



AFTER KARABAKH WARFARE SIX-COUNTRY COLLABORATION PLATFORM (IS A NOVEL PAGE IN SOUTH CAUCASUS?)

Dr. Nazrin ALIZADA

Baku - Azerbaijan

nazrinnalizada@gmail.com

Syed Waqas Ali Kausar

Assistant Professor

Department of Governance and Public Policy

NUML

Islamabad – Pakistan

swakauser@numl.edu.pk

Sajid Iqbal

Ph. D Scholar and Lecturer

Department of International Relations

NUML

Islamabad – Pakistan

Abstract

The Karabakh problem had been evaluated in the category of frozen conflicts after the signing of the cease-fire agreement between two states in 1994. Despite the cease-fire agreement, Azerbaijan and Armenia have come to the brink of war several times due to border violations. In this context, the last phase of the conflict occurred between two states at the end of September 2020, and the final agreement was signed under the mediation of Russia. Within the framework of the treaty, the liberation of Karabakh brought the possibility of cooperation in the region. In this regard, the creation of the Six-Country Regional Corporation Platform in the Caucasus was mentioned during the victory parade, which was held in Baku, in December 2020 by the President of Turkey. The axis of this study will be investigated both the expectations of states from the cooperation platform and the issue of obstacles to the creation of it.

Key Words: South Caucasus, Six-Country Corporation, Regional States, Non-Regional Actors



Introduction

The Karabakh problem has existed since the 1980s and caused a new war which brought out between Azerbaijan and Armenia in September 2020. As a result of this war, Armenia lost lots of loss of life and property especially in the field of military ammunition. During this process, the parties tried two unsuccessful attempts to make a ceasefire but parallel to the increase of military losses in Armenia this country decided to make the agreement and withdraw its armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan. The agreement ensuring the gradual return of Azerbaijan lands was signed between Azerbaijan-Armenia-Russia on November 10, 2020. The prominent nuance that should be particularly emphasized in this agreement was the inclusion of Turkey in the regulation process to oversee the sequels of the war and the implementation of the agreement. In this framework, the surveillance center was established with the participation of Russia and Turkey in accordance with the agreement, and Turkey has gained as much effectiveness as Russia in fulfilling the terms of the treaty and observing possible violations.

After the Karabakh War, new cooperation possibilities came to the fore on the axis of the Caucasus. In particular, the settlement in the strategic location made the lands where liberated from the occupation, being the focus of routes of transportation and infrastructure projects. Following these improvements, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who is aware of new investment and cooperation opportunities, put forward the idea of establishing a regional cooperation platform. Within the changing characters of the regional collaboration, the six-country cooperation platform commenced attracting attention of the agenda of the international arena. In fact, it can be said that the basis of this venture, which is described as a novel strategic initiative by the international community, relates to the four-country cooperation platform previously realized by the parties. As a matter of fact, the developments in the axis of the Karabakh War brought with the opportunity to expand this quadruple platform. Taking this into consideration, President Erdoğan made a proposal of six-party cooperation for the new platform which planned to be constructed.

1. The Six Collaboration Platform: The Leading Process

The proffer of the platform put forward is actually an extension of an old strategic initiative. As it is known, divergent meetings were held with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Iran previously. On this axis, summits based on the tripartite mechanism have been held among Turkey, Azerbaijan and Iran since 2011 and Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Georgia since 2014. Parallel to this, the conference was held on December 20, 2017, hosted by Azerbaijan, with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Iran.



The aforementioned meeting came to the fore with the idea of further expanding the tripartite concilium mechanism and proliferation to the southwest region. In this context, the establishment of a new strategic mechanism has come to the fore. Thus, the tripartite meeting also formed the basis for the idea of creating a six-country cooperation platform. The main focus of the aforethought platform is about the idea of enlarging the South Caucasus to the world gradually. In order to realize this strategy, the fourth state must be from the same region. However, thanks to Armenia's problems with Azerbaijan, Yerevan was not considered as an alternative at that time. In the case of this situation, Georgia has been evaluated as the most reasonable variation due to having the fact that Azerbaijan-Turkey-Georgia is part of similar negotiations. In addition, both Georgia aspires to revive its economy and the completion of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Project (Aslanli, 2013, 28).

The Parties decided to activate this mechanism on the date of the 6th Global Baku Forum. Thus, with the participation of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Iran, and Georgia, the Baku Declaration was signed on 15 March 2018 with the idea of contributing to the strengthening of regional cooperation and peace (MFA of the Republic of Turkey, 2018). At the same time, within the framework of this Form, an agreement called the Roadmap of the Quadrilateral Cooperation Mechanism was also reached, which is based on the creation of a new transport corridor from south to west. The main agenda of this agreement is the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway, a 180-kilometer railway line connecting Iran-Azerbaijan cities, and the completion of this project within three years.

Actually, the idea of creating a six-country corporation platform, which took its base from the quadruple cooperation format, was put forward in 2008 by president Erdoğan under the name of "Platform for Stability and Cooperation in the Caucasus" for creating a political union with the participation of the Caucasus countries. In particular, the war that broke out in Georgia in 2008 had a great impact on the idea of creating this platform. Simultaneously, the irreconcilable relations between Azerbaijan-Armenia and Turkey-Armenia in the axis of the Karabakh conflict played a great role in not completing this regional platform as well. Although alternatives for the solution of regional problems are put forward within the framework of this platform such as initiating a dialogue process between the parties and thus taking steps to reach an agreement, it was not possible to promote regional integration with the attendance of three South Caucasian countries due to Armenia's refusing to recognize the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. In 2020, the developments in the Karabakh conflict created possibilities for Turkey to introduce its initiative to promote regional cooperation again.



In this regard, President Erdoğan brought up the issue of constituting a platform in the format of six-country cooperation at the parade organized for the victory celebrations of Azerbaijan in 2020. Azerbaijan celebrated the victory of 30 years of occupation by coordinating a giant ceremony in Baku. On the occasion of this ceremony, President Erdoğan went to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, upon the invitation of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. Before the ceremony, the two leaders visited Martyrs Street together and during the protocol, the speeches of the leaders attracted the attention of the international public. President Erdoğan made the following speech (Loginova, 2020):

Today, we (with Ilham Aliyev) discussed the possibility of creating a six-country platform that would include Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia, Iran, Georgia, and if desired, Armenia. Everything depends on Armenia's stance. Since, we have no problems with the Armenian people. If the Armenian side takes positive steps, we can open our border with Armenia.

After the aforementioned speech, President Erdoğan emphasized that the regional cooperation platform, which will include six countries, will be a win-win initiative for all regional actors in the Caucasus, and the victory in the Karabakh conflict will commence a new page in the history of this region. Expressing the belief of opening a new page, the President underlined the chance of opportunities which can be turned into serious advantages (Erdoğan Predlozhil Shestistoronniy Format, 2020). Ilham Aliyev also made the following statement in support of this issue (Aghayeva, 2020):

This platform may create a multi-faceted cooperation area and all participating regional countries in this cooperation platform can benefit from it.

After the statements, the question has started to be discussed in the international agenda: Will a new platform be created in the Caucasus? The debating of such an issue for negotiation was also triggered by the former Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif's diplomatic tour to Baku-Moscow-Yerevan-Tbilisi-Istanbul to explore the possibility of implementing the "Six-Country Format of Cooperation in the Caucasus". Within the framework of the visits completed on January 29, 2021, the points that Zarif mentioned in Russia and Turkey were very substantial. When he arrived in Moscow underlined that the goal of his Caucasus trip was to support the establishment of six-country cooperation in the region, with the participation of Turkey, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia. In the meantime, the former Minister discussed at the meeting regional problems such as the Karabakh conflict, the nuclear agreement, bilateral relations, and international issues including Syria, Afghanistan, and Yemen with the Russian counterpart. In addition, the



importance that Zarif attached in the Turkey-Iran cooperation can be understood from the speech which relates to regional issues he made on the Iranian State Television on the eve of his Ankara visit (Anadolu Agency, 2021):

This mechanism was previously mentioned by President Erdoğan and other officials in the region. I have had several discussions on this subject and I will share the results with the Turkish authorities. This issue has great prominence especially in terms of cooperation regarding transit routes.

As it can be seen, Iran welcomes the new cooperation platform put forward by Turkey and tries to benefit from it. At this point, the idea of a regional cooperation platform should be examined on the basis of countries.

2. Expectations of the States that will be Parties to the Cooperation Platform

Each state has separate reasons for requesting to establish a cooperation platform in the framework of its own national interests. Under this subtitle, the attitude of the relevant states will be analyzed.

Turkey

The main expectation of Turkey from this format, which is believed to bring a new commencing to the relations among Turkey, Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, and Iran, emerges regarding its targets in the axis of the Southern Caucasus and the Caspian Sea. As it is known, the Caspian is a region of interest with its hydrocarbon reserves and geostrategic location for both riparian and non-riparian states. Yet, Russia in particular has long had political influence in this region. At the same time, Turkey is also trying to maintain its role as a guarantor country not only in the solution of political problems but also aspires to increase political influence, and gain the consent of other actors in terms of regional hegemony in the context of the Karabakh conflict. Ankara wants to expand its tripartite format and develop commercial relations with the regional states in economic terms by the mutual win-win concept. Parallel to these goals, while Turkey is focusing to gain economic dominance by hosting the Caspian transit energy-transport routes, it also aims to consolidate ties with other Turkish states that have a littoral to the Caspian Sea. It can be said Turkey attempts to establish a solid foundation for its Central Asian proliferation.

In addition to what is mentioned above, Ankara is trying to actualize the experience of the Astana Process, which is carried out with Moscow and Tehran in the Middle East, to the



Caucasus. On the ground that Turkey has experienced if the regional states cooperate in the Middle East, the attempts of non-regional actors to shape the region are doomed to failure. In this context, Turkey has a priority to limit the influence of the Western World in the Caucasus, especially the USA and France, which are in the Minsk Trio. Therefore, Ankara believes that a cooperative environment should be created in the Caucasus by the states of this region.

Azerbaijan

The main expectancy of Azerbaijan from this endeavor, as in the trilateral and quadrilateral meetings, is to centralize its position in the region in line with its political interests and to consolidate the gains that have achieved as a result of the Karabakh War. Since Baku aims to include the planned railway transportation into the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Line, which is called the new Silk Road by taking advantage of Iran's proliferation strategy to Asia.

As an economic aspect, this cooperation platform is vital for Azerbaijan in terms of the economic future of Nakhchivan. Thanks to the aforethought projects, both Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan, where is the inseparable part of it will strengthen economically. At the same time, Nakhchivan will also be able to turn into one of the transportation centers.

In addition, after the resolution of the Karabakh conflict, Baku demands to come to an end to the security problems in the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan, within the framework of its trust in Turkey, believes that Ankara is the major actor that can build lasting peace in the region. Hence, Azerbaijan reacts positively to take part in a cooperation platform where Turkey's position will be centralized. Meanwhile, Baku believes that a cooperation process involving Yerevan can curb the negative ambitions of Armenia.

Russia

When the issue of regional cooperation is investigated from the point of view of Russia, it can be stated that the geopolitics of the Caucasus constitutes a chink in Moscow's amour. Because the emphasized region constitutes near abroad of Russia in terms of geopolitics. For this reason, Russia tried to indicate that the political conflicts in the South Caucasus could not be resolved without it. In this regard, Russia came to the fore with its mediation in the peace process of the Karabakh war. However, it had to accept the existence of Turkey in the region. That's why, Russia, which wants to guarantee its presence and position in the field with the least damage, does not want to stay out of the possible cooperation platform. As, such a situation can be interpreted as Russia's defeat in the



Caucasus. From this point of view, Moscow may accept to lose some political positions and choose to share its regional leadership with Turkey. In addition, Moscow is trying to balance the loss of position by making gains on the main field. The placement of the Russian Peacekeeping Force in the region with the agreement traced 10 November 2020 can also be interpreted as a major step towards this goal.

While evaluating from the economic aspect, Russia is willing to gain profit from the cooperation processes in the region by participating in the six-country collaboration platform. At the same time, this platform can be an opportunity for Russia, which wants to realize its Eurasian integration strategy, in terms of regaining the countries of the region.

Armenia

The positive attitudes of Armenia towards the strategic platform could turn it into economic and political advantages. Because it is known that this state was defeated in the war and had economic problems before the warfare. The instrumentalization of Armenia by the Armenian diaspora for their interests played a major role in dragging this state into the crisis. If Armenia changes its attitude towards Azerbaijan in the post-war period, a new phase will be opened in its relations with both Azerbaijan and Turkey. In this framework, Armenia may acquire economic wage by taking part in the creation of planned railways projects on the Yerevan-Nakhchivan-Baku and Armenia-Russia line. At the same time, Armenia will earn the chance to obtain transit rights from the novel energy projects planned to be realized. But all these improvements can only come true if Yerevan puts its aggressive stance aside.

Furthermore, it can be stated that the relations of the Armenian administration, led by Nikol Pashinian, with the West are positive. In this context, there are two scenarios regarding the six-country cooperation platform for Armenia. The first scenario is about Armenia's taking part in the platform and establishing beneficial relations with Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. In this variation, Yerevan can decrease its dependence on Moscow. Besides, opening gates of the border with Turkey may come to the agenda. And this may pave the way for Armenia to establish an uninterrupted connection with the West. Therefore, the authority of Pashinian may prefer to take part in the cooperation platform by considering the mentioned possibilities as an opportunity.

The second scenario relates to the distant approach of Pashinian, who is known as a Westernist leader, towards the cooperation platform that is foreseen to be established against the West's attempt to shape the region. In this case, Yerevan may not want to join



in a platform that will exclude the USA and France, which are the partners of the Minsk Trio. Nonetheless, this will increase Yerevan's dependence on Moscow.

In line with these two scenarios, the six-country cooperation initiative was evaluated by strategic projects consultant Armen Manukian. Although Manukian says that this platform is remarkable for now and promises new opportunities, he thinks that it may be the wrong decision for Armenian authorities to be a part of this platform in the current political situation (Logunova, 2020). Albeit this, some segments in Armenia call for dialogue and the establishment of diplomatic relations with both Azerbaijan and Turkey. Parallel to this, an interview was given by the Secretary of Armenian Security Council Armen Grigorian to Public Television attracts attention. In his interview, it was stated that Yerevan's approach towards Turkey should be changed. TV presenter Petros Ghazarian asked the Secretary of the Security Council the following question: Is Turkey no longer an enemy state for Armenia? Grigorian gave an explanatory response to the question (Turtsiya Bolshe Ne Vrag Armenii?, 2021):

It would be improper to say exactly that no threat has come from Turkey, but the fundamental processes developing in the region are creating new opportunities.

Drawing attention to the fact that the border between Armenia and Turkey has been closed since 1993, Grigorian underlined the major changes that took place after the war in the region and that a very important stage had been reached in the process of unblocking transportation communication. Hence, he stated that removing the barrier would create opportunities for a wider regional approach. In this regard, the expectations of Armenia from this platform are as follows:

- By participating in the platform and the process of creating long-term peace and security in the region, Armenia will show itself as a peace-supporting country in the international community.
- By securing its place on the platform that will include Iran, it will also get the chance to develop bilateral relations with the countries of the region.
- By joining this platform, Armenia, which has no reach to the sea, will easily interact with the international arena and regional markets.
- The usage of Armenia as a tool against Russia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey by Western countries will be prevented.
- Armenia will have the possibility to diversify and develop its energy sector.



Iran

Iran endeavors to predicate its willingness to promote bilateral and regional cooperation with a view to escaping from the grip of containment. Recently, the visits of former Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to the countries of the region and bilateral meetings of his are considered as an indication of positive attitudes of Iran to the creation of a regional cooperation platform.

Actually, Iran's intention of joining the new cooperation platform stems from its ambitions of expansion to the world irrespective of the pressure from the USA and its allies. Thanks to the six-country cooperation platform, the Tehran administration will be able to boost to the newly completed project such as Baku-Tbilisi-Kars via the Rasht-Astara Railway Line, which is planned to be built with Azerbaijan, and reach to the main route that will connect Asia and Africa to Northern Europe in the future.

Generally, Iran will have the opportunity to consolidate its transit connections with the South Caucasus and re-earn economic power within the axis of this mechanism. According to this, Iran is in favor of assisting regional energy and transportation projects especially. It is no coincidence that the former Foreign Minister of Iran expressed his willingness of reaching to the communications in all his meetings during his five-day trip. First of all, Iran tries to remove the communication barrier based on its national interests. In this context, it opts to use its geographical location at the intersection of South Asia and the Indian Ocean. If a six-country cooperation platform is established, Iran may strengthen its mission of being a transportation and energy hub for the South Caucasus. And this includes the transformation of Iran into a communication base between North-South and East-West. On the other hand, the Tehran administration attaches importance to the negotiations of the six-country cooperation platform in terms of its own regional projection. Because after the Karabakh war, the geopolitical balances in the region commenced to change and Turkey's position here became centralized. Therefore, Tehran wants to get the opportunity to further consolidate its position in the Caucasus by means of the six-country cooperation platform.

Georgia

It is possible to clarify the expectations of Georgia from the cooperation platform, with the precondition that Russia does not take part in this process. Tbilisi can accept to affiliate this format in order to gain the support of Ankara in its foreign policy orientations that relates to joining the West market. Moreover, since Georgia is a foreign-dependent country for energy, it may request to be involved in the same projects with Iran, which has significant energy reserves. Simultaneously, Georgia may opt to become an active member



of regional integration by taking advantage of the new economic initiatives planned to be realized within the framework of this mechanism.

On the other hand, even though Georgian decision-makers do not want to be involved in the same project with Russia, it is possible Georgia will react positively to this cooperation with the mediation of Turkey and Azerbaijan. Namely, for strengthening of the channels in the axis of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia problems, Tbilisi and Moscow may get a chance in the line of this platform.

3. The Impediments of Realization of the Cooperation Platform

Although it is predicted that considering gains the states of the region will be willing to construct this platform, it should be stated that there are also obstacles that will prevent the implementation of the project. The aforementioned obstacles arise mostly through the approach of the two countries. It is possible to say that especially Georgia and Armenia are the actors that delimit the potential of cooperation.

Georgia is in the position of the main actor that is not thought to be sympathetic to the six-country cooperation platform. In fact, Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili indirectly supported President Erdoğan's initiative in her speech at a conference of Georgian ambassadors on December 21, 2020. However, her speech was harshly criticized by the United National Movement led by Mikhail Saakashvili. The party members of the former president immediately made the following statement on the subject (Dvali, 2021):

By wanting to join the "six cooperation platform" proposed by Ankara, the ruling Georgian Dream Party is deliberately trying to drag Georgia into cooperating with invading Russia.

At the same time, Mikhail Saakashvili's party did not forget to emphasize that cooperation with Turkey in any format is significant for the interests of both countries. As it can be understood, Saakashvili was not against the format proposed by Turkey, vice-versa Russia's involvement in this platform. As such, after Zurbishvili's speech, Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani announced that his country would not participate in the formats in which Russia was represented. Thereupon, the President of Georgia, Salome Zurbishvili, put forward the 3+2 formula on regional cooperation and called for the creation of the Caucasus Platform. In her statement Zurbishvili said the following (Valizadeh, 2021):



We need to contemplate the Caucasus World Platform, which will unite the Caucasian countries, foreign actors, and international organizations. As for the possibility of Armenia joining the platform, if this country changes its stance towards two states, Azerbaijan and Turkey, and follows a constructive policy, it may be given the opportunity to join. Surely, Armenia should take part in this process by rethinking its position in regional politics and by giving up its territorial claims against its neighbors Azerbaijan and Turkey.

It is clear from Zurabishvili's statement that Georgia favors the creation of a Caucasian Platform that does not include Russia. For this reason, the Tbilisi administration does not take kindly to the six-country cooperation proposed by President Erdoğan. Actually, after Javad Zarif's trip to Georgia, the statement made by Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Khvtisiashvili on this issue was as follows (Gruziya ne Budet Uchastvovat, 2021):

We attach overwhelming importance to the peace and stability in the region. This is the most important stipulation for the stable development of the South Caucasus. Georgia supports the steps to ensure the security and well-being of our region. In this respect, the establishment of peaceful platforms is very vital. These platforms should primarily be established within the framework of dialogue and cooperation among the three countries in the South Caucasus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. This is the fundamental requirement for the development of important regional projects and cooperation. As for the extended regional peace platform, Georgia will not participate in a project where the country that occupies its territory is represented. As a consequence, we believe that such an attempt will not be successful until steps are taken to end the occupation.

Another statement regarding the formation of a peaceful platform in the Caucasus was made by Georgian Foreign Minister David Zalkaliani during his official visit to Turkey on 3 March 2021. Within the framework of this visit, Zalkaliani made an attempt to establish intensive cooperation among the three countries of the South Caucasus, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia; and expressed his satisfaction with the transformation of the city of Tbilisi into a platform for dialogue. According to Zalkaliani, a negotiation process should be initiated to determine the fate and future of the region among the three countries. That's why firstly a cooperation platform should develop with attendance of the local countries of the region(Dvali, 2021). It is obvious that this initiative of Tbilisi is clearly linked to the Turkish President's proposal to create a platform for strategic cooperation



between six countries in the region - Turkey, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and possibly Armenia. However, considering the Russian factor, it is currently unfeasible for Tbilisi and Moscow to attend in the same cooperation projection.

Evaluating Armenia's manner towards this cooperation opportunity, the Russian factor may be limiting. Some Armenian experts say that Russia will not accept the cooperation platform that Turkey has proposed; because Russia thinks that this offer will confine its regional influence. In other words, according to Armenian experts, Russia will not accept to include new partners in the region where it is the sole hegemon. Even, Armenian academician Ruben Safrastian said the following regarding this issue (Rossiya ne Poydet na Predlozheniye, 2021):

I guess the endeavor to create a new platform has no chance. Turkey's policy of expanding its geopolitical sphere of influence in the South Caucasus against Russia is the basis of this initiative. In the geostrategic sense, I am of the view that Russia and Turkey are not allies in the South Caucasus and represent divergent visions of this region. For this reason, Russia will oppose it in the future, if not now.

All in all, pro-Russian political tendencies in Armenia are disturbed by Turkey's increasing influence in the region. Furthermore, these segments think that the same ailment is also present in Moscow. Undoubtedly, this approach will have a limiting effect on cooperation and this attitude will trigger competition beyond it.

4. The Approach of Non-Regional Actors to Cooperation Negotiations in the South Caucasus

Although there are various barriers, the two substantial powers of the region, such as Ankara and Moscow, are in favor of the realization of the six-country cooperation platform. At this point, how non-regional actors view the cooperation discussions in the South Caucasus should also be examined. Specifically, the attitude of the USA and France which is the permanent member of the Minsk Group is a matter of curiosity.

United States of America (USA)

From the point of view of the USA, it can be said that Washington has serious but non-vital interests in the South Caucasus. That is, Washington has objectives such as maintaining stability in the region, preventing the resumption of disagreements in frozen conflict zones, supporting democratic reforms and improving government systems. But,



taking into consideration the Russian factor the USA does not directly intervene in the region. This does not mean that the Washington administration will remain unconditionally to the creation of a platform that includes Russia. Because a strategic cooperation platform led by Russia may result in confining the effect of the USA in the region for the next period. This is versus the external interests of the USA.

If this cooperation platform is put into practice, the USA will have to revise its South Caucasus policy and will need to intervene more in solving internal problems in the countries of the region. This intervention can be carried out based on several principles (Rumer and Skolsky, 2018):

- Prevention of conflicts in the region under the leadership of the USA;
- Promoting American values to the people of the region;
- Efficient use of the region's fuel and energy potential.

France

Another non-regional actor is France. Recently, this country attracted attention due to its biased attitude within the framework of the events happened in the South Caucasus. Particularly, the attitude of the Paris administration during the Karabakh War caused various criticisms. A group of French senators, under the influence of the Armenian diaspora and lobby, proposed to the Senate a draft resolution for the recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh as Republic. This behavior means that the borders of Azerbaijan recognized by the international law are ignored. In this regard, the idea of establishing such a cooperation platform in the region disturbs France. Because France, which obviously supports Armenia, is of the opinion that if the cooperation platform is implemented, its influence in the region will be further limited.

Conclusion

With the initiative of Turkey and the positive approach of regional actors such as Azerbaijan, Russia and Iran, the establishment of a new strategic cooperation platform in the six-part format is discussed. This mechanism can offer opportunities both for solving the problems between states and for the development of new economic and political alternatives. However, there are two issues that need to be taken into account. The first of these is whether Armenia will want to take part in this platform or not. The second one relates to Russia's attitude. Because there is no compromise about that is this platform to be created to balance Russia or it will be established for the fulfillment of regional cooperation with the contribution of Moscow?



As a result, even if there are different expectations and various obstacles to ensuring cooperation in the realization, it can be said that the creation of such a platform will enable the development of commercial relations between the states of the region. And also increasing interdependence through economic relations may restrain the aggressive policies of the regional states.



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