OVERVIEW

ASEAN-TURKEY SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP

1. Turkey was conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN by the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (AMM) on 5 August 2017 in Manila, the Philippines.

a. Political-Security Cooperation

1. Turkey acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 23 July 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. This reflects Turkey’s strong commitment to regional peace, stability and a contribution to the TAC as an important code of conduct governing inter-states relations. The Government of Turkey accredited its Ambassador to ASEAN since September 2011.

2. Following the conferment of the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN by the 50th AMM, ASEAN and Turkey convened the 1st ASEAN-Turkey Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AT-JSCC) Meeting on 30 May 2018 at the ASEAN Secretariat to mark the launch of ASEAN-Turkey sectoral dialogue partnership. The Meeting adopted the Terms of Reference of ASEAN-Turkey Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AT-JSCC). The “ASEAN-Turkey Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) for 2019-2023”, adopted at the 2nd AT-JSCC Meeting held on 18 July 2019, serves as the overall framework and priorities for engagement and cooperation between ASEAN and Turkey.

3. Two Trilateral Meetings between the Chair of ASEAN, Turkey and the ASEAN Secretariat had been held on 1 August 2018 at the sidelines of the 51st AMM in Singapore and on 30 July 2019 at the sidelines of the 52nd AMM in Bangkok. The Trilateral Meeting in July 2019 in Bangkok discussed ways and means to implement the ASEAN-Turkey PCA (2019-2023). The Meeting discussed potential cooperation, among others, in the areas of countering terrorism, preventing violent extremism and curbing the rise of radicalisation, promoting peace and reconciliation, promoting business-to-business contacts, promoting people-to-people contacts, promoting cultural cooperation, tourism, and supporting capacity building and sharing of best practices and experiences on disaster risk reduction and management.

b. Economic Cooperation

4. The Foreign Direct Investment from Turkey to ASEAN experienced negative growth by 37.6% from US$ 44.52 million in 2018 to US$ 27.77 million in 2019. The two-way trade between ASEAN and Turkey also experienced
negative growth by 4.8% from US$ 87.4 billion in 2018 to US$ 8.32 billion in 2019.¹

5. In tourism, the number of tourist arrivals from Turkey to ASEAN in 2018 amounted to 53,522, a 33.7% decrease compared with the 2017’s figure which stood at 80,692.²

**c. Socio-Cultural Cooperation**

6. Turkey has long-standing bilateral socio-cultural cooperation with ASEAN Member States, and has also initiated cooperation in this field with ASEAN, by organising Training Programmes for Junior Diplomats from ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat at the Diplomacy Academy of Turkey in 2018 and 2019 in Ankara and Istanbul. An International Conference on Human Resources has also been planned, which is aimed at providing a platform for creating a network to exchange know-how and best practices on human resource management between ASEAN and Turkey.

**d. Development Cooperation**

7. Since 2008 Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA) has been active in development cooperation through various projects with several ASEAN Member States, including in the areas of humanitarian assistance.

---

¹ ASEAN’s Statistics Database as of 18 September 2020. The statistics figures in 2019 are still preliminary.
² ASEAN’s Statistics Database as of 18 September 2020.