

TÜRKİYE / "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region"

UN General Assembly, in its Resolution 80/69 invited all of the Mediterranean countries to consolidate their efforts in order to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means. Türkiye, having one of the longest coasts in the Mediterranean Sea, and being one of the cosponsors of the UN General Assembly Resolution 80/69 in 2025, would like to see the Eastern Mediterranean as a region of cooperation and has always been in favour of dialogue.

For achieving this goal, Türkiye acknowledges the importance of cooperation among the states in the region on the basis of equal rights. Today the Mediterranean Sea is a region of potential conflict rather than cooperation due to continuous geopolitical and geo-economic competition among various actors. Unfortunately, unilateral actions of certain countries violating the legitimate rights and interests of the other littoral states are worsening the situation. Türkiye would like to see Mediterranean as a region of stability and prosperity, where all legitimate interests of the concerned Parties are respected.

International Cooperation:

Türkiye attaches particular importance to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation efforts as they contribute to stability. Given the threats posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including their acquisition by terrorists, these efforts are critical enablers for not only regional, but also global peace and security. Türkiye desires to see all countries unanimously sharing the goals of disarmament and non-proliferation, and collectively working towards a safer and more stable environment in the Mediterranean Region. To this end, Türkiye is party to the major international disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and regimes, and supports establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including the Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Being located in the intersection of major trade routes, Türkiye pays particular attention to the prevention of illicit arms transfers. To this end, Türkiye is also party to all export control regimes for conventional weapons and dual-use equipment and technologies, namely the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Zangger Committee, the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Australia Group.

As a Participating State of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and a country in the Eastern Mediterranean region, Türkiye highly values also OSCE Mediterranean Partnership for Cooperation.

Türkiye as a littoral state has a keen interest and responsibility in supporting the efforts to turn the Mediterranean into an area of peace, democracy and prosperity and is actively supporting the strengthening of cooperation in the Mediterranean. Türkiye believes that, instead of groupings that deepen divisions and polarization in the region, all countries should pursue a constructive policy based on good neighborly relations, cooperation and dialogue. As a candidate country to the EU, Türkiye is also a member of and a contributor to the work of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), which bring together the countries of the region. Türkiye welcomes that the reform process of the UfM has

culminated in the adoption of the “UfM Vision Statement 2025” centering on the issue of connectivity of people, countries and economies.

Türkiye’s views on regional and topical issues are as follows:

Middle East: Türkiye unwaveringly condemns Israel’s aggression and expansionism in the Middle East that continues to be a major threat to regional and global security and a flagrant violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

Türkiye calls upon all sides for full implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 and urges Israeli side to halt its violation of the ceasefire agreement and in particular targeted attacks and allow the unhindered entry of humanitarian aid and construction materials into Gaza Strip.

Türkiye also strongly condemns the ongoing Israeli violations against the Palestinian people in the West Bank including the East Jerusalem, including continued military operations, settlement expansion, settler terror, land confiscation and measures aimed at altering the legal status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Türkiye is deeply concerned that the settler terror is on the rise and has claimed increasingly more civilian Palestinian lives. They aim at expelling the Palestinian from their land.

Türkiye reaffirms its absolute rejection of the illegal and restrictive Israeli measures against Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem, including preventing Muslims and Christians from freely accessing their holy sites. Türkiye underlines the necessity of respecting the legal and historical status quo in Jerusalem and its Muslim and Christian holy sites, reiterating that Israel, as the occupying Power, has no sovereignty over the occupied Jerusalem, and underscoring the need to halt all measures that impede worshippers’ access to their places of worship in Jerusalem.

Unilateral policies altering the character and status of the OPT continue to undermine the two-state vision. Violations of sanctity of and the historical status quo in the holy sites above all in Haram al-Sharif further escalate the already fragile situation in the OPT.

Furthermore, Israeli parliament adopted a law of death penalty that practically applies to Palestinians only, which is yet another example of the Israeli apartheid practices.

Türkiye is of the view that a lasting peace can be possible only through a just and lasting settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the relevant United Nations resolutions and in accordance with international law, and on the basis of the two-state solution.

Türkiye supports embodiment of an independent, sovereign and contiguous State of Palestine on the 1967 line with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Türkiye attaches great importance to achievement of sustainable stability and security in Syria on the basis of its territorial integrity and unity.

A stable and unified Syria can serve as an important nexus connecting the Middle East, Türkiye and Europe through trade, transportation, energy and infrastructure networks.

The progress that has been recorded since December 2024 by the Syrian government to this end should be carried forward with the sustained international assistance.

Türkiye supports Syrian government's efforts to bring the integration process of the northeast to a swift conclusion, to embrace all segments of society with a comprehensive approach and to accelerate the reconstruction process on the basis of solid economic foundations.

Türkiye also believes that the efforts of the Syrian government to improve security conditions in the country including its counterterrorism capacity should be reinforced.

Türkiye commends the Syrian government's determination to remain insulated from the regional tensions and calls on the international community to ensure cessation of Israeli aggression in the south of Syria in accordance with the 1974 Separation of Forces Agreement.

Türkiye remains committed to act as an enabling partner for all those willing to contribute positively to Syria's stability, security, and economic development.

North Africa: Türkiye supports all constructive regional and international efforts aimed at restoring wider stability and prosperity in the Mediterranean basin, including North Africa.

Libya constitutes a case in point. As a matter of fact, Türkiye's efforts towards maintaining calm and stability on the ground have proven instrumental in paving the way for the evolution of UN-facilitated political process efforts, as praised by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations during her briefing to the United Nations Security Council on October 14, 2025.

Monitoring lasting and durable solutions and upholding the political unity, territorial integrity and stability of Libya are paramount in seeking solutions to multifold problems therein

Türkiye, in this framework, stresses that attempts to overcome challenges in Libya should be Libyan-led and Libyan-owned. It is in this regard that Türkiye welcomes and encourages inclusive dialogue endeavors.

Cyprus Issue: The Cyprus issue came to the international fora in 1963 when the Greek Cypriots expelled the Turkish Cypriots from the partnership state organs and institutions as well as from their homes by use of force, in violation of the Treaties of 1960 and all human rights norms. That is to say, the Republic of Cyprus, which was established in 1960, ceased to exist in 1963 and since then, there is no single authority that represents the whole island. Today, it is a fact that there are two States and two peoples on the Island.

Given this background, Türkiye believes that a just, lasting, sustainable and mutually acceptable settlement to the Cyprus issue on the basis of the realities on the Island would contribute to strengthening stability and security in the Mediterranean region. In this sense, Türkiye maintains that only a negotiated settlement based on dialogue and diplomacy can be sustainable.

Türkiye is firmly convinced that persistent refusal to acknowledge the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Turkish Cypriots will perpetuate the instability and tension in the Mediterranean region. Türkiye therefore underlines the urgent need for the reaffirmation of Turkish Cypriot people's inherent rights, namely their sovereign equality and equal international status.

Hydrocarbon Resources: Discovery of hydrocarbon resources have exacerbated the situation in the Mediterranean. Nevertheless, Türkiye believes that the hydrocarbon resources can also provide initiatives for cooperation among littoral states.

Türkiye's policy towards the issues in the Eastern Mediterranean has two dimensions:

The first dimension is related to the maritime boundary delimitation in the Eastern Mediterranean. According to international law, coastal states should enter into negotiations in order to reach an agreement on maritime boundaries. Such an agreement should be based on the principle of equal and just treatment to each party.

In line with that, Türkiye has always been ready to enter into negotiations for the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas based on international law and the principle of equity with all coastal states in the Eastern Mediterranean with which it has diplomatic relations.

The second dimension of Türkiye's Eastern Mediterranean policy concerns the protection of the rights of the Turkish Cypriots over the offshore resources.

The Turkish Cypriots as the co-owners of the Island have equal rights along with the Greek Cypriots over the offshore resources. This is also an established principle agreed within the decades-long UN processes. It is an utmost necessity to reach an understanding that could establish an equitable revenue sharing mechanism between the two peoples for the hydrocarbon resources around the island of Cyprus. Unilateral activities by the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus in the so-called hydrocarbon blocks around the island violate the equal rights and interests of the Turkish Cypriots.

Türkiye emphasizes that it stands ready to give its full support to ensure a just, equitable and peaceful solution to all pending issues, including the equitable delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas with all relevant coastal States in accordance with international law, in order to further contribute to the stability and prosperity of the entire Mediterranean basin. Türkiye believes that building peace and stability in the Mediterranean will be possible only through dialogue and cooperation.

To this end, President Erdoğan has called for a regional conference on the Eastern Mediterranean in 2020 and reiterated this proposal in 2022. The Conference could be an opportunity to generate an inclusive cooperation mechanism with the participation of all littoral states. Türkiye expects the EU and all parties in the Eastern Mediterranean to support this constructive and innovative proposal. So far, no concrete steps have been taken by the EU.

In addition to President Erdoğan's proposal to convene a regional conference, Turkish Cypriots' proposals to the Greek Cypriots (dated 2011, 2012, 2019 and 2022) could produce a long-standing solution in the region. The proposals of the Turkish Cypriots' are built on equitable revenue sharing mechanism, which is similar to the Israeli-Lebanese Agreement of 27 October 2022, based on joint development through hydrocarbon companies without prejudice to the political and legal positions of the parties.

Maritime Jurisdiction Areas: Maritime jurisdiction areas have not yet been delimited among all coastal states in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Türkiye reiterates the importance of resolving maritime boundary disputes by agreement or by any other mutually agreed means within the framework of international law, with a view to

reaching solutions based on the principle of equity. With this understanding, Türkiye signed two maritime boundary delimitation agreements, first with the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the second one with Libya, in 2011 and 2019, respectively, and registered its continental shelf with the UN in 2020. Türkiye has been exercising its sovereign rights over its continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean in full compliance with international law and will continue to do so.