IPS/INS/090/2026-90

Institute of Policy Studies
Islamabad

November 17, 2026

IPS INSIGHTS
Perspectives On the Issues Shaping Policy

Türkiye-Qatar Mutual Defense Agreement

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Türkiye and Qatar signed a landmark bilateral Mutual Defense Agreement on November 13, 2026, in Istanbul. Formalized during the 12th meeting of the Türkiye-Qatar High Strategic Committee by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the pact pledges a unified response to any external armed attack targeting either nation.

The deal arrives amid heightened Gulf tensions driven by the ongoing regional conflict involving Iran, the United States, and Israel, alongside growing Gulf skepticism regarding the reliability of traditional American security guarantees.

Core Terms of the Türkiye–Qatar Pact

- **Collective Defense Commitment:** Both nations pledged a unified stance and coordinated action against any external armed aggression directed at either country.
- **Strategic Consultation:** Ankara and Doha agreed to regularly consult on threats to their national security, defense policies, and broader regional security issues.
- **Operational Integration:** The accord expands joint military exercises, personnel training exchanges, and bilateral defense-industry collaboration.
- **Diplomatic Coordination:** Alongside the defense pact, the two governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding on peace, reconciliation, and conflict resolution to prevent a wider Gulf war.

Impact on Regional Security and Stability

This bilateral pact does not exist in isolation. It caps a rapid series of overlapping security arrangements across the Islamic world in late 2026, most notably the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement signed in August 2026 by Türkiye, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, and the four-nation Badr Memorandum of Understanding signed in October 2026 by Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan, and Indonesia.

- **Deterrence Against Escalation:** The deal is designed to raise the strategic cost of attacking Gulf infrastructure rather than prepare for offensive war. By tying Qatar's security directly to Türkiye, which fields NATO's second-largest military, the pact deters regional adversaries from widening hostilities in the Persian Gulf.
- **Shift Toward Regional Self-Reliance:** Gulf states have increasingly concluded that US security umbrellas leave dangerous gaps during regional crises. The pact accelerates a structural shift toward indigenous, multi-polar security frameworks led by regional powers.
- **Bridging Gulf Rivalries:** Historically, close ties between Ankara and Doha caused

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friction with Riyadh. However, because Türkiye is now bound to both Saudi Arabia (via the Mecca Pact) and Qatar (via this bilateral deal), Ankara acts as a stabilizing bridge across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

How This Adds to Pakistan's Security

While Pakistan is not a direct signatory to the November 13 bilateral deal between Ankara and Doha, the agreement strengthens Islamabad's strategic position through interlocking alliances:

- **Reinforcing the Makkah Alliance Network:** Pakistan is already bound to Türkiye and Saudi Arabia under the Makkah Joint Defense Agreement, which treats an attack on one member as an attack on all. Bringing Qatar formally under Türkiye's defense umbrella harmonizes the security architecture of Pakistan's closest Middle Eastern partners, reducing the risk of Islamabad being caught between competing Gulf factions.
- **Fueling Joint Defense Production (The Badr MoU):** Just weeks earlier, on October 21, 2026, Pakistan, Türkiye, Qatar and Indonesia signed the Badr Memorandum of Understanding in Doha. Deeper military integration between Doha and Ankara unlocks Qatari financial investment for joint defense projects - combining Qatari capital, Turkish aerospace and naval technology, and Pakistan's defense manufacturing base (such as the MILGEM warship program and drone co-production).
- **Enhanced Diplomatic Leverage and Mediation:** Pakistan and Qatar have served as key diplomatic mediators in the regional conflict involving Iran and the United States. A stronger, more secure Doha-Ankara axis bolsters the diplomatic weight of this bloc, giving Islamabad greater geopolitical influence across both South Asia and the Middle East.
- **Securing Economic and Energy Lifelines:** Stability in Qatar and the Strait of Hormuz is vital to Pakistan's energy security and expatriate workforce. By deterring strikes on Qatari energy facilities and maritime routes, the pact indirectly safeguards Pakistan's critical LNG supply chains and remittance flows.