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Turkiye' s Ambassador to Qatar to QNA: Qatari-Turkish Relations Reached Broader Horizons Characterized by Sustainable Strategic Depth



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Doha, November 13 (QNA)— Dr. Mustafa Goksu, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to the State of Qatar, has highlighted the pivotal role of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee in solidifying the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Established in 2014, this committee has become the cornerstone of their deepening strategic partnership, characterized by sustainable growth and regional solidarity. Ambassador Goksu emphasized that the committee not only formalizes the shared vision of both countries but also provides an institutional framework for fostering cooperation across various sectors, including politics, economy, commerce, defense, security, education, and culture.

In an exclusive interview with Qatar News Agency (QNA), the ambassador noted that the Supreme Strategic Committee represents the highest level of coordination and cooperation between Qatar and Turkiye. It facilitates a wide range of initiatives aimed at enhancing bilateral relations, providing a direct channel for mutual support, and aligning the policies of both nations. The strategic importance of this committee is reflected in the numerous agreements signed since its inception, including over 100 joint declarations covering diverse sectors such as politics, military, trade, and economy.

Ambassador Goksu revealed that thanks to these agreements, Qatari-Turkish relations have experienced rapid growth, particularly in trade and investment. Over the past decade, bilateral trade has increased fivefold, a testament to the strengthened economic ties between the two countries. With over 1,000 Turkish companies now operating in Qatar, and nearly 200 Qatari businesses active in Turkiye, the economic cooperation between the two nations is flourishing. Notably, Qatari direct investments in Turkiye have grown substantially, spanning industries like commerce, tourism, agriculture, hospitality, real estate, and food.

The ambassador also highlighted the significant role of Turkish companies in Qatar's infrastructure development. Turkish contracting firms have successfully secured contracts worth \$20.16 billion, further cementing the strategic economic partnership. These developments reflect a growing mutual trust and the robust economic environment in both countries, fostering an environment where bilateral investments can thrive.

Beyond the economic front, cultural and educational exchanges have played an integral role in enhancing bilateral relations. In 2023, over 200,000 Qatari tourists visited Turkiye, making Qatar one of the top sources of international visitors to the country. The Yunus Emre Turkish Cultural Center, established in Doha during the 8th session of the committee, has become a focal point for cultural engagement. The center serves as a platform for Qatari citizens and residents to learn the

Turkish language and engage in various cultural activities, further deepening the cultural ties between the two nations.

In the field of education, the Turkish Maarif Foundation (TMV) has partnered with Qatar University and Lusail University to offer scholarships for Turkish students pursuing higher education in Qatar. This initiative strengthens academic cooperation while providing opportunities for cross-cultural learning. Additionally, Turkiye has initiated a program to train Arabic language teachers in Qatar, with the first group of 15 teachers arriving in Doha earlier this week to begin their training under Qatar's Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The ambassador also spoke about the ongoing cooperation in the military and security sectors, emphasizing joint training programs that enable the two nations to exchange expertise in defense matters. These initiatives have further solidified the strategic partnership between Qatar and Turkiye, making their relationship a model of trust and solidarity in the region.

Looking ahead, Ambassador Goksu expressed optimism about the upcoming 10th session of the Qatari-Turkish Supreme Strategic Committee. He anticipates that the session will see the signing of new agreements across several key areas, including defense, economy, youth development, culture, and humanitarian support. The meeting will feature high-level discussions between His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan, further reinforcing the commitment to strengthening bilateral relations.

Ambassador Goksu emphasized that the committee's discussions would focus on increasing bilateral trade, advancing joint investment projects, and enhancing cooperation in critical sectors such as defense, energy, and environmental sustainability. Additionally, initiatives in healthcare, cultural exchange, and education will be central to the agenda, reflecting the holistic approach to the Qatari-Turkish partnership.

The ambassador concluded by reiterating that the Qatari-Turkish relationship is not only essential but also indispensable for the stability and prosperity of the region. He noted that both nations have consistently supported each other in times of hardship and success, demonstrating a shared commitment to promoting peace, security, and development. The upcoming session of the committee, he said, provides an invaluable opportunity for both countries to address shared challenges, reaffirm their strategic partnership, and continue their efforts toward building a more prosperous future for the region and beyond.