

**THE SECOND JOINT PLAN OF ACTION BETWEEN
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
(2023-2028)**

Introduction

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye;

Recalling friendly and supportive relations that contributed to an increasing exchange of high-level visits, bilateral meetings and consultations as well as cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels,

Noting with satisfaction the successful outcomes of the First Joint Plan of Action (2013-2018),

Respecting the importance of partnership and cooperation and shared principles, such as sovereignty, multiculturalism, effective multilateralism, inclusive and balanced regional approach, and sustainable development,

Appreciating their commitment to advance cooperation within bilateral and multilateral frameworks as exemplified by;

a. Türkiye's status as a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2017 and constructive engagements of Thailand and Türkiye within ASEAN, noting that Türkiye's final aspiration is becoming a full Dialogue Partner;

b. The current negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Thailand and Türkiye with a view to its conclusion in accordance with the agreed Revised Work Plan of the negotiations;

c. Thailand and Türkiye as members of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) as well as the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and their supporting roles in driving forward a dynamic cooperation in the Asian region;

d. Türkiye's membership and Thailand's observer status at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and constructive dialogue and cooperation within the OIC;

e. Türkiye's Asia Anew Initiative, focusing on common objectives and mutual benefits.

Aiming to further deepen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest with a view to promoting sustainable development and well-being of the peoples of both countries as reflected through Türkiye's Green Deal Action Plan and Thailand's Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model,

Reaffirming the support and collaboration in their contributions to regional development, security and stability,

Decide to adopt the Second Joint Plan of Action (2023-2028) with the objective to establish a strategic partnership between Thailand and Türkiye by or before 2028,

Thailand and Türkiye will work towards implementing the following under the present Second Joint Plan of Action (2023-2028):

Part One: Strengthening Existing Linkages

The relations between Thailand and Türkiye will be strengthened through both public and private sectors as follows:

1.1 Public Sector:

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

a. Continue to encourage high-level and senior official exchanges in order to forge and strengthen a comprehensive partnership in areas of mutual interest at bilateral, regional and international levels;

b. Maintain periodic consultations between senior officials of the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, whereby the Ministries will promote bilateral cooperation and exchange views on important regional and international issues;

c. Continue to encourage enhanced relations between the Parliaments of the two countries through the exchange of visits of parliamentary delegations and “Interparliamentary Friendship Groups”;

d. Continue to promote exchange of visits and meetings between government officials in areas of mutual interest;

e. Strengthen close cooperation by organizing bilateral/multilateral training programmes based on the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on diplomacy trainings signed in 2013;

f. Broaden and deepen bilateral relations and cooperation in all areas, and to this end, regularly hold the meeting of the Thai-Turkish Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation (JETC) established by the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation of 8 June 1989;

g. Encourage the development of twin city relationships and activities between Thailand and Türkiye.

1.2. Private Sector:

a. Continue to encourage the Thailand-Türkiye Business Council and the Türkiye-Thailand Business Council to work jointly to promote closer dialogue between business sectors in order to increase bilateral trade and investment;

b. Continue to encourage exchange of visits between private sectors of the two countries as well as organize joint seminars and other related activities.

Part Two: Promoting Bilateral Economic Relations

Taking into account their respective potentials and opportunities, Thailand and Türkiye will endeavour to enhance economic cooperation with a view to:

a. Both sides expressed their readiness to finalize the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between Thailand and Türkiye in accordance with the agreed Revised Work Plan of the negotiations, which will further strengthen and enhance bilateral trade, economic and technical cooperation;

b. Continue to expand and diversify trade and economic relations and increase economic cooperation;

c. Take necessary steps for a more balanced trade growth;

d. Amicably solve potential problems which may arise in the fields of trade and investment between the two countries;

e. Continue to promote regular exchange of trade missions and participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, business seminars, and other kinds of business activities with a view to increasing trade volume in a balanced manner;

f. Encourage cooperation between the financial institutions of both countries;

g. Enhance cooperation in the areas of investment, and research and development (R & D) between relevant agencies;

h. Continue to explore possibilities for joint ventures between Thai and Turkish enterprises, especially in the fields of food products, construction services, automobiles and auto parts, jewellery, energy and tourism, including medical tourism;

i. Encourage mutual cooperation on the promotion of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and exchange information on SMEs support mechanisms such as technology based support programmes;

j. Encourage cooperation between venture funds in the two countries and willing to cooperate to mutually increase investments in startups;

k. Promote cooperation between unicorn and pre-unicorn companies in the two countries with special programmes;

l. Intensify the cooperation between export-import banks of the two countries.

Part Three: Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation in the Fields of Mutual Interest

3.1 Tourism and Culture:

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

- a. Promote cooperation in the field of tourism with a focus on ecotourism, community based tourism, sports tourism, cultural tourism, gastronomy tourism, family, and honeymoons tourism as well as MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism and medical tourism;
- b. Promote cooperation between tourism industries as well as exchange of best practices in hospitality, tourism and cultural management, and data analytics;
- c. Promote cooperation in the area of culture and arts including within the framework of the Cultural Agreement of 6 December 1991;
- d. Continue to promote people-to-people exchanges, such as exchange of artists, youth, students, academics and media representatives, and promote the organization of Thai and Turkish cultural events in each country benefiting from the mechanisms such as “mutual cultural years” and “diplomatic anniversaries”;
- e. Seek the possibility to establish Thai/Turkish Language and Cultural Centers based on future bilateral discussions and applicable laws in both countries;
- f. Promote cooperation in sports as well as sports science research;
- g. Plan and coordinate activities to be organized on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Türkiye (2028).

3.2 Media and Information

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

- a. Encourage cooperation between their respective official broadcasters and content producers on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, development of human resources and technical facilities and the sharing of knowledge and information on the media sector;
- b. Promote further cooperation in the fields of information and media through cooperation mechanisms to increase the visibility of Thailand and Türkiye in order to further strengthen and enhance bilateral relations;
- c. Explore the possibility of cooperation in the fields of media and information between the relevant government institutions.

3.3 Education, Technical and Development Cooperation

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

- a. Continue to encourage the enhancement of cooperation and activities such as student exchange programmes, joint research and publications, academic conferences as well as seminars in accordance with the national legislations of both countries;

b. Continue to urge Thai and Turkish students to study in vocational education and higher education institutions of each other's countries and promote closer contacts between colleges, vocational education institutions, universities and research centres;

c. Endeavour to make an early and effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Higher Education between the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Türkiye once it is concluded and signed;

d. Promote further cooperation in the education sector in accordance with the national legislations of both countries, including activities of the Turkish Maarif Foundation;

e. Promote cooperation on higher education scholarships ('Türkiye Scholarships' and KATİP programmes on the Turkish side) including a Memorandum of Understanding between the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, which is the responsible institution in this field and its counterpart in Thailand;

f. Continue to promote technical cooperation projects through capacity-building activities and experience sharing in areas of common interest to be mutually agreed upon, such as Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), agriculture, environment and energy on the basis of partnership in accordance with the laws and regulations of each country;

g. Accelerate the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding between Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) on development cooperation;

h. Explore the possibilities and identify the areas of cooperation to work together on a trilateral cooperation basis, in order to share knowledge and experience of both countries in specialized fields with other developing countries in Southeast Asia, Central Asia and other possible regions that could be mutually agreed on and under regional frameworks, such as ASEAN, ACD and CICA.

3.4 Industry, Science, Technology, Digital Technology and Innovation Cooperation

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

a. Exchange information to strengthen scientific research, digital economy and innovation competitiveness as well as developing technology management;

b. Encourage joint activities in science, technology, digital technology, artificial intelligence, space technology and its applications, Industry 4.0 and Halal Science between the agencies concerned;

c. Continue to support technical cooperation among private sectors of both sides in the abovementioned areas;

d. Enhance cooperation and bilateral relations in the fields of standardization and conformity assessment;

e. Promote participation in the "TEKNOFEST Aerospace and Technology Festival" held in Türkiye, which is the biggest space and aviation festival in the world organized annually;

f. Promote joint projects, research and initiatives that will boost productivity in the fields of industry, technology and agriculture which will also assist both countries in formulating appropriate economic policies and strategies through their membership to the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) and relevant organizations.

3.5 Defence and Security Cooperation

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

a. Continue to encourage exchange of visits of delegations at all levels including high-level officers in defence and security sectors;

b. Continue to participate in international defence exhibitions in each other's countries;

c. Encourage reciprocal promotional activities of the defence industry companies of the two countries;

d. Organize reciprocal port visits and military training activities;

e. Accelerate the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation and the Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Industry Cooperation;

f. Intensify exchange of information, visits, and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and intelligence agencies to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism and transnational crimes;

g. Establish a security dialogue.

3.6 Judicial and Consular Cooperation

Thailand and Türkiye will enhance cooperation in the fields of consular services, immigration and judiciary.

3.7 Social Welfare Cooperation

Thailand and Türkiye will encourage cooperation and exchange experiences in the field of welfare of children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities.

3.8 Environment Cooperation

Thailand and Türkiye will explore cooperation on environmental issues of mutual interest.

3.9 Energy

Thailand and Türkiye will encourage cooperation and exchange experiences in the fields of energy, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, hydrocarbons and other related issues.

3.10 Transportation

Thailand and Türkiye will further strengthen bilateral relations in the fields of transportation, including maritime transport, logistics as well as shipbuilding/repairing services, and telecommunications.

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

- a. Accelerate the conclusion of the Maritime Transport Agreement for boosting further maritime relations and increasing technical cooperation;
- b. Support strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of civil aviation and encourage relevant authorities to facilitate procedures for airline operations;
- c. Encourage authorities concerned to discuss and review the current status of flights between Thailand and Türkiye, such as the number of flights, destinations and frequencies when appropriate so as to support the diversification of air transport links;
- d. Reciprocally encourage participation of the private sectors of the two countries in large scale infrastructure projects.

3.11 Agricultural Cooperation

Thailand and Türkiye will, inter alia:

- a. Encourage cooperation and exchange of experiences in the field of agriculture, such as climate smart agricultural practices, sustainable land management and adaptation to climate change in agriculture;
- b. Promote technical cooperation and information sharing activities in the fields of soil and water resources research, agricultural mechanization and climate change researches;
- c. Promote the establishment of a mechanism in organic agriculture and good agricultural practices, certification of products, etc. to promote cooperation and training activities.

Part Four: Promoting Multilateral Cooperation and Exchange of Views on Global Issues

Thailand and Türkiye will enhance their cooperation in the multilateral framework, inter alia:

- a. Promote cooperation and coordination in international organizations, particularly within the framework of the United Nations, including reciprocal support for candidacies where possible;
- b. Promote discussion and exchange of views on the issues of common interest at the regional and multilateral levels, such as sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- c. Continue to strengthen cooperation in the area of non-traditional security, particularly, in addressing the issues of transnational crime, including illicit drug trafficking, terrorism, violent extremism, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, piracy, forgery of documents, money laundering, terrorist financing and other international economic crimes;
- d. Increase their joint efforts to promote multiculturalism and to combat xenophobia, racism, violent extremism, hate speech, discrimination and Islamophobia within the framework of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;
- e. Continue to cooperate to support a free and fair multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- f. Explore possibility of cooperation within the framework of the OIC's Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA);
- g. Continue to collaborate closely on matters relating to the Asia-Pacific and Central Asia regions as well as at regional organizations and conferences, especially at ASEAN, ACD and CICA;
- h. Promote practical cooperation between ASEAN and Türkiye as Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN;
- i. Endeavour to strengthen relations between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and ASEAN to which Türkiye and Thailand are respectively member states, and explore cooperation between ASEAN and CICA.

The Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Türkiye have agreed that this Joint Plan of Action is concluded with a view to enhancing and developing cooperation between the Parties and does not constitute an agreement binding upon the Parties under international law. No provision of this Joint Plan of Action will be interpreted and implemented as creating legal rights or commitments for the Parties.

This Second Joint Plan of Action (2023-2028) between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Türkiye will become effective on 26 January 2023 and remain in effect until 31 December 2028.

Signed at Ankara on 26 January 2023, in duplicate in the English language.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**



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