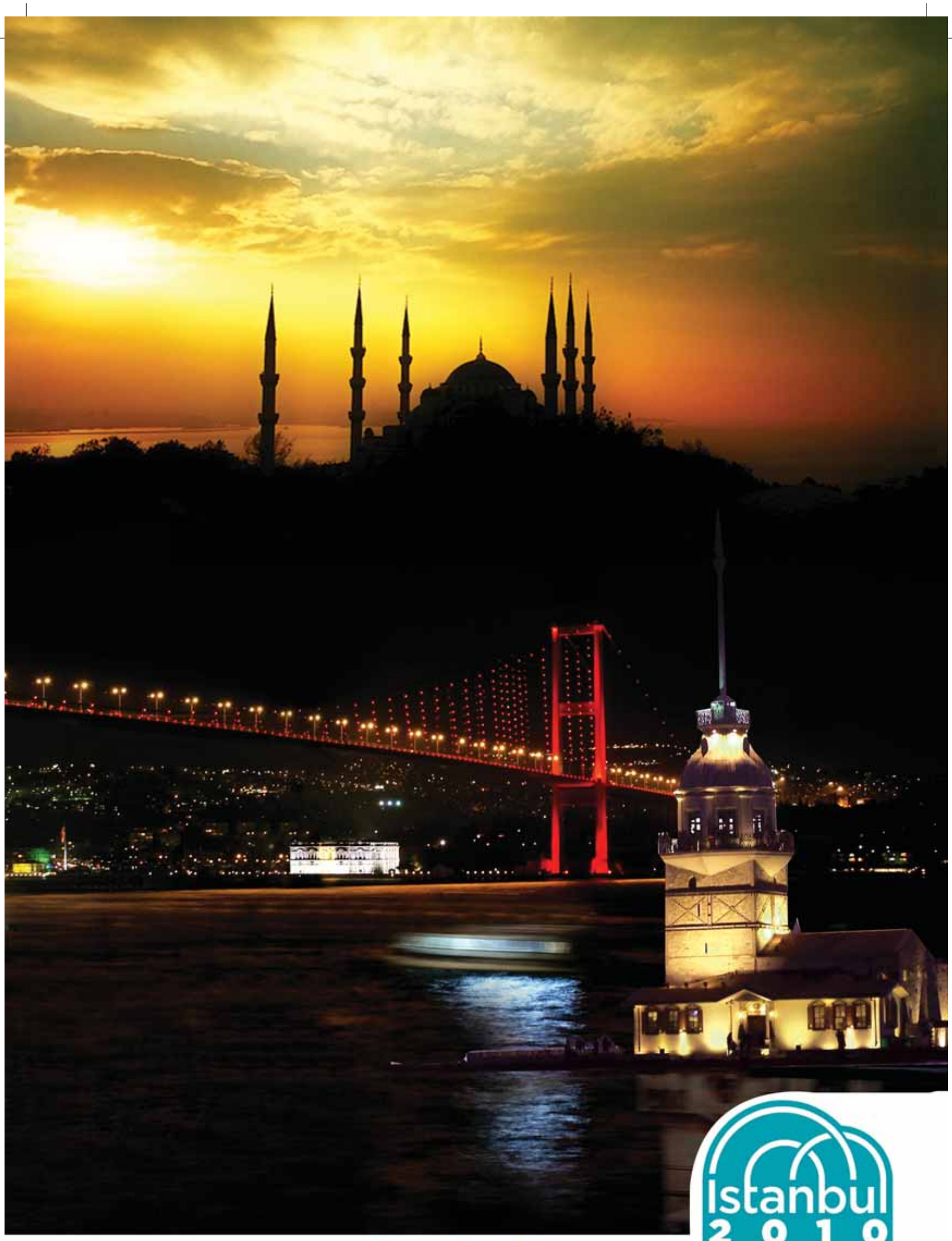
We express our deep gratitude to H.E. Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey for hosting the Regional Summit and facilitating the adoption of this Statement.

Istanbul, 26 January 2010




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