

## **OVERVIEW**

### **ASEAN-TÜRKİYE SECTORAL DIALOGUE PARTNERSHIP**

#### **A. Introduction**

1. Türkiye was conferred the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN by the 50<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) on 5 August 2017 in Manila, the Philippines.

2. The ASEAN-Türkiye Sectoral Dialogue Partnership was institutionalised through the convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Türkiye Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AT-JSCC) Meeting in May 2018. The Meeting adopted the Terms of Reference of ASEAN-Türkiye Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee (AT-JSCC) and agreed to develop a list of Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) between ASEAN and Türkiye. To date, there have been six AT-JSCC Meetings between 2018 - 2024, the latest of which was held on November 2024 to further review and shape the future direction of cooperation between ASEAN and Türkiye.

3. Pursuant to the outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> AT-JSCC Meeting, the ASEAN-Türkiye Sectoral Dialogue Partnership: Practical Cooperation Areas (PCA) for 2019-2023 was developed and adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> AT-JSCC in July 2019. The PCA for 2024-2028 to succeed the PCA for 2019-2023 was adopted at the 5<sup>th</sup> AT-JSCC Meeting in November 2023. The new PCA continues to serve as a practical guide and priorities for engagement and cooperation between ASEAN and Türkiye, with a focus on practical areas of mutual interests such as combating transnational crime and countering terrorism, peace and reconciliation, women, peace and security agenda, good governance and human rights, trade, investment and private sector engagement, science, technology, innovation, tourism, food, agriculture and forestry, energy security, supply chain and transport, digital transformation, education and youth development, cultural exchanges and cooperation, disaster risk reduction, human resources development, health cooperation, connectivity, cybersecurity, and sustainable development.

4. Türkiye has accredited its Ambassador to ASEAN since September 2011. The current Ambassador of Türkiye to ASEAN, Prof. Dr. Talip Küçükcan, presented his Letter of Credence to the Secretary-General of ASEAN on 14 November 2023.

#### **B. Political-Security Cooperation**

5. Türkiye acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) on 23 July 2010 in Ha Noi, Viet Nam. This reflects Türkiye's strong

commitment to regional peace, stability, mutually beneficial cooperation and a contribution to the TAC as an important code of conduct governing inter-state relations.

6. Six Trilateral Ministerial Meetings between the Chair of ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretariat and Türkiye and have been held since the conferment of the status of Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN to Türkiye. The latest Trilateral Meeting was held at the sidelines of the 57<sup>th</sup> AMM in Lao PDR in July 2024. The Ministers at the Trilateral Meetings discussed the progress made in the ASEAN-Türkiye partnership, charted out its future direction, and exchanged views on matters of common interest.

### **C. Economic Cooperation**

7. ASEAN and Türkiye have enjoyed considerable trade and investment relations despite recent fluctuation. The total two-way trade slightly decreased from USD 13.28 billion in 2022 to USD 13.02 billion in 2023. Meanwhile, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from Türkiye to ASEAN significantly increased from USD 55.33 million in 2022 to USD 272.91 million in 2023. In tourism, the number of tourist arrivals from Türkiye to ASEAN in 2023 amounted to 132,684, a significant increase from 29,611 arrivals in 2022.<sup>1</sup>

8. Türkiye has supported a number of cooperation projects with ASEAN in the areas of trade and investment, public-private partnership, business-to-business contacts, development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, tourism, and food and agriculture.

### **D. Socio-Cultural Cooperation**

9. Türkiye has long-standing bilateral socio-cultural cooperation with ASEAN Member States. Türkiye has initiated training programmes for ASEAN Diplomats at Diplomacy Academy of Türkiye and Türkiye Scholarships-ASEAN Joint Scholarship Program. In addition, Türkiye has supported several projects to promote cooperation on human resources development, people-to-people contacts, skills training, and education.

10. Türkiye contributed to ASEAN's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar through the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (*Türk İşbirliği ve Koordinasyon İdaresi Başkanlığı*, TİKA), as part of the implementation of Point 4 of the ASEAN Leaders' Five-Point Consensus. Türkiye also contributed 131 units of oxygen concentrator through the Myanmar Red Cross Society, as part of the first batch of ASEAN's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, which was handed over on 15 September 2021, following the Pledging Conference to

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<sup>1</sup> ASEAN Statistics Database as of December 2024.

support ASEAN's humanitarian assistance to Myanmar on 18 August 2021.

**E. Development Cooperation**

11. Türkiye established the ASEAN-Türkiye Fund (ATF) at the ASEAN Secretariat and provided its initial contribution in the amount of USD 1 million in December 2019. The Fund supports the implementation of cooperation projects/activities between ASEAN and Türkiye in line with the PCA for 2019-2023 and its successor documents.

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