

## AGREED MINUTES OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TURKEY-SRI LANKA JOINT COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Second Session of the Turkey–Sri Lanka Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation (hereinafter referred as the JCETC), was held virtually on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 due to COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Turkish Delegation was headed by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ziya Selçuk, Minister of National Education of the Republic of Turkey and the Sri Lankan Delegation was headed by H.E. Dr. Bandula Gunewardhane, Minister of Trade of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The compositions of the two Delegations and the Agenda are listed in Annex I, II and III respectively.

At the opening session, H.E. Ministers expressed their desire to further strengthen and the enhancement of bilateral trade, economic and technical cooperation in a mutually beneficial and the sustainable manner.

Both Sides also appreciated the efforts of each other in organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the JCETC virtually during the challenging period of COVID-19 pandemic.

The deliberations of both Sides are summarized as follows:

### I. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Both Sides underlined the importance of a developed legislative framework between the two countries to enhance economic, commercial and technical cooperation.

In this regard, both Sides will initiate and intensify work to finalize the following pending agreements at the earliest possible time;

- Protocol that amends the Article 11 of the “Bilateral Air Transport Agreement”,
- Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Education,
- Memorandum of Understanding between Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) and Turkish Standards Institution (TSE),
- Signing of MoU between Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT),
- Memorandum of Understanding between Turkish Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) and National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA) of Sri Lanka
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Agricultural Cooperation,
- MoU in the Field of Environment,
- MoU for cooperation in the Field of Higher Education between the Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka and the Council of Higher Education of Turkey,
- MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Urbanization,
- Agreement for the Elimination of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Tax Evasion and Avoidance.

Both Sides pointed out that the text is ready and agreed to sign the Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters as early as possible.

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Both Sides agreed to explore the possibilities of concluding the following agreements;

- Agreement on Cultural Cooperation,
- Agreement on Youth and Sports,
- Agreement for Cooperation in the Fields of Health and Medical Sciences.

Both Sides will notify each other of contact points for the above-mentioned documents in one month in order to facilitate communication of the relevant agencies.

## II. BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

Both Sides reviewed the developments in their trade and economic relations. Pointing out that bilateral trade between the two countries does not reflect the true potential they underlined the need for further efforts to achieve growth of their trade relations on a sustainable basis.

In this respect, both Sides reaffirmed their pledge to increase bilateral trade volume to 500 million USD.

Both Sides, therefore, recognized the importance of increasing the private sector engagement in strengthening the commercial relations.

For this purpose, both Sides will help support and develop new linkages between their business communities through B2B meetings and webinars in the industries including pharmaceutical products, food processing, IT services, logistics, education, agriculture including coconut based products.

Both Sides welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) and the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) of Turkey on May 26, 2021.

Both Sides will support Virtual Turkey-Sri Lanka Business and Investment Forum to be hosted by TOBB and FCCISL in the third quarter of 2021. Both Sides noted that on the occasion of this Forum, the Turkey-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Forum will be inaugurated.

Both Sides would also continue to support the activities as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Konya Chamber of Commerce.

Both Sides highlighted the role of Turkish-Sri Lanka Business Council in facilitating the contacts between the business communities of both countries.

Both Sides welcomed "Interconnected Business Series: Turkey-Sri Lanka Video Conference Meeting" held by Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK) on November 18, 2020.

The Sri Lankan Side also expressed its appreciation to the Turkish Side for the participation to Sri Lanka Investment and Business Conclave 2019 Summit in Colombo on September 16-19, 2019.

Both Sides welcomed Sri Lanka Investment Forum which was organized by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC), Sri Lanka Investment Board (BOI) and Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) on June 7-9 2021.

In this context, both Sides will continue supporting mutual networking visits and meetings of Turkish and Sri Lankan business persons.



With the aim of improving e-commerce, Both Sides agreed to explore possibilities of cooperation between their respective institutions and organizations in the fields such as logistics, payment systems and customs procedures.

Both Sides reviewed the trade policies of both countries and the trade policy measures affecting their trade.

In this respect, the Sri Lankan Side flagged the impact of the additional customs duties imposed by Turkey on trade. The Turkish Side expressed that the additional customs duties are part of Turkey's MFN rates, not specific to Sri Lanka and fully compliant with its WTO commitments. Turkey also underlined that it does not offer Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status to any country, regarding the additional customs duties.

Responding to the concerns raised by Sri Lanka concerning certain trade remedy measures by Turkey on certain products like Sri Lankan originating bicycle tyres and tubes, rings/chains and parts (transmission chains), Turkey pointed out that all trade remedy measures are in line with the WTO Agreement, and review processes will be carried completely in line with the WTO rules and practices. In this regard, Turkey has recommended Sri Lankan exporters to fully cooperate in the review processes.

Both Sides reviewed the alleged infringement cases of the intellectual property rights of the "Ceylon Tea" mark owned by the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

In this respect, the Turkish Side has provided information on legal practices for protection of such trademarks.

### **III. ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

#### **Investments**

Both Sides expressed their readiness to promote direct investments and joint ventures of Turkish and Sri Lankan companies in their respective countries by increasing awareness among the business communities about the investment opportunities in both countries.

In this respect, both Sides pointed out construction services, IT, tourism, transportation, medical devices, financial sector, food processing, textile, rubber products, health, automobile, electrical and electronic, metal and mineral sectors as potential areas for encouraging investments from Turkey to Sri Lanka.

Both Sides will aim to organize a virtual seminar in late 2021 to promote the investment opportunities, relevant regulatory environment and Sri Lanka's Board of Investment's new strategy.

Concerning the conclusion of the Agreement on the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments between Turkey and Sri Lanka, the Sri Lankan Side informed that it has been developing a new model of Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement to be valid for all countries. Accordingly, the Sri Lankan Side will forward the new draft agreement to the Turkish Side for review.

Concerning the conclusion of Agreement for the Elimination of Double Taxation, both Sides will encourage their respective authorities to sign the Agreement in the shortest possible time as it was initialed.

#### **Contracting and Engineering Consultancy Services**

Pointing out contracting and engineering as a significant area of work, the Turkish Side informed about the capabilities of its construction industry and expressed its readiness to provide such services in Sri Lanka as well.

Both Sides will hold a virtual meeting hosted by The Turkish Contractors Association (TCA) to exhibit the capabilities of Turkish Contracting Services to Sri Lankan authorities and business circles.

### **Defense Industry**

The Turkish Side expressed its willingness to cooperate on defense industry in order to identify business opportunities.

The Turkish Side also expressed its readiness to work for further enhancing the existing collaboration in the field of defense in products which are of interest to both sides.

Both Sides agreed to discuss the defense related proposals through their respective defense authorities.

### **Education**

Both Sides emphasized the importance of signing the Cooperation Agreement in the Field of Education as soon as possible.

The Turkish Side informed in detail about the legal status of the Turkish Maarif Foundation and its education activities abroad.

The Turkish Side underlined that the Ministry of Education and the Turkish Maarif Foundation is the sole entity allowed to use the terms "Turkish" and "Turkey", the flag of the Republic of Turkey and the symbols belonging to Turkey in the area of education.

Both Sides would initiate negotiations for conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the establishment of legal personality and conducting educational activities of Turkish Maarif Foundation in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Side will provide support for facilitating the procedures for Turkish Maarif Foundation to acquire legal status in Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Side requested the Turkish Side to consider opening up of Turkish universities in Sri Lanka. The Turkish Maarif Foundation noted this request.

### **Cooperation on the Issues of Respective Communities Overseas**

The Turkish Side proposed cooperation and exchange of experience between their relevant institutions on issues of respective communities overseas.

The Turkish Side also proposed that the Government institutions of both Sides in charge of overseas communities would cooperate against discrimination, rights violations, and xenophobia targeting both Sides' citizens, business persons and their NGOs abroad.

The Turkish Side proposed the establishment of socio-cultural and economic ties between the respective communities overseas by signing an agreement between the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities and relevant institution of Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan Side agreed to refer the proposals to the relevant institutions in Sri Lanka for their consideration.



## Science, Technology and Metrology

The Turkish Side pointed out that the Turkish Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey is ready to develop joint projects with Sri Lankan counterpart(s) to share its knowledge and experience on regulatory framework for developing unique production zone models, such as “Organized Industrial Zones” and “Industrial Sites”.

The Turkish Side underlined the need for a cooperation agreement between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and its Sri Lankan counterparts in the fields of science, technology and innovation in order to foster joint projects in this area.

The Turkish Side also proposed to develop cooperation between the National Metrology Institute of Turkey (UME) and Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI), the primary metrology institution of Sri Lanka in the fields of metrology, calibration, measurement systems, and quality control.

## Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

Both Sides expressed their willingness to exchange information and experiences about their incentive models, business and technology incubators, developing entrepreneurship culture and entrepreneurship training for the development of MSMEs related organizations, MSMEs and entrepreneurs.

## Standardization

The Turkish Side highlighted that Turkey, as a member of the EU Customs Union for industrial products since 1996, harmonizes its technical legislations with that of the EU and therefore, Turkish products have same safety and quality levels with the EU products.

The Turkish Side proposed to enhance the cooperation in the fields of standardization and conformity assessment between the two countries.

The Turkish Side underlined the readiness of Turkish Standards Institution (TSE) to provide Third Party Inspection/Surveillance Services and Project Management Consultancy (PMC) in Sri Lanka.

## Civil Aviation

Both Sides exchanged views on improving cooperation in the field of civil aviation training.

Referring to concerns raised by the Turkish Side at the meeting, the Sri Lankan Side responded that Sri Lanka has given 5th freedom traffic rights to Turkish Airlines for 6 months on a temporary basis to fly to Sri Lanka till August 2021. The Turkish Side requested from Sri Lankan Side to grant permanent 5th freedom traffic rights for Turkish Airlines that will enable to carry passenger traffic between Male and Colombo.

The Turkish Side pointed out the Article 13 of the bilateral Air Transport Agreement (ATA) between Sri Lanka and Turkey, and requested to be exempted from the customs duty and fees imposed on promotional materials which are given away to Turkish Airlines customers in Sri Lanka as a gift.

The Sri Lankan Side has positively considered the duty free/tax free benefit for the promotional materials given by Turkish Airlines.



## Maritime Transportation

With the aim of increasing maritime cargo transportation between the two countries, the Sri Lankan Side informed that due to the recent capacity development in Colombo and Hambantota ports, Sri Lanka is ready to accommodate increased volumes of shipping and trade between the two countries and between Turkey and the other South East Asian countries. Both Sides agreed to explore the potentials of enhancing the maritime sector between the two countries.

Both Sides agreed to hold a maritime consultations meeting in order to comprehensively enhance the maritime relations between the two countries. The date and the venue of the meeting will be determined through diplomatic channels after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both Sides reviewed the various joint training programs held concerning maritime transportation between 2016 and 2019, and they would continue to support such programs and exchange of visits.

The Sri Lankan Side requested the Turkish Side to consider initiation of work for a bilateral arrangement for mutual recognition of certificates issued to the seafarers in line with the domestic regulations and international obligations of Sri Lanka and Turkey. The Sri Lankan Side would submit a model agreement.

The Sri Lankan Side requested provision by the Turkish Side of its expertise, knowledge and assistance to improve the post state control (PSC) procedures and trainings, issuing of certificates to seafarers, prevention of maritime pollution and pollution response, enforcement of maritime regulations, search and rescue matters and maritime training including simulator training to the Sri Lankan maritime staff.

The Turkish Side emphasized that the Turkish ship building industry had the capacity to meet the needs for maritime vessels of all kinds, including coast guard boats of Sri Lanka and to provide maintenance and repair services the existing vessels.

## Health

The Sri Lankan Side welcomed and appreciated Republic of Turkey's technical assistance and donation of ten ventilators and other medical equipment to strengthen Government of Sri Lanka's efforts to combat COVID-19 pandemic.

Both Sides agreed to exchange experience on public health issues particularly in strengthening health systems and communicable diseases as well as improving health practices, clinical care of chronic illnesses.

The Sri Lankan Side proposed to exchange experience in traditional and complementary medical (T&CM) practices between Turkey and Sri Lanka.

Both Sides will aim to improve health tourism between their countries.

The Turkish Side proposed exchange of information and experience in fighting against COVID-19 pandemic especially with regard to the vaccines.



## **Culture and Tourism**

Both Sides will exchange good practices and experiences in cultural tourism during COVID-19 pandemic to enhance recovery of both countries and meet the challenges of adopting new COVID-19 visitor regulations.

Both Sides will encourage the following actions to further promote tourism relations between Turkey and Sri Lanka;

- Organizing mutual workshops and study visits for the personnel employed in travel sector in two countries, facilitating sharing of experience of both Sides in tourism sector,
- Hosting travel writers, journalists, film crews, tour operators, airline representatives, intellectuals, opinion leaders etc. to increase mutual demand in both countries,
- Promoting exchange of culture and tourism related data/documents as well as experts.

Both Sides expressed their willingness to explore the possibilities of collaboration in areas of human resource and technical capacity building, student exchanges, co-productions, film festivals, TV series, short films, promoting both countries for filming and digital technologies.

## **Technical Assistance in the field of Development**

Both Sides will continue to support technical assistance by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) for small scale development projects such as water, health and sanitation sectors if request by the Sri Lankan Side.

## **Energy**

Turkish Side expressed the readiness of BOTAŞ Petroleum Pipeline Corporation to transfer its expertise and technology in the field of pipeline security and SCADA software.

The Turkish Side proposed to establish favorable conditions for further strengthening of cooperation between national oil and gas companies with the aim of training personnel for oil and gas Industry.

## **Agriculture**

The Turkish Side proposed to improve cooperation in the following areas;

- Making necessary initiatives for export promotion in milk and dairy products, poultry meat and products, eggs, honey and bee products (pollen, propolis, royal jelly),
- Conducting scientific research projects on "Phytosanitary Researches" on agricultural products such as paddy, tea and wheat that are produced in both countries,
- Sharing knowledge and experience by experts,
- Conducting joint R&D and training on the "Field Crops".

The Sri Lankan Side agreed to bring the proposals to the consideration of the relevant Government Institution/s of Sri Lanka



## Water Safety and Water Quality

Both Sides expressed their interest in provision of technical assistance by Turkey in the following fields regarding water safety and water quality improvement and water reclamation activities;

- Implementation of water supply projects,
- Water safety plans,
- Water quality improvements,
- Implementation of sanitation safety plans,
- R&D support for locally manufactured low-cost waste water treatment system,
- Software support for upgrading Planning and Design activities,
- Comprehensive basin wide sanitation need assessment and solution,
- Preparation of river basin management plans,
- Preparation of flood and drought management plans,
- Monitoring and management of water resources,
- Impact of climate change on water resources,
- Coastal and transitional water management,
- Effective and efficient use of water, reuse and treatment of wastewater and drainage water from agricultural irrigation.

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Both Sides agreed to convene the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the JCETC on a mutually convenient time in the coming years.

Signed through diplomatic channels on 19 JULY, 2021, in two originals in English.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF  
TURKEY**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**



.....  
**PROF. DR. ZİYA SELÇUK**  
**MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION**



.....  
**DR. BANDULA GUNewardhane**  
**MINISTER OF TRADE**



## LIST OF TURKISH DELEGATION

|    | Name                        | Institution                                            | Designation                                                          |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | H.E. Ziya Selçuk            | Ministry of National Education                         | Minister<br>(Leader of the Turkish Delegation)                       |
| 2  | Atilla Bastırmacı           | Ministry of Trade                                      | Head of Technical Delegation, Deputy<br>Director General             |
| 3  | Çağatay Özden               | Ministry of Trade                                      | Head of Department, DG of<br>International Agreements and EU         |
| 4  | Önder Duman                 | Ministry of Trade                                      | Head of Department, DG of Imports                                    |
| 5  | Bengü Kum Demir             | Ministry of Trade                                      | Trade Expert, DG of International<br>Agreements and EU               |
| 6  | Gökhan Dursun               | Ministry of Trade                                      | Trade Expert, DG of International<br>Agreements and EU               |
| 7  | Merve Erdil                 | Ministry of Trade                                      | Trade Expert, DG of Imports                                          |
| 8  | Murat Özmen                 | Ministry of Trade                                      | Trade Expert, DG of Imports                                          |
| 9  | Gizem Emel Davis            | Ministry of Foreign Affairs                            | Head of Department, DDG of South<br>East Asia                        |
| 10 | Oytun Alper Aldemir         | Ministry of Industry and<br>Technology                 | Chief of Section, DG of EU and<br>Foreign Affairs                    |
| 11 | Uğur Özdemir                | Ministry of Industry and<br>Technology                 | Engineer, DG of EU and Foreign<br>Affairs                            |
| 12 | Utku Macit                  | Ministry of Industry and<br>Technology                 | EU Expert, DG of EU and Foreign<br>Affairs                           |
| 13 | Gözde Şener                 | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry                   | EU Expert, Coordinator, GD of EU<br>and Foreign Relations            |
| 14 | Gülşen Yentür               | Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry                   | Veterinarian, GD of EU and Foreign<br>Relations                      |
| 15 | Leyla Başcılar              | Ministry of Health                                     | Expert, DG of EU and Foreign Affairs                                 |
| 16 | Hasan Çalışkan              | Ministry of National Education                         | Assistant Expert, DG of EU and<br>Foreign Affairs                    |
| 17 | Eda Burcu Sungur            | Directorate General of Civil Aviation                  | EU Expert                                                            |
| 18 | Mustafa Deniz               | KOSGEB                                                 | SME Expert, Small and Medium<br>Enterprises Development Organization |
| 19 | Onur Seçkin                 | Turkish Standards Institution                          | International Relations and Global<br>Business Development Manager   |
| 20 | Başak Yılmaz                | Turkish Standards Institution                          | Expert, Department of Foreign Affairs                                |
| 21 | Sadettin Akın               | Turkish Patent and Trademark Office                    | IP Expert, Dept. for EU and Foreign<br>Affairs                       |
| 22 | Ebubekir Kadri<br>Bişkinler | Presidency for Turks Abroad and<br>Related Communities | Asia Pacific Division Coordinator                                    |
| 23 | Fırat Keskin                | Presidency for Turks Abroad and<br>Related Communities | Assistant Expert                                                     |
| 24 | Faruk Teksen                | Turkish Maarif Foundation                              | Senior Officer                                                       |
| 25 | İbrahim Bali                | Turkish Maarif Foundation                              | Senior Officer                                                       |
| 26 | Elif Huntürk Yavuz          | The Council of Higher Education                        | Expert, Department of Foreign Affairs                                |

## LIST OF SRI LANKAN DELEGATION

| No | Name                                | Institution                                                                                                                                      | Designation                                                                                  |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | Hon. Dr. Bandula Gunewardhane, (MP) | Ministry of Trade                                                                                                                                | Minister of Trade<br>(Leader of the Sri Lanka Delegation)                                    |
| 02 | Mrs. Bhadranie Jayawardhana         | Ministry of Trade                                                                                                                                | Secretary, Ministry of Trade                                                                 |
| 03 | Mrs. Kanthi Gunawardhana            | Ministry of Trade                                                                                                                                | Addl, Secretary, Ministry of Trade                                                           |
| 04 | Mr. Ananda Dharmapriya              | Ministry of Trade                                                                                                                                | Actg, Director General of Commerce, Department of Commerce<br>(Head of Technical Delegation) |
| 05 | Mr. Somasena Mahadiulwewa           | Ministry of Trade                                                                                                                                | Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce                                                 |
| 06 | Mr. Senuja Samaraweera              | Ministry of Trade                                                                                                                                | Assistant Director of Commerce, Department of Commerce                                       |
| 07 | Ms. Maheshini Collone               | Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka                                                                                                                    | Director General/ Economic Affairs Division (B & ED)                                         |
| 08 | Mr. Suminda Mendis                  | Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka                                                                                                                    | Assistant Director, Economic Affairs Division                                                |
| 09 | Ms. Kumudini Abeykoon               | Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka                                                                                                                    | Legal Officer, Legal Division                                                                |
| 10 | His Excellency H.R. Hassen          | Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey                                                                                                                   | Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Turkey                                            |
| 11 | Ms. Yoshitha Jayasuriya             | Embassy of Sri Lanka in Turkey                                                                                                                   | Minister Counsellor (Commercial)                                                             |
| 12 | Dr. Dammika Abeygunawardena         | Provincial Department of Ayurveda, State Ministry of Indigenous Medicine Promotion, Rural and Ayurvedic Hospitals Development & Community Health | Provincial Commissioner of Ayurveda                                                          |
| 13 | Ms. Anoma Premathilake              | Sri Lanka Export Development Board                                                                                                               | Director (Market Development)                                                                |
| 14 | Mr. Prasanna Jayasinghe             | Sri Lanka Export Development Board                                                                                                               | Deputy Director                                                                              |
| 15 | Mr. Prasad Daluwatte                | Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Tourism                                                                                          | Director (Events)                                                                            |
| 16 | Ms. Priyanka Samaraweera            | Board of Investment of Sri Lanka                                                                                                                 | Executive Director (Research & Policy Advocacy)                                              |
| 17 | Ms. Pavithri Peiris                 | Sri Lanka Tea Board                                                                                                                              | Director (Promotion)                                                                         |
| 18 | Eng. (Mr) D.N.D.S. Gunathilleke     | National Water Supply and Drainage Board                                                                                                         | Deputy General Manager (Water Reclamation)                                                   |
| 19 | Eng. (Mr). G.D.N.Nevil              | National Water Supply and Drainage Board                                                                                                         | Deputy General Manager (Water Reclamation)                                                   |
| 20 | Mr. Eranda Rajapakse                | National Water Supply and Drainage Board                                                                                                         | Assistant General Manager (Development)                                                      |
| 21 | Mr. L.P.R.J Wijesinghe              | National Water Supply and Drainage Board                                                                                                         | Assistant General Manager (Laboratory Services)                                              |
| 22 | Mr. Upul Jayatissa                  | Additional Managing Director (Admin./Operation)                                                                                                  | Sri Lanka Ports Authority                                                                    |
| 23 | Capt. S.M.S. Bandara                | Merchant Shipping Secretariat                                                                                                                    | Examiner (Navigation)                                                                        |



## ANNEX III

### The 02<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Sri Lanka– Turkey Joint Committee on Economic & Technical Cooperation (JCETC)

10th June 2021 at 12.30pm- 3.30pm

Ministry of Trade, Sri Lanka

#### Agenda

#### Co-chairs

**Sri Lanka** : Honorable Dr. Bandula Gunewardhane, Minister of Trade

**Turkey** : Honorable Dr. Ziya Selcuk, Minister of National Education

1. Introductory Remarks by Sri Lanka
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Trade and Commerce

#### 3.1 Items Flowing from the Last Session of the JCETC

**Current status of the bilateral instruments discussed at the previous Session/ initiated during the previous period**

- i. The proposed Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income between Sri Lanka and Turkey
- ii. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Agricultural Cooperation
- iii. The proposed Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs matters
- iv. The proposed MoU between Turkish Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization (KOSGEB) and Ministry of Industry and Commerce
- v. The proposed MoU between Sri Lankan Standards Institute (SLSI) and Turkish Standards Institute (TSE)
- vi. The proposed MoU in the field of Environment
- vii. The proposed Agreements on Education & Higher Education
- viii. The proposed Framework Agreement in Military Fields of Training, Techniques and Science
- ix. The proposed MoU on Cooperation in the field of Urbanization

- x. Increase the number of scholarships, student/ academic exchange programmes, establish contacts and cooperation between Mariff Foundation and Ministry of Education or Senior Government agencies in Sri Lanka
- xi. The proposed MoU between Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation and Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT)
- xii. The proposed Agreement between Turkey and Sri Lanka concerning the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments:

### 3.2. Updates on the progress of the other items discussed at the last Session

- i. Maritime Consultation Meetings (Section vii.b of the minutes of the previous Session)
- ii. Technical assistance for development through Turkey International Cooperation Agency (TIKA) (Section III. iv of the minutes of the previous Session)
- iii. Current status of action under the MOU between SL and Turk Exim Bank (Section III ii of the previous Session)
- iv. As per the section III.i of the minutes of the previous Session, both sides stated their willingness to update each other on investment opportunities in both countries.

### 4. New Proposals by the Sri Lanka Side

4.1. Receiving technical assistance/ knowledge- sharing in areas related to defense: (Ministry of Defence, Sri Lanka will directly engage with its Turkish counterpart to negotiate on the following items.

The Sri Lanka side is proposing;

- i. Turkish Defense training institutions to offer at least some of their trainings to Sri Lanka on gratis basis.
- ii. Technical cooperation with Government of Turkey on the areas; Maritime Pollution Prevention and Pollution Response, Maritime Law enforcement and Combating Transnational Crimes and Prevention of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- iii. Exchanges in the intelligence spaces; Intelligence sharing on terrorism, religious extremism, terrorist financing, combating illegal narcotics, human trafficking, counter terrorism and countering violent extremism, Intelligence engagements through bilateral meetings/ visits and Intelligence training and capacity building.

4.2. Receiving Turkey's support for water safety & water quality improvement and water reclamation activities: (Annex A)

The Sri Lanka side is proposing the Turkish side to provide;

- i. Technical assistance from Turkey to complete the Water Safety plans
- ii. Technical assistance from Turkey for water quality improvements in the WSS and water resources and catchments
- iii. Turkey's support for Water Reclamation (WR) activities;
  - iii.(i). Implementation of Sanitation Safety Plan (SSP)
  - iii. (ii). R & D support for locally manufactured low-cost wastewater treatment system
  - iii (iii). Software support for upgrading R & D (WR) section



- iii (iv). Technical support for the study on comprehensive basin wide sanitation need assessment and solution.

#### 4.3. Ports and shipping related matters:

The Sri Lanka side is proposing the Turkish side the following;

- i. Consider for a bilateral agreement for mutual recognition of certificates issued to the seafarers by Sri Lanka and Turkey. The Sri Lanka side will submit a model agreement to the Turkish side
- ii. To receive Turkey's expertise and knowledge for Post State Control (PSC) and Training, Issuing certificate process, maritime training and simulator facilitating matters, etc;

#### 4.4. Promotion of Indigenous Medicine: (Annex B)

The Sri Lanka side is proposing the Turkish side to exchange experience in Traditional & Complementary Medical (T & CM) Practices between Turkey & Sri Lanka. Areas of cooperation include Health tourism, Regulation of T & CM products, practices & practitioners, Clinical care of chronic illnesses, Research in T & CM)

#### 4.5. Tourism cooperation:

The Sri Lanka side is proposing the Turkish side to exchange to good practices and lessons learned in cultural tourism during the pandemic to enhance the recovery of both countries, as a challenge in adopting for new COVID- 19 visitor regulations

#### 4.6. Aviation promotion:

- i. The Sri Lanka side is proposing the Turkish side to explore the possibility of considering the services of Civil Aviation Training Centre (CATC) in Sri Lanka on training of air traffic services for Turkish clients.
- ii. The Sri Lanka side invites experts from Turkey in the field of aviation to improve the relative strengths of both countries

#### 4.7. Export promotion:

The Sri Lanka side is proposing the Turkish side to assist Sri Lanka in obtaining Turkey's technical know- how for;

- i. The sectors of pharmaceutical products, food processing, IT enabled services, Logistics, Education, Agriculture, activated carbon, etc;
- ii. Increase the number of B2B meetings and webinar programmes for the above sectors.
- iii. Knowledge sharing on Turkish programme "Turquality" with EDB
- iv. Obtaining assistance on R & D for the some of the sectors mentioned in 3.6.1 above
- v. Collaboration with Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEiK)
- vi. Explore the possibility of using Turkish fabrics for manufacturing of products to be exported to the UK under UK- Turkey Free Trade Agreement.

#### 4.8. Safeguarding the identity of Ceylon tea in the Turkish market

#### 4.9. Health Sector Corporation

4.10. Cooperation in Cinema, theater, film, performing art

4.11. Collaboration between Sri Lankan and Turkish Trade Chambers

## **5. New Bilateral Market Access Issues of Sri Lanka side for the 02<sup>nd</sup> Session**

5.1. Additional Duties imposed on products indicated under Turkish GSP scheme on Industrial Gloves

5.2. Anti-Dumping duty imposed by Turkey on bicycle tyres and tubes

5.3. Definitive Anti-Dumping duty on roller chains & its components

## **6. New Proposals by the Turkish Side**

6.1. Cooperation in service sectors;

- i. Construction and technical consultancy services (particularly in Sri Lanka's Megapolis Project)
- ii. Tourism (particularly in health tourism)
- iii. Civil Aviation (The issue of fifth freedom right for Turkish Airlines (TA), reconsideration of customs duty imposed on promotional materials given by TA and facilitation of work permits for TA)
- iv. Other service sectors (ship building, information and communications technologies, sectors of digital economy, trade logistics, tourism and production of films and TV series)

6.2. Cooperation in education (providing legal ground to Turkish Maarif Foundation in Sri Lanka)

6.3. Cooperation in E-commerce

6.4. Constitution of a mechanism between Turkish Ministry of Trade and relevant Sri Lankan institution who will serve to monitor the progress in the signed JCETC Protocol

6.5. Turkey-Sri Lanka Business and Investment Virtual Forum to be jointly organized by TOBB and FCCISL in the third quarter of 2021

6.6. Cooperation on Diaspora

## **7. Closing Remarks**