



2025 Country Report Turkmenistan

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In 2025, Turkmenistan deepened strategic partnerships, bolstering economic growth and enhancing cooperation both regionally and internationally. These diplomatic ties enabled Turkmenistan to enter new markets, strengthening its role in the development of the Middle Corridor.

Key Points:

- Turkmenistan struck a landmark gas export deal with Türkiye. With gas exports to Türkiye beginning in March and running through October, the project served as a pilot initiative to assess technical and logistical hurdles for future cooperation.
- Turkmenistan's President Serdar Berdimuhamedow engaged in diplomatic engagements, such as the C5 + 1 summit in Washington, opening new doors for international business.
- The success of formats like C5 reinforced the power of regional cooperation to reach mutually beneficial goals and underscored Turkmenistan's ability to engage in regional dialogue to increase trade, develop trade routes, and negotiate resource sharing.

➤ Energy and Natural Resources

Turkmenistan and Türkiye Sign Landmark Gas Deal

On February 11, Türkiye's energy minister, Alparslan Bayraktar, stated that Türkiye's state-owned pipeline operator BOTAŞ and Turkmenistan's Turkmengaz have reached a deal on the transportation of natural gas from Turkmenistan to Türkiye. Under the agreement, Ankara may purchase up to 2 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas per year. The deal plans to begin the gas flow on March 1. The agreement, reached after 27 years of negotiations, will diversify both Türkiye's natural gas imports and Turkmenistan's export markets. The gas is expected to be transported via Iran's existing natural gas network. The representatives reportedly also agreed to continue discussions about constructing a Trans-Caspian pipeline for the more direct export westward of Turkmenistan's natural gas.

Source: Reuters

Turkish Energy Minister: Trans-Caspian Connection Needed to Transport Turkmen Gas in the Long Run

During an interview with a local media outlet, Türkiye's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Alparslan Bayraktar, said that on March 1, Türkiye will start receiving Turkmenistan's natural gas. Under the agreement between Türkiye and Turkmenistan, 1.3 billion cubic meters of Turkmen natural gas will be transported to Türkiye via gas swaps with Iran. During the interview, Bayraktar also mentioned that for the long-term feasibility of transporting Turkmen gas to Türkiye and European markets, a Trans-Caspian connection, presumably a pipeline from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan, will be needed.

Source: Alparslan Bayraktar's X account (@aBayraktar1)

Türkiye Confirms First Delivery of Turkmen Gas

During an interview with Turkish television channel A Haber on March 2, Türkiye's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Alparslan Bayraktar, confirmed that natural gas supply from Turkmenistan to Türkiye had begun, in accordance with the agreement signed between the two countries in February. "We are currently supplying this gas (from Turkmenistan) through Iran via barter (gas swap). This agreement is very important for the security of Türkiye's supplies and for expanding and diversifying gas sources," Bayraktar said. According to Bayraktar, in the medium and long term, transporting Turkmen gas to Türkiye and Europe via a pipeline across the Caspian Sea would "actually be the most ideal and correct way, both technically and commercially." After several months of successful deliveries, Turkmenistan

temporarily suspended natural gas exports to Turkey in October. Turkmenistan expressed its willingness to resume deliveries if both parties can reach an agreement on volumes and pricing.

Source: [Interfax](#), [The Times of Central Asia](#)

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan Agree on Amu Darya Water Management

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to enhance cooperation on the efficient use of Amu Darya water resources, following discussions held on March 13–14 in Turkmenabat. Officials from both countries focused on modernizing water infrastructure, flood prevention, and optimizing resource use, reaffirming commitments made during the fourth Uzbekistan–Turkmenistan intergovernmental meeting on water management. They also plan to collaborate on hydrotechnical projects, joint research, and training initiatives. The talks came amid growing concerns about Afghanistan’s Qosh-Tepa Canal project, which could divert an estimated 15% of the Amu Darya’s water and exacerbate regional water scarcity.

Source: [Caspian News](#)

Turkmenistan’s Electric Aspirations

Turkmen officials have announced the start of construction of an energy-efficient power plant on the Caspian shoreline, to meet domestic demand and export surplus electricity. This site will contain a combined-cycle power plant with a projected annual generating capacity of about 1.6 gigawatts.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Turkmenistan Plans to Export 500 Million Cubic Meters of Gas to Afghanistan Following TAPI Pipeline Completion

Following the completion of the Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan–India (TAPI) pipeline, Turkmenistan projects that gas exports to Afghanistan will reach 500 million cubic meters during the initial years of delivery. Construction along the Serhetabad–Herat route began in September 2024, with completion expected in 2026 and the first gas deliveries planned for early 2027. While progress has been gradual, the pipeline represents a significant opportunity to enhance Afghan–Turkmen economic cooperation.

Source: [Interfax](#)

➤ International Diplomacy and Regional Cooperation

Meeting between Turkmenistan and UNICEF

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Myahri Byashimova, and Head of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Representative Office in Turkmenistan, Jalpa Ratna, met on January 23 to discuss future relations between the organization and the country. During this meeting, both parties discussed the National Action Plan for the Realization of Children's Rights in Turkmenistan for 2023-2028, which outlines revisions to various Turkmenistan laws to better protect children. However, the highlight of this meeting was the discussion on the formation of the 2026-2030 Turkmenistan-UNICEF Country Program, which focuses on improving children's lives across all sectors.

Source: [Akipress](#)

Turkmenistan's FM Travels to Tehran, Meets with Pezeshkian

On February 12 in Tehran, Iran, Turkmenistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rashid Meredov, and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated their commitment to strengthening cooperation in trade, energy, and infrastructure. Iran is expected to be a key player in Turkmen gas, as Turkmenistan seeks to ship natural gas to Iraq and Türkiye through gas swaps.

Source: [Tehran Times](#)

20th EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting Takes Place in Turkmenistan

On March 27, the 20th European Union (EU)-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, with the foreign ministers of the five Central Asian states in attendance. European Commission High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President Kaja Kallas highlighted during her remarks that EU remains as by far the largest investor in Central Asia, stating that "The development of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor for example is a major ongoing project, and it is good news that the European and international financial institutions are ready to mobilize over €10 billion for this." A 23-point [joint statement](#) issued following the foreign ministerial meeting focused mainly on promoting trade and addressing global warming-related issues, but also included a point on preventing sanctions circumvention and another on "the importance of advancing the rule of law, democracy, good governance and accountability, gender equality and universal human rights."

Source: [The Diplomatic Service of the European Union](#), [European Council](#)

EU Vice-President Kallas Visits Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan

As part of her Central Asia tour, the European Commission High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President, Kaja Kallas, visited Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan between March 27 and March 28. Following the Ministerial Meeting in Turkmenistan, Kallas visited Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where she met with President Mirziyoyev to discuss the upcoming EU-Central Asia Summit and emphasized the importance of deepening EU-Uzbek cooperation in trade, logistics, digitalization, green energy, and infrastructure. Kallas concluded her tour in Astana, where she met with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to discuss several priority areas of bilateral collaboration, including trade, transportation, digitalization, global security, and water resource management.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#), [EFEComunica](#)

Turkmenistan's President Berdimuhamedow Visits Azerbaijan

On July 16, Chairman of the People's Council of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow visited Azerbaijan, where he held meetings with President Ilham Aliyev and toured the Karabakh economic region. The sides discussed progress achieved in political, economic, humanitarian, and other spheres, including transport and energy, as well as views on future cooperation. Speaking about trade-economic relations, Berdimuhamedow emphasized the annual increase in trade turnover between the two countries.

Source: [President of the Republic of Azerbaijan](#), [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan](#)

Baku Hosts 8th Meeting of Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan Intergovernmental Commission

On July 28, the 8th meeting of the Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation in the Economic and Humanitarian Spheres between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan took place in Baku, Azerbaijan. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Economy, Mikayil Jabbarov, and the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Nokerguli Atagulyev. According to Jabbarov, the sides discussed prospects for promoting mutual investments. "Noting with satisfaction the positive outcomes of our joint efforts, we explored opportunities to enhance further cooperation and mutual investments across various sectors, including business, trade, energy, transport, industry, and agriculture," he added.

Source: [Report.az](#), [X](#)

Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to Strengthen Their Cooperation

Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and Turkmenistan President Serdar Berdimuhamedov met on August 5 in Awaza, Turkmenistan. The meeting took place during the third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. The presidents discussed bilateral cooperation, particularly in trade and investment. The creation of a “roadmap 2026-2028” was suggested in the meeting, which would aim at increasing the trade turnover between the two countries. The parties also discussed deepening cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, and transport, among other areas.

Source: [Asiaplustj.info](https://asiaplustj.info)

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan Hold Trilateral Summit

Turkmenistan’s Chairman of the People’s Council, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, invited Presidents Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Ilham Aliyev to visit Turkmenistan on August 22. The meeting took place in Awaza, a tourist destination on the Turkmen coast of the Caspian Sea. The discussions included increased cooperation on trade, energy, transport, and humanitarian affairs. Mirziyoyev emphasized the ongoing construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway and the recent memoranda signed with Afghanistan and Pakistan on the trans-Afghan corridor. They endorsed the development of the Zangezur corridor through Armenia and the creation of opportunities to develop joint projects to export renewable energy to Europe. The leaders also discussed cooperation to establish joint hydrocarbon extraction projects in the Caspian Sea. Mirziyoyev proposed creating a joint roadmap to implement these initiatives and hold regular meetings.

Source: [Daryo](https://daryo.az)

Turkmenistan’s President Serdar Berdimuhamedov Speaks Before General Debate at the 2025 UN General Assembly

Berdimuhamedov addressed delegates in New York to reiterate Turkmenistan’s commitment to neutrality and to building trust among UN member states. After Berdimuhamedov had declared 2025 an “International Year of Peace and Trust” earlier this year, he stated that his country would host a world summit to establish a universal code of trust and respect for states to follow. The Turkmen head of state added that the government remains committed to addressing climate change and supporting a digital transformation “free of politicization” within Turkmenistan.

Source: [United Nations](https://www.un.org), [Eurasiamagazine](https://eurasiamagazine.com)

Trade and Connectivity

Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Romania Meet to Discuss Transit Route

According to a statement from the Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officials from Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Romania held a video conference on February 10 to discuss a draft agreement to advance an international trading route linking the Caspian Sea and the Black Sea. Such a route would enable the shipment of Turkmen gas, along with other goods and resources, to Europe.

Source: [The Times of Central Asia](#)

Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan Launch Free Trade Regime

Uzbekistan's Ministry of Investment, Industry, and Trade announced that Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have implemented a free-trade regime, eliminating tariffs on most goods and simplifying trade procedures. The agreement removes duties on key Uzbekistani exports to Turkmenistan, including cement, textiles, furniture, plastics, and food products. To boost exports, Uzbekistan has launched new trade facilitation mechanisms. In 2024, bilateral trade reached \$1.14 billion, up 5.5% from last year.

Source: [Trend news](#)

Kobakhidze Visits Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan for Middle Corridor Talks

Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has visited Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan as part of a Central Asia tour focused on developing the Middle Corridor transit route. Kobakhidze's trip included meetings with Uzbekistan's Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Turkmenistan. President Seder Berdimuhamedow, during which Georgia's Prime Minister stated his aim of expanding transit connectivity. Kobakhidze's trip comes after a year in which Georgia has grown isolated from its traditional partners, the United States and the European Union.

Source: [Civil.ge](#)

Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan Set \$1 Billion Trade Goals

On April 22, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the Head of the Turkmen People's Council Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow met in Kazakhstan's Turkistan region to discuss energy and transport projects. The two leaders highlighted the importance of increasing mutual trade turnover to \$1 billion in the coming years. Discussions also focused on the energy sector, including Kazakhstan's potential involvement in developing Turkmenistan's

Galkynysh gas field. Additionally, Tokayev spoke on the potential of the proposed Turkmenistan–Afghanistan–Pakistan railway line.

Source: [Caspian News](#), [Business Turkmenistan](#)

Uzbekistan to Consider Buying Turkmen Ferries

Uzbekistan's Transport Minister, Ilkhom Makhkamov, announced that his government was considering the purchase of vessels from Turkmenistan's shipyard. Currently, there is a cargo bottleneck across the Caspian Sea, with delays of 30–40 days. Following the trilateral summit among Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Azerbaijan, Minister Makhkamov confirmed the Turkmen shipbuilding agreement, stating that these ferries will help Uzbekistan streamline cargo flows among the three countries and along the Middle Corridor.

Source: [Orda](#)

President Berdimuhamedow Discusses Pipeline Project with President Trump

On November 6, before the C5+1 Presidential Summit held in Washington, DC, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow and U.S. President Donald Trump held bilateral discussions. The sides recognized the mutual benefits of expanding and diversifying international markets for Turkmen natural gas. It was also emphasized that after ongoing cooperation between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan concludes on the delimitation of the Caspian seabed, Turkmenistan "intends to consider the possibility of implementing the Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline Project." It was also noted that Turkmenistan intends to consider participating in developing new trade and transportation opportunities in the Central Asia-Caucasus region arising from the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP), which extends across the South Caucasus nations of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Türkiye, and into Europe.

Source: [U.S. Department of State](#)

Business and Economy

Turkmen Airlines Extends the Suspension of Moscow–Ashgabat Flights

Turkmen Airlines extended its suspension of flights between Moscow and Ashgabat until March. The airline did not provide reasons for the decision. Flights were initially suspended on December 30, 2024, and were expected to resume by January 31, 2025. But on January 31, the airline confirmed the extension of the suspension. Meanwhile, S7 Airlines has been operating Moscow–Ashgabat flights daily since January 15. S7 remains the only airline running regular flights between Russia and Turkmenistan.

The suspension of several airlines' routes to Russia followed the December 25 crash of an Azerbaijan Airlines plane near Aktau, Kazakhstan, that resulted in 38 deaths.

Source: [Interfax](#)

Turkmenistan Meets with Representatives of U.S. Companies

On March 4, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to the United States Meret Orazov held a meeting in Washington, DC, with the representatives of American companies, including Boeing, John Deere, Case New Holland, Palo Alto, Climate Compass, ExxonMobil, Oxbow, Sig Sauer, and Coca-Cola. During the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities to expand economic cooperation and develop business initiatives in Turkmenistan.

Source: [Business Turkmenistan](#)

Turkmenistan's Berdymukhamedov Courts French Investment in Rare Foreign Visit

Turkmenistan's Chairman of the People's Council and former President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov visited France on May 5 and 6, signaling a shift toward opening the country's economy. During the trip, Ashgabat signed multiple memoranda of understanding with French firms in sectors including aviation, agriculture, telecommunications, and gas development. While the agreements lacked specific details, they reflect a symbolic step away from isolation. Berdymukhamedov met with President Emmanuel Macron and addressed a Turkmen-French economic forum, encouraging French small and medium-sized enterprises to invest in sectors beyond energy, such as tourism and urban development. The visit follows Turkmenistan's recent efforts to re-engage with the West, including a March gas-swap deal via Türkiye.

Source: [Eurasianet](#)

Mitsubishi to Construct Urea Plant in Turkmenistan by 2029

The Japanese industrial group signed a contract with Turkmenistan's state-owned chemical company, SC Turkmenhimiya, to build a \$1.3 billion urea plant on the coast of the Caspian Sea to produce up to 3,500 metric tons of urea and 2,000 metric tons of ammonia every day. The contract also included the Turkish company Gap İnşaat; the plant's outputs will be used to produce fertilizers.

Source: [Mitsubishi Heavy Industries](#), [Reuters](#)

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