

## FRAMEWORK OF MEXICO-TURKEY STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR THE 21st CENTURY

17 Dec



1. In response to an invitation by His Excellency the President of Turkey Abdullah Gül, His Excellency the President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto, paid a state visit to Turkey from December 15 to 19 2013.
2. Both sides decided to initiate a new era in bilateral relations, raising them to the level of a "Framework of Strategic Cooperation and Partnership for the 21st Century."
3. The two parties confirmed their commitment to deepening and consolidating a multidimensional relationship, given the similarities in the size of their economies, the enormous potential for cooperation and the important role of both countries in the international arena. Within this context, they agreed to strengthen bilateral dialogue and cooperation within the multilateral sphere.
4. Both Presidents underscored the importance of the two countries in the global economy, ranked 14th and 17th respectively, as well as their membership in major international forums such as the G20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
5. The two leaders reiterated their support for the principles of international law, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the strengthening of multilateralism, respect for territorial integrity, the alleviation of poverty and environmental protection, as well as respect for democracy, human rights and the rule of law. They stressed the importance of economic stability in both countries and their full commitment to free trade.
6. Both sides emphasized the historical importance of Mexico and Turkey as cradles of ancient civilizations and agreed on the importance of this cultural strength as a crucial element for their international projection.
7. Mexico and Turkey expressed their commitment to further strengthening the bilateral legal structure through agreements that will strengthen political and economic relations and ensure greater, more lasting cooperation in all fields.

Within this context, the two parties agreed the following:

### **Political Dialogue**

8. Both Parties will encourage mutual, periodic high-level visits. Mexico and Turkey expressed the importance of continuous institutional dialogue between the Mexican Foreign Secretary and the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs. In this respect, during this visit, a High Level Bilateral Commission has been established that will meet biennially and be co-chaired by the Foreign Ministers of both countries.
9. The Presidents agreed to maintain a close dialogue on regional and global issues through the cooperation instruments, including political consultations and the Joint Economic Committee. As part of their commitment to raising bilateral relations to a level that matches the capabilities of both countries, the leaders confirmed their commitment to holding regular meetings in both mechanisms and recognized their essential role in the long-term growth of bilateral relations.
10. Both countries have decided to increase their cooperation and coordination in multilateral organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the G20 and the OECD, to achieve substantive results in common issues such as climate change organizations, drug trafficking, the fight against organized crime, migration, disarmament and non-proliferation, peace and world security, economic and social development, and the promotion and protection of human rights.
11. Both leaders welcomed the first informal meeting of foreign ministers of Mexico, Turkey, Indonesia, South Korea and Australia (MIKTA), held within the framework of the UN General Assembly in New York on September 26, during which it was agreed to establish the MIKTA Area and review and update the institutional structure under which its political and economic relations and other areas of cooperation operate. The presidents noted that as consolidated democracies, both countries play a constructive role in their respective regions and represent open economies that promote free trade and foreign investment. They instructed their foreign ministers to meet as MIKTA within the framework of the High-Level Segment of the UN General Assembly in 2014 and take advantage of their membership in other international forums to conduct additional meetings.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS**

12. Mexico and Turkey admit that the current economic relationship and the volume of bilateral trade do not correspond to the size of their markets. In this respect, they have expressed the need to have a set of legal instruments to facilitate the development of economic relations and promote cooperation in other areas.
13. To this end, Mexico and Turkey will begin negotiating a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The governments of both countries agreed that the completion and smooth functioning of a FTA is essential for achieving the true economic potential of the relationship. In this regard, the presidents ordered the first meeting of the negotiations of this treaty to be held during the first quarter of 2014.
14. As part of the commitment to providing greater legal certainty for trade and investment between the two countries, both sides welcomed the signing of the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation

between Mexico and Turkey as well as the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Issues.

15. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments and agreed to take concrete action to expedite its ratification.

16. Both sides began the implementation of the recently signed "Memorandum of Understanding between Bancomext and Turkey's Export Credit Bank (Türk Eximbank) on Cooperation for Export Credits" and the "Memorandum of Understanding between ProMéxico the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT)", "which will encourage long-term trade between the two countries."

17. The two leaders emphasized the enhancement of cooperation in the fields of technical regulations and quality infrastructure for the removal of technical barriers to bilateral trade and the cooperation of small and medium enterprises.

18. The presidents agreed to take concrete steps to diversify trade and bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to encourage and facilitate the participation of private sectors in fairs and exhibitions organized in their respective countries, including organizing visits by business delegations from different sectors.

19. Both parties emphasized the importance of actively encouraging tourism and air connectivity. They therefore expressed satisfaction at the signing of an Air Transport Agreement and the MOU on tourism cooperation between Mexico and Turkey. The two leaders expressed their desire for the prompt establishment of a direct Turkish Airlines flight to Mexico, an important means for promoting economic and tourism relations between the two countries.

20. Within this framework, the two Presidents agreed measures to facilitate the granting of visas to nationals of both countries to expedite visa application procedures. Mexico announced the inclusion of Turkish citizens in the mechanism for the System of Electronic Authorization (SAF), as Turkey did for Mexican citizens. They also repeated their commitment to providing long-term visas for businessmen and expediting student visas.

21. The two presidents underscored the importance of the private sector in promoting strategic business partnerships to identify and develop investment niches more efficiently and effectively in the two countries, as well as other countries and to promote trade. The leaders welcomed the "Strategy and Action Plan for Mexico," a document drafted by the Mexico-Turkey Business Council.

22. The parties agreed to reinforce cooperation in renewable energy, particularly geothermal and hydropower, and energy efficiency.

23. Both parties agreed that the G20 is the most important forum for international economic dialogue between the world's major economies and crucial to defining new channels of cooperation and agreement as well as to promoting the reform of the international financial system.

24. The Mexican side expressed its appreciation for the G20 presidency that will be assumed by Turkey in 2015 and pledged its full support for the Leaders' Summit to be held in Turkey on that occasion.

#### **CULTURE, EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

25. The leaders recognized cooperation as an expression of solidarity between countries and a concrete tool for promoting their welfare and prosperity. Within this context, the two countries will work more closely to increase constructive and productive exchanges in the educational, cultural, scientific and technological spheres. To this end, they pledged to use high impact projects to implement the "Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science and Technology between the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AMEXCID) and the Council of Scientific and Technological Research of Turkey (TÜBİTAK )" signed on this occasion.

26. Both sides agreed to hold the first meeting of the Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology during the first week of March 2014, with the aim of adopting concrete projects of bilateral cooperation in this sphere, as provided for in the aforementioned Memorandum of Understanding.

27. In order to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first contacts, Mexico and Turkey agreed to develop a cultural, educational and economic and tourism promotion program in 2014 that will encourage the mutual understanding of history, civilization and the cultures of both countries.

28. The parties welcomed the growing bilateral cultural exchange. Convinced that youth is the major source of wealth for the sustained progress of both countries, the presidents confirmed their support for inter-university cooperation, student and teacher exchanges, scholarships, and actions to facilitate and strengthen these scientific and educational exchanges.

29. Bearing in mind that Mexico and Turkey have significant communities living in other countries, the parties undertook to promote the recognition of migrants as a source and engine of development, in both their place of destination and origin, and to combat the discrimination to which they may be subjected.

The two governments will promote joint actions between the Institute of Mexicans Abroad and the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities.

30. Both sides welcomed the signing, during this state visit, of the following legal instruments:

a. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Science and Technology between TÜBİTAK and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

b. Memorandum of Understanding between ProMéxico and the Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT).

c. Memorandum of Understanding between Bancomext and the Turkish Export Credit Bank (Türk Eximbank) on Cooperation for Export Credits.

d. Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of a High Level Bilateral Commission.

e. Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Tax Evasion.

f. Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Issues.

g. Air Services Agreement

h. Agreement for the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments.

i. Terms of reference for the signing of a Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and Turkey.

j. International Agreement on Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

k. Agreement to Combat Organized Crime and Terrorism Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation.

m. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Archaeology, Anthropology, Protection, Preservation and Dissemination of Cultural Heritage.

31. Both countries agreed to explore the possibility of further cooperation in the fields of security and defense. The Turkish side welcomed the opening of the Military and Naval Attachés' Offices at the Mexican Embassy in Turkey.

32. Confirming its commitment to the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Syria and recognizing the efforts made by the Turkish government to provide shelter for over 600,000 Syrians, the Mexican government has decided to contribute one million dollars in support activities for Syrians in Turkey,

especially child-related programs through the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.  
33. His Excellency Enrique Peña Nieto, President of Mexico, cordially invited His Excellency Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey, to visit Mexico at his convenience.