

**Joint Declaration
on the Strategic Partnership
between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria**

The Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Recognizing their traditionally excellent bilateral relations of friendship and partnership based on long-standing historical and cultural ties between the Armenian and the Bulgarian people, as well as mutual respect and trust, and convergence of their interests in various fields,

Reaffirming their unequivocal support to each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity,

Remaining committed to universally recognized principles and norms of international law, particularly the purposes and principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act,

Underlining their commitment to the promotion and protection of shared fundamental values as a basis of their partnership, including the commitment to uphold freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law,

Recalling the Treaty of Friendly Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria of April 10, 1995,

Bearing in mind the growing partnership between Armenia and the European Union within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, and recalling the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the Republic of Armenia and the EU, signed on November 24, 2017, the Strategic Agenda for Armenia-EU Partnership, as well as the EU's Resilience and Growth Plan for Armenia for the period 2024-2027,

Reaffirming Armenia's aspiration to strengthen its political, economic, security and social ties with the European family and the broader community of democratic states,

Aiming at contributing to regional and international security, stability, and peace,

Stressing that the present Joint Declaration is not directed against any other State or a group of States, and does not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from an international agreement signed by either of the Parties individually or jointly with a third state, as well as the rights and obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria arising from its membership in the European Union,

Recognizing the peace in the South Caucasus as a key factor for the economic growth and development of the region and the enormous potential for cooperation with Europe, especially in transport, energy and ICT sectors,

Acknowledging the role and efforts of the EU in achieving sustainable and lasting peace in the South Caucasus, as well as the EU's position as a long-term partner of the countries in the South Caucasus region in strengthening cooperation and sustainable and inclusive connectivity,

Expressing strong support for the inclusive approach proposed by the European Commission and the European External Action Service towards the Republic of Armenia, aiming at the full inclusion of the country in strategically significant regional and cross-regional initiatives,

Stressing the importance of the EU strategic approach to the Black Sea region and the EU's Global Gateway program, as well as Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" initiative, the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP) and Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) for promotion of regional stability and regional and cross-regional connectivity,

Emphasizing the shared desire and determination of the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria to expand and deepen their relations in the areas of foreign policy, economy, high technologies, defense, space, security, justice, culture, education, environment, social affairs, and youth cooperation,

Striving to elevate their bilateral relations to a new level,

Hereby declare the establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria.

Strategic Partnership Framework

1. Political Dialogue, Regional, and International Cooperation

1.1 The Parties will sustain and intensify high-level contacts between political leaders and representatives of the executive and legislative bodies of both states.

1.2 The Parties will conduct annual political consultations between their foreign policy agencies to exchange views and discuss positions on bilateral relations, as well as on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

1.3 Highlighting the importance of deepening Armenia-EU partnership, the Parties will conduct regular bilateral sectoral consultations aligned with the European aspirations of the people of Armenia. These efforts will focus on supporting Armenia's approximation with the EU standards, contributing to the diversification of the economy of Armenia, as well as its trade relations.

1.4 The Parties will actively cooperate within international organizations, including the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

1.5 The Parties will work to promote and strengthen democratic institutions, human rights, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, effective governance, and anti-corruption efforts.

1.6 The Parties will enhance communication and consultations between their sectoral agencies to develop institutional cooperation and expand the multi-sector cooperation agenda.

1.7 Bulgaria welcomes the agreements reached in Washington DC on 8 August, 2025 in order to reach regional security, stability and peace, and recognizes the "Crossroads of Peace" initiative, as a constructive and forward-looking proposal that further contributes to regional connectivity, trust-building, and economic cooperation.

2. Security, Defense and Justice

2.1 The Parties recognize the potential for enhanced security and defense cooperation and agree to explore opportunities to strengthen collaboration in areas of common interest.

2.2 The Parties will exchange information within international and regional organizations to address shared security challenges as well.

2.3 The Parties reaffirm their commitment to maintaining and promoting a free, open, universal, human-centric, secure, and interoperable cyberspace.

2.4 The Parties will strengthen their cooperation in the field of cybersecurity, in combating organized crime, as well as countering cybercrime and hybrid threats by establishing joint initiatives, including technical assistance and capacity-building programs.

2.5 The Parties will develop mutually beneficial cooperation within their competence in the field of countering disinformation and combating Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), by strengthening interaction between public and private institutions of both Parties, and conducting sectoral consultations.

2.6 The Parties will continue to implement the activities of mutual interest agreed upon in the bilateral annual defense cooperation plans in the Republic of Armenia and in the Republic of Bulgaria.

2.7 Bilateral defense cooperation will be advanced at both high-level and working-level engagements, including through establishing, if necessary, resident defense attaché office of the Republic of Armenia in the Republic of Bulgaria.

2.8 Defense cooperation will be advanced also within the Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the European Union, establishing a framework for the participation of the Republic of Armenia in European Union crisis management operations, signed in Yerevan on 30 June, 2025.

2.9 The Parties will strengthen cooperation in crisis management and emergency response through the joint initiatives and training, including capacity-building programs and also enhanced coordination between competent authorities to strengthen resilience to natural and man-made disasters.

2.10 The Parties will strengthen cooperation in the justice sector, including the fields of human rights and penitentiary, based on, but not limited to the Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria on legal assistance in civil matters (signed on April 10, 1995, in Sofia), as well as the Agreement between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria on legal assistance in criminal matters (signed on April 10, 1995, in Sofia).

3. Economic, High-Tech, Innovation and Infrastructure Cooperation

3.1 The Parties reaffirm their commitment to develop and expand economic and trade relations, to enhance the growth of the trade turnover, prioritizing sectors such as information technology, healthcare, water and water infrastructure management, waste management, biodiversity, sustainable land management, smart agriculture, renewable energy, tourism, wine-making.

3.2 The Parties will promote joint ventures and research initiatives in high-tech industries, particularly in semiconductors, biomedicine, artificial intelligence, robotics, and cloud computing, as well as exchange of IT specialists.

3.3 The Parties will regularly convene the sessions of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Bulgaria to consolidate the potential of the sectorial cooperation with a special focus on development of cooperation in the economic sectors of mutual interest.

3.4 Economic cooperation will be further enhanced by facilitating communication between economic stakeholders, startups, and free economic zones.

3.5 The Parties will encourage the promotion of direct investments by contributing to the establishment of a conducive investment environment in their respective countries and protecting each other's investments, including by re-negotiating the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria on reciprocal protection promotion of investments, signed on April 10, 1995 in Sofia, according to the new requirements of the European Commission.

3.6 Bulgaria shall support Armenia in joining the regional economic projects with the understanding that inclusiveness and participation of all countries of the South Caucasus in such projects will bring both economic benefits to all countries involved, and also promote peace and security in the South Caucasus region.

3.7 Recognizing the multifaceted challenges faced by Armenia as a result of being a landlocked country with a limited access to global trade markets, the Parties will enhance cooperation to promote regional and international trade and transport connectivity, including through support to each other's projects, such as Armenia's "Crossroads of Peace" initiative.

3.8 The Parties agreed to collaborate with the aim to implement Sustainable Development Goals, promote innovation and technological advances, and transition to a green economy. The Parties will cooperate to leverage the existing and prospective loss and damage finance mechanisms for addressing climate induced loss and damage and building resilience towards natural disasters, through disaster risk reduction projects.

3.9 The Parties shall enhance cooperation in the areas of sustainable food, food safety and security, and agriculture by adopting technology-based solutions and modern systems to promote investments in the field of food and agriculture, including smart agriculture and facilitating agri-business trade.

3.10 The Parties will exchange best practices in addressing challenges of climate change in Armenia's and Bulgaria's vulnerable ecosystem.

3.11 The Parties will explore cooperation in the field of cloud computing and data analytics with the aim of developing the cloud infrastructure of Armenia and Bulgaria, focusing on the use of cloud technologies for digital transformation.

3.12 The Parties will organize joint business and technology conferences in both Armenia and Bulgaria, providing a platform for stakeholders to connect, share ideas, and collaborate.

3.13 The Parties will explore participation in international high-tech exhibitions and technology fairs, showcasing their collective capabilities and attracting global investment into both countries technological sectors.

3.14 The Parties will join efforts to resume direct flights between Armenia and Bulgaria with the aim of promoting tourism, business and people-to-people contacts.

3.15 The Parties attach special importance to invigorating the decentralized cooperation and partnership between the local authorities of the two states, including the one established between Yerevan and Sofia, as an additional impetus of the bilateral relations.

3.16 The Parties will encourage cooperation between industrial zones, free economic zones, technology parks and innovation hubs of the two countries.

3.17 The Parties will conduct consultations on bilateral and multilateral connectivity projects of mutual interest in the field of energy, transport, digitalization, etc.

3.18 The Parties will explore collaboration in space exploration and satellite technology.

3.19 The Parties will explore opportunities to launch joint space programs, including the development of small satellites, and potential cooperation in space policy.

4. Energy

4.1 The Parties shall develop cooperation in the field of energy, particularly in the issues of development of green hydrogen and renewable energy projects.

4.2 Considering the capacities to produce significant amount of renewable energy of both countries, the Parties aim to organize joint consultations on green hydrogen and renewable energy projects, particularly on the development of solar and wind projects.

4.3 The Parties shall promote the cooperation between the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant and Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant to enhance the energy security, and to achieve the shared goal of the parties in ensuring that the next generation of nuclear energy will be developed to the highest standards of safety, security, and nonproliferation.

5. Education, Science, Culture, Sports and Tourism

5.1 Collaboration between specialized educational and research centers, institutions, universities, and schools through exchange programs, training, and master classes will be promoted.

5.2 The Parties will promote academic partnerships between universities in Armenia and Bulgaria in fields such as engineering, architecture, artificial intelligence, robotics, renewable energy, quantum technologies, and cybersecurity, with a focus on joint research projects and faculty/student exchanges.

5.3 Bulgaria acknowledges the potential of Armenia's Academic City as a hub for academic collaboration and innovation, furthering shared goals in education and research.

5.4 Cultural dialogue will be strengthened, with a focus on cultural and natural heritage protection and preservation in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant organizations.

5.5 Tourism cooperation will include hospitality training, joint festivals, investment conferences, and efforts to increase mutual awareness of each country's history and culture.

5.6 The Parties will enhance cooperation in the field of physical culture and sports. This will include participation in international sporting events held in both countries, the organization of joint training camps, and the conduct of coaching seminars. It will also involve the exchange of knowledge and best practices among specialists in high-performance sport, mass sport, adaptive sport, sports medicine, and sports science.

This Joint Declaration does not create rights or obligations under international law, does not fall within the scope of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), and instead reflects political commitments.

Signed in _____ on _____ in two original copies in Armenian, Bulgarian and English, all the texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For the Republic of Armenia

For the Republic of Bulgaria

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan

President Iliana Iotova