



## **Greek Turkish Forum (GTF) Statement**

Athens, October 25, 2024

The Greek Turkish Forum (GTF) members met in Athens on 24-25 October 2024 to discuss recent developments in Greek-Turkish relations and the Eastern Mediterranean.

The GTF wholeheartedly condemns the heinous terrorist attack of 23 October 2024 in the outskirts of Ankara, Türkiye, and expresses its deep sympathy to the victims and their families. An unequivocal condemnation and increased cooperation against terrorism is essential for the protection of regional peace and stability.

The GTF assessed the progress achieved regarding the positive agenda between Greece and Türkiye. It welcomes the consolidation of the good climate and the progress achieved in bilateral relations, the enhancement of trust and communication, as well as the decision to have regular meetings between the leaders.

The drastic reduction of tension in the Aegean is a significant progress that can pave the ground for constructive negotiations to solve bilateral problems.

The GTF notes with content the success of the visa facilitation program that allowed a sharp rise of human-to-human contacts across the Aegean and recommends the continuation and extension of the program.

More initiatives promoting the dialogue between civil societies and academic communities would be a welcome development. In this context, the education sector should be prioritized as the younger generations hold the key to a better future.

Observing with concern the escalation of conflict in the Middle East and the Black Sea region, creating unprecedented security challenges, the GTF stresses the importance of progress in dealing with the Cyprus problem. In this context, the GTF welcomes the UN Secretary-General's initiative to host an informal dinner with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities.

Considering the history of the Cyprus problem, the GTF believes any future negotiations, if the parties decide to resume them, should be phased, meaningful, and result-oriented, with an agreed time frame and an established mechanism for addressing potential deadlocks.

The GTF declares its willingness to support any steps to consolidate the progress achieved in the Greek-Turkish bilateral relations and contribute in any way possible.

*The GTF Members*