

Qatar-Turkey friendship, a model of bilateral ties

COMMENT

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Intensify fight against terrorists and their backers

The terror attacks in Paris on Friday night, which left at least 120 dead and hundreds wounded, is yet another proof that the powers that be are not doing enough to destroy the Islamic State group that has claimed responsibility for the heinous crime.

Though the world leaders often issue strong statements highlighting the need to join hands in fighting terror, the implementation part leaves much to be desired, allowing the evil elements to continue their rampage at their time and will and at locations of their choice.

According to French authorities, three co-ordinated teams worked behind Friday's atrocity, in which seven terrorists were also killed. One of the Paris attackers has been identified as Ismail Moutarif, a 29-year-old Frenchman who had been flagged for links to radicalism. His family members have been detained and are being questioned.

French Muslim groups have firmly denounced the attacks and some are concerned they will prompt a backlash against France's overwhelmingly moderate Muslim community.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged world leaders on Saturday to prioritise the fight against terrorism as they gathered for the G20 summit in Antalya, saying the Paris attacks claimed by Islamic State showed the time for words was now over.

As rightly pointed out by the UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Anwar Gargash, to Euronews on Saturday, no country, even those with strict border controls, could consider itself safe from the threat being posed by the Islamic State.

"What we clearly see is that nobody is immune. This attack can happen anywhere. It can happen if you open your border, it can happen if you shut your border, it can happen if you are an open society, it can happen in Paris, it can happen in any other city," Gargash said.

Martina Porges, who formerly handled the White House cybersecurity policy for the National Economic Council and served as a counterterrorism policy adviser in the Departments of Justice and Treasury, wrote on www.philly.com yesterday that the most serious attack on Paris since World War II "is just the start of a storm and the fact that one of the attackers at the Stade de France was found with a Syrian passport...underscores the major problems facing Europe and the West as greater numbers of foreign fighters return home - likely more radicalised, better trained and with additional sources of support".

As Porges asserted, the Islamic State has now become the dominant international terrorist threat. It has claimed "the recent bombing of a Russian airliner over the Sinai Peninsula".

"The Islamic State is sending a message to the international community, including the US, about its growing capabilities, about its intention to target Western interests - and, about the price of international involvement in the Syrian conflict."

Yes, the time for rhetoric got over long ago. What is needed is concrete action against the terrorists and their backers.

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Ensure inclusive and robust growth through joint action

G20 members should expedite efforts to deliver on their commitments to boost productivity and eliminate structural bottlenecks to investment, competition, trade and jobs

By Recep Tayyip Erdogan
President



The leaders of the G20 are meeting in Antalya, Turkey, to discuss a long list of pressing issues, foremost among them, a series of serious economic and geopolitical challenges. The G20, whose members account for about 85% of the world economy, has an obligation to the rest of the world to address the challenges that affect the lives and prosperity of billions of people around the world. It cannot risk falling any complacency and inaction.

Since Turkey assumed the leadership of the G20 in December 2014, our approach toward ensuring inclusive and robust growth through collective action has enjoyed the support of the organisation's members. This effort has been built on three pillars: inclusive implementation of past commitments, boosting investment as a powerful driver of the global economy and protection of technologies so that the benefits of growth are shared by all.

When it comes to implementation, great attention has been paid by promoting sound macroeconomic and fiscal policies and implementing

solid, structural reforms, we have made significant progress toward our objective of expanding the G20's real GDP by 2.06 by 2016. The global financial system is a more resilient than it has ever been. Our growth targets are being met. To date, G20 members have made significant efforts to deliver on their commitments to boost productivity and eliminate structural bottlenecks to investment, competition, trade and jobs. We must also cement the fundamental reforms that the G20 has delivered over the past seven years.

Our focus on investment - a key driver of growth, jobs, and development - is also beginning to pay off. There is a huge investment gap in the global economy, both in advanced and developing countries. That is why we must strongly incentivise the G20 to bring together concrete policy actions and commitments to improve investment conditions, support small and medium-size enterprises, efficient, high-quality infrastructure.

If the G20 members fully implement their commitments under these areas, their combined GDP is expected to increase by another 1%.

Economic growth must be strong and sustainable, but, above all, it must be inclusive. Inequality is rising in many G20 countries; in some cases, it has reached historic highs. This is a dangerous development, one that can threaten the inclusive implementation of societies and jeopardise people's lives.

It is imperative that the G20 tackle inequality head-on and ensure that its benefits are shared by all. Member countries' citizens enjoy the benefits of growth.

As the global economy grows, more people who are suffering working conditions. Inequality is widening. Youth unemployment is one of the most important challenges.

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An official adjusting the Turkish national flag prior to the start of the G20 summit in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya, Turkey.

Qatar-Turkey friendship, a model of bilateral ties

By Haman Yalga
Qatar

Qatar has taken a significant step towards its rich oil and natural gas reserves. In addition to its strong economy, it prides an active foreign policy regarding various issues in the Middle East. Its efforts to solve the crisis in Egypt, Syria and Palestine amongst others.

Turkey-Qatar relations have been getting better in the past decade and played an important role in the foreign policy of both the countries. These relations have opened up cooperation in many areas are built on common visions and values.

As Turkey's ambassador to Qatar, Ahmet Demirel, explains, "our relations have reached an almost perfect level. Recent efforts for more co-operation have helped bring our relations to their highest level".

Following the visit of the third prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Qatar in 2009 with a delegation that comprised ministers and businessmen, the trade volume between the two countries which never passed the threshold of a couple of hundred million dollars, has increased to \$1.5 billion. Since that time, high-profile visits between the two countries have helped strengthen the relations even more.

Relations between Qatar and Turkey are built on common visions and values

Just like Turkey is an attractive investment area for Qatar, Qatar is an important investment ground for Turkish entrepreneurs and investors.

The total amount of projects and investments that more than 30 Turkish companies have undertaken in Qatar has surpassed \$1.5 billion. Turkey exports a great deal of commodities, including

new materials, iron, steel, hardware and various industrial and textile products, to Qatar.

Furthermore, for Qatar, which has insufficient water and food resources and therefore has to rely on external sources, Turkey is a great opportunity as a country with developed agriculture industries and rich potable water resources. Qatar's oil and natural gas reserves make it an important alternative to Russia and Iran for Turkey which has to rely on external sources for its energy. The growing trade and investment pipeline project between two countries is just the beginning.

In addition to the continuously developing economic and political links, a military co-operation agreement signed on March 10 this year has become a milestone in the two countries' relations.

One of the top issues that make the two countries' alliance very unique is the catastrophe in Syria.

In an interview with Turkey's ambassador in Ankara, Salim Melbank in "Shah" magazine, the ambassador today is on the way. He believes that when the people of the region are given opportunity to choose and freely speak to their mind, the region will come to an end. For this reason, it is imperative to work to help the people of the region who are rising up to secure their freedom.

"We are carrying out various efforts together with Turkey to this end, and want to expand it by incorporating other countries in these efforts too, by means of deal and multiple relations, and by finding solutions to problems in the Middle East. We are ready to work and do everything that is necessary to this end".

The Syrian tragedy, which urgently requires a solution, is only one of those important issues that make the co-operation of these two countries extremely important and in one in which they are put to use their full capabilities and resources.

It is imperative that Qatar sees an active and official project together with Turkey, especially now when a transitional formula is being discussed for Syria and when it is at the top of the agenda for countries like the United States and Russia.

We hope that this exemplary friendship and alliance between these two great Islamic countries will be instrumental in bringing forth many good developments not only for their but for the entire Islamic world and that they can set an example of solidarity, union, love and peace for all Muslims in the world.

Haman Yalga has authored more than 300 books on religion, culture and science, translated in 73 languages. He lives in Doha, Qatar. Contact: hamanyalga.com

Qatar has one of the highest incomes per capita in the world, mostly due to its rich oil and natural gas reserves. In addition to its strong economy, it pursues an active foreign policy regarding various issues in the Middle East. Most recently, it has grabbed the headlines with its efforts to solve the crisis in Egypt, Syria and Palestine amongst others.

With domestic investments on education, healthcare and sciences and financial investments in other countries, Qatar is working to improve its welfare levels and economic power.

Needless to say, one of the most important allies of Qatar in the region is Turkey. Both countries are important parts of the Islamic world and share common historical bonds. Their good relations are based on strong bonds of brotherhood and solidarity.

Turkey-Qatar relations have been getting better in the past decade and played an important role in the foreign policies of both the countries. These relations that involve co-operation in many areas are built on common visions and values.

As Turkey's ambassador to Qatar, Ahmet Demirok, explains: "Our relations have reached an almost perfect level. Recent efforts for more co-operation have helped bring our relations to their highest levels."

Following the visit of the then prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Qatar in 2006 with a delegation that comprised ministers and businessmen, the trade volume between the two countries, which never passed the threshold of a couple of hundred million dollars until then, skyrocketed to \$6bn. Since that time, high-profile visits between two countries have helped strengthen the relations even more.

Just like Turkey is an attractive investment area for Qatar, Qatar is an important investment ground for Turkish entrepreneurs and investors.

The total amount of projects and investments that more than 30 Turkish companies have undertaken in Qatar has surpassed \$8.5bn. Turkey exports a great deal of commodities, including raw materials, iron, steel, furniture and various industrial and textile products, to Qatar.

Furthermore, for Qatar, which has insufficient water and food resources and therefore has to rely on external sources, Turkey is a great opportunity as a country with developed agriculture industries and rich potable water resources. Qatar's oil and natural gas reserves make it an important alternative to Russia and Iran for Turkey which has to rely on external resources for its energy. For this reason, it is crucial that the gas pipeline project between two countries is put into place at the earliest.

In addition to the continuously developing economic and political links, a military co-operation agreement signed on March 19 this year has become a milestone in the two countries' relations.

One of the top issues that make the two countries' alliance very urgent is the catastrophe in Syria.

In an interview last August, Qatar's ambassador in Ankara, Salem Mubarak al-Shafi, said: "The Middle East today is on fire. We believe that when the people of the region are given opportunity to choose and freely speak up their minds, the turmoil will come to an end...For this reason, it is important to work hard to help the people of the region who are rising up to secure their freedom.

"We are carrying out various efforts together with Turkey to this end, and work to expand it by incorporating other countries in these efforts too. By means of dual and multiple relations, and by finding solutions to problems in the Middle East, we are ready to work and do everything that is necessary to this end."

The Syrian tragedy, which urgently requires a solution, is only one of those important issues that make the co-operation of these two countries extremely important and is one in which they can put to use their strong alliance in the most effective manner. It is imperative that Qatar rises as an active and efficient player together with Turkey, especially now when a transitional formula is being discussed for Syria and when it is at the top of the agenda for countries like the United States and Russia.

We hope that this exemplary friendship and alliance between these two great Islamic countries will be instrumental in bringing forth many good developments not only for them but for the entire Islamic world and that it may set an example of solidarity, union, love and peace for all Muslims in the world.

[i] <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/buyukelci-demirok-turkiye-ve-katar-iliskileri-konya-yerelhaber-884991/>

[ii] <http://www.yenisafak.com/gundem/esed-denklemden-tamamen-cikmali-2229785>

Adnan Oktar's piece on Gulf Times:

<http://www.gulf-times.com/opinion/189/details/463025/qatar-turkey-friendship,-a-model-of-bilateral-ties>

<https://www.harunyahya.info/en/articles/qatar-turkey-friendship-a-model-of-bilateral-ties>