

TURKEY- NEW ZEALAND JOINT DECLARATION

1. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey and Prime Minister John Key of New Zealand met in Ankara on 22 April 2010. The two Prime Ministers agreed to strengthen and deepen the bilateral relationship between their countries and affirmed their views on regional and global issues of mutual interest.
2. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance they accorded to maintaining and growing further the friendly and positive political relationship that exists between Turkey and New Zealand, one based on shared fundamental values and the common historical encounter in Canakkale in 1915, which opened a new age for both nations. They shared the view that the two countries are natural partners both internationally and within their respective regions.
3. The annual Gallipoli commemorations in Turkey were recognised by the Prime Ministers as underpinning the friendly ties between the two countries, providing a solid base from which to strengthen and grow the bilateral relationship further across a range of fields. They shared the recognition that high-level exchanges between leaders and Ministers, as well as other regular dialogues, contribute positively to the development of the bilateral relationship and expressed their intention to promote further such contacts.
4. The two Prime Ministers underlined their determination to thicken the bilateral relationship through in particular reinvigorating bilateral trade and investment activity as well as strengthening people to people links. In this regard, the two leaders highlighted the important role of the Joint Economic Commission in managing and strengthening the economic relationship. They directed officials to explore means to build further linkages between Turkish and New Zealand businesses and to support efforts to identify investment opportunities.
5. The conclusion of a range of bilateral agreements designed to underpin the unique relationship were welcomed by the two Prime Ministers. These included the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement, which was signed by the two leaders at the conclusion of their meeting, and the Air Services Agreement signed in March 2010. Both Prime Ministers encouraged their respective officials and business people to take advantage of these agreements and to build on them further.
6. The two leaders also welcomed recent bilateral initiatives aimed at strengthening people-to-people and cultural links, including the Working Holiday Scheme which was signed by the two leaders at the conclusion of their meeting. The Scheme will enable 100 young New Zealand and Turkish citizens each year to undertake temporary employment and study in the other country. Prime Minister John Key welcomed New Zealand's inclusion on the list of eligible study destinations, where up to 100 Turkish Government scholarship students may study. The two leaders directed officials to explore means by which these students might be encouraged to take up this option, and more broadly to explore the means by which meaningful linkages between Turkish and New Zealand education institutions could be developed further.

7. Prime Minister John Key outlined recent changes to New Zealand's rules for payment overseas of New Zealand Superannuation, designed to ensure qualifying superannuitants who wish to retire in Turkey are not financially disadvantaged by the absence of a social security agreement. The Prime Ministers agreed to keep this issue under active review.
8. The two Prime Ministers agreed to explore the scope for further measures to facilitate bilateral contacts. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan underscored the importance of this for Turkish citizens. Prime Minister John Key also noted that New Zealand will continue to facilitate the travel of Turkish citizens to New Zealand particularly of Turkish diplomats, officials, students, artists and business people.
9. Prime Minister John Key pointed out that the Gallipoli commemorations constitute one of the largest annual gatherings of New Zealanders off-shore. There has been dramatic growth in the number of people attending in recent years. Noting the importance of tourism in strengthening people-to-people links between countries, the two Prime Ministers decided that Turkey and New Zealand should explore further opportunities to expand tourism activities between the two countries, particularly as the global economy improves. In this regard the leaders expressed their expectation that the Air Services Agreement would provide a means by which air links between the two countries could be strengthened.
10. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their shared interest and commitment to global peace and prosperity including in the Middle East and South Pacific regions. They undertook to collaborate closely, including through regular frank diplomatic policy discussion, on matters impacting this shared objective. New Zealand welcomed Turkey's interest in becoming part of the Pacific Post Forum Dialogue process. The two leaders directed an enhancement of defence linkages and in this regard Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan welcomed New Zealand's decision to accredit a Defence Attaché to Ankara.
11. The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations and to working cooperatively towards positively progressing important global initiatives such as combating climate change, international disarmament and preventing the proliferation of nuclear and conventional weapons. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan expressed his appreciation for New Zealand's early support for Turkey's successful bid for its 2009-10 seat on the Security Council. He briefed Prime Minister Key on progress towards Turkey's membership of the European Union. Prime Minister Key welcomed the progress made to date. Prime Minister John Key also expressed his appreciation for Turkey's support for New Zealand's bid for a Security Council seat for the 2015-16 term. The two leaders undertook to continue to consider positively well qualified UN candidatures from the other country.
12. The two leaders reiterated their firm commitment to international security issues, including counter-terrorism activities and international efforts to preserve peace, security and stability. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan welcomed New Zealand's designation of the PKK/KONGRA-GEL as a terrorist entity in February 2010.

13. The two leaders reiterated their support for development efforts in countries such as Afghanistan. In this regard, the two Prime Ministers noted that in Afghanistan the Turkish Provincial Reconstruction Team in Wardak province and New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamyan province are neighbours. Both have similar strategies to ensure security and development in this country. The Prime Ministers directed their respective officials to consider how further cooperation would support common values and improve implementation.
14. The Alliance of Civilisations, of which Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is a co-sponsor, was identified by both leaders as providing a useful and constructive platform for building increased cooperation, understanding and respect for different faiths and cultures. They considered the Alliance to be an important element to improve global security by addressing the intolerance and polarisation that is so evident in today's world. The Prime Ministers noted the range of practical projects each country had initiated or contributed to within their regions, in particular in the priority fields of education, media, migration and youth. They encouraged further and sustained international efforts to support the Alliance of Civilisations and directed officials to work collaboratively where practicable to advance the Alliance's objectives.
15. The two Prime Ministers, expressing their full support for the ongoing comprehensive settlement negotiations in Cyprus, underlined the importance of reaching a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus as swiftly as possible between the two sides.
16. The two leaders underlined the importance they attached to the multilateral trading system, and to promoting further liberalisation of global trade and strengthening trade rules through a successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Round. They also noted the growing importance of the G20 grouping, of which Turkey is a member, as a means to discuss and coordinate the implementation of global economic policies. The Prime Ministers directed officials to cooperate and take cognisance of each country's views where appropriate to assist with the successful conclusion of the Doha Round and the effective development and implementation of international economic actions.
17. Prime Minister John Key expressed appreciation for the hospitality shown by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and the people of Turkey, and invited the Prime Minister to visit New Zealand in turn. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan indicated his wish to take up this invitation at a time of mutual convenience.



Recep Tayyip Erdoğan
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey



John Key
Prime Minister of New Zealand