

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

2025-2029

CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE
CENTURY OF JUSTICE



ABBREVIATIONS

EU	European Union
ACEP	Project on the Integration of Smart Technologies into Penal Institutions
JSVSD	Judicial Support and Victim Services Directorates
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
BIPES	Individualized Personnel Training System
UN	United Nations
CELSE	Mobile Attorney Information System
CEPEJ	The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HMGS	Examination for Admission to Legal Professions
CCP	Code of Civil Procedure No. 6100
CJP	Council of Judges and Prosecutors
IYOS	Administrative Justice Preliminary Examination
TCC	Turkish Criminal Code No. 5237
HREIT	Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye
UTTS	National Vehicle Identification System
UYAP	National Judiciary Informatics System
JRS	Judicial Reform Strategy

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INTRODUCTION

1. Türkiye has pursued judicial reforms within a structured plan to strengthen the principle of a democratic state governed by the rule of law and to build a justice system that inspires public trust as of 2009. The first Judicial Reform Strategy was introduced in 2009, which was followed by strategy documents in 2015 and 2019.
2. These documents, with an understanding of continuity, have driven fundamental institutional changes. Each Judicial Reform Strategy has built upon the previous one, paving the way for further progress.
3. The latest Reform Document reflects an overview of the progress made so far and identifies new measures based on a thorough analysis of the justice system's needs. It serves as both a continuation of past efforts and a roadmap for addressing emerging challenges.
4. With this new Judicial Reform Strategy, Türkiye has set out fresh policies and priorities to enhance the efficiency of the justice system—one of the most important themes of the “Century of Türkiye.”
5. Through the efforts carried out so far, significant progress has been made in strengthening the rule of law, protecting and enhancing rights and freedoms, and establishing an effective and swift justice system. During the new Judicial Reform Strategy period, reform efforts will continue resolutely within this framework.

Rights and Freedoms

6. Since 2002, through the policies it has implemented, Türkiye has clearly demonstrated its commitment to strengthening democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. The fundamental reforms carried out so far are a testament to this resolve.
7. This Document emphasizes that democracy and the rule of law will continue to be strengthened throughout the 2025-2029 period. The determination to enhance rights and freedoms has been a fundamental principle in shaping the reforms outlined within.
8. Over the years, the growing awareness of rights and freedoms in Türkiye has been a key driving force behind the progress in this field. The document will contribute to further build on this awareness, both within society at large and specifically among the judiciary.
9. In drafting the Judicial Reform Strategy, particular focus has been placed on fully safeguarding and advancing human rights while ensuring the most equitable balance of rights and obligations between individuals, society, and parties to legal disputes. At the same time, the principles and standards recognized at the international level have been carefully observed with regard to the exercise of rights.
10. There is no doubt that freedom of expression is one of the most essential pillars of democracy and human rights. Significant constitutional and legislative amendments have been introduced in this area over the recent years. Protecting and further advancing freedom of expression will remain a top priority in this period as well.
11. During the previous judicial reform strategies, extensive reforms were implemented to uphold the right to liberty and security. The legislative regulations affirming that pretrial detention is an exceptional measure were among the most significant ones. In addition, similar fundamental changes yielded clear and solid criteria for other protective measures. Preserving and further developing these gains will be a key policy in the upcoming period.

Democracy,
the rule of
law,
and human
rights

Freedom of
expression

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12. One of the foremost priorities of the Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy is enhancing the safeguards for the right to trial within reasonable time. In this regard, various areas of work have been identified, concerning judicial procedures, organizational structure, human resources, and technical infrastructure.
13. Access to justice is a fundamental right that requires a comprehensive approach. Significant progress has been made so far in ensuring equal and easy access to judicial services. This document seeks to uphold this inclusive approach while further expanding access to justice to the greatest extent possible.
14. Enhancing access to justice can only be achieved by ensuring the effectiveness of legal remedies. Structural and institutional reforms—such as the individual application to the Constitutional Court, the right to information, Ombudsman Institution, the Personal Data Protection Authority, and the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye—serve this purpose. Furthermore, several major reforms, including granting judicial review over dismissal decisions by the Supreme Military Council and the Council of Judges and Prosecutors, the abolition of military courts, and the introduction of the regional appellate system, should also be considered within this scope. One of the key policy objectives of the new period will be to further reinforce the right to legal recourse.
15. Establishing a restorative justice system in which victims are provided with adequate safeguards is also of great importance. Full public confidence in the justice system can only be ensured this way. Accordingly, new victim-centered policies will be introduced within the criminal justice system.
16. One of the most vital instruments of Türkiye's planned judicial reform period is the Human Rights Action Plan. Following the Judicial Reform Strategy, a new Human Rights Action Plan will be developed. This plan will outline the details of Türkiye's new approach to advancing human rights within the framework of the "Century of Türkiye."

Right to
trial within
reasonable
time

Access
to justice
and legal
remedies

Victim-
centered
approach

European Union

17. As highlighted in the European Commission's Türkiye Report 2024, Türkiye is a key partner and a candidate country for the European Union. The Report also underscores the EU's strategic interest in fostering a relationship with Türkiye based on cooperation and mutual benefit.¹
18. Expediting and successfully concluding the accession negotiations would present significant opportunities for the EU. Türkiye's full membership in the European Union would enrich the EU's cultural diversity, strengthen joint efforts to uphold peace and stability, and significantly advance the Union's global influence.
19. Chapter 23 on "Judiciary and Fundamental Rights" holds particular significance in the accession negotiations.² Türkiye's first Judicial Reform Strategy was introduced in 2009 and later revised in 2015 to align with this chapter. Following the completion of the implementation period of the Third Judicial Reform Strategy (2019–2023), the foregoing Strategy Document represents the Fourth Judicial Reform Strategy. These reform strategies serve as a roadmap in line with the Copenhagen Criteria³, which the EU established as part of its enlargement process, and with the requirements of Chapter 23 in Türkiye's accession negotiations.

1 https://www.ab.gov.tr/siteimages/birimler/kpb/2024_trkiye_report_tr.pdf

2 **Scope of Chapter 23: Judiciary and Fundamental Rights**

EU policies on the judiciary and fundamental rights aim to uphold and strengthen the Union as an area of freedom, security, and justice. In this context, candidate countries are expected to establish an independent and effective judiciary. Maintaining judicial impartiality, integrity, and high standard of adjudication is essential to safeguarding the rule of law. Ensuring legal guarantees for fair trial procedures and effectively combating corruption are key requirements under this chapter. Moreover, candidate countries must ensure the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms by fully complying with the EU acquis and the Charter of Fundamental Rights by the end of the negotiation process. <https://www.ab.gov.tr/88.html>

3 At the Copenhagen Summit on June 22, 1993, the European Council confirmed that the EU's enlargement would include the Central and Eastern European countries. It also established the criteria that applicant countries must meet before achieving full membership. These criteria fall into three categories: political, economic, and alignment with EU legislation. <https://www.ab.gov.tr/88.html>

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20. This document is grounded in the principles of protecting human dignity, expanding freedoms, upholding democracy, ensuring the rule of law, and safeguarding human rights based on equality. Accordingly, Türkiye's commitment to judicial reform—embodied in its Strategy Documents—goes beyond its political objectives related to EU accession. These reforms are guided by the requirements of these shared values and the evolving needs of society.

Functioning of the Justice System

21. Judicial independence and impartiality are fundamental pillars of the states governed by rule of law. In recent years, significant constitutional reforms have been introduced to strengthen these pillars. The Judicial Reform Strategy underscores the importance of ensuring that judicial regulations within the ongoing constitutional amendment process align with this universal principle.
22. Safeguarding the right to a fair trial in its entirety requires continuous and proactive measures. In this regard, simplifying judicial procedures and enhancing the organizational structure of the justice system will be key priorities. These efforts will shorten trial durations and ensure that disputes are resolved within a reasonable timeframe.
23. Preventing disputes or resolving them before they reach the judiciary is essential for maintaining a manageable judicial workload. To achieve this, fostering a stronger culture of communication and negotiation in society is crucial. In this context, expanding the scope of pre-trial alternative dispute resolution methods has been adopted as a key policy. The foregoing Judicial Reform Strategy aims to further strengthen the role of these mechanisms within the justice system.

Judicial
independence
and
impartiality

Alternative
dispute
resolution
procedures

24. The right to a fair trial is safeguarded under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Articles 36 and 141 of the Turkish Constitution. These provisions necessitate measures to guarantee the right to trial within a reasonable time. Strengthening this right will protect parties from undue financial and emotional strain while reinforcing public trust in the judiciary. Ensuring timely and accurate judicial decisions requires both a highly qualified human resources and streamlined legal procedures that expedite case resolution. In this context, the strategy addresses enhancing judicial performance, shortening trial durations while maintaining procedural safeguards, and fully upholding all aspects of the right to a fair trial as key priorities.
25. Another key objective of the reform process is to further improve the investment climate. Significant progress has already been made in this regard. During the implementation period of this strategy, further steps—particularly in civil litigation and the right of defence—will contribute to an even more favorable investment environment. Activities aimed at strengthening the right to trial within reasonable time will also play a crucial role in this context. The overarching goal is to enhance legal certainty and predictability.
26. A well-functioning justice system is only possible with a competent human resource. Therefore, one of the most crucial areas of reform will be legal education. During this period, particular emphasis will be placed on improving the quality of preparatory and in-service training for judges and prosecutors. In addition, efforts will focus on providing justice personnel with specialized training in diverse legal fields.



Right
to a fair
trial



Legal
certainty
for the
investment
climate



Highly
competent
judicial
human
resource



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Improvements Achieved During the Implementation Period of the Third Judicial Reform Strategy

Legislative Amendments

27. A significant step towards expanding freedom of expression was taken by introducing a provision into Article 7 of the Counter-Terrorism Law, stating that “expressions of thought that do not exceed the limits of reporting or are made for the purpose of criticism do not constitute a crime.”
28. To further strengthen freedom of expression, the right to appeal has been introduced for certain final rulings issued by the criminal chambers of regional courts of appeal.
29. A legal provision was introduced to allow the postponement or suspension of the enforcement of decisions finalized at the appellate stage if there is a possibility that the Court of Cassation may issue a favorable reversal decision during the appeal process for jointly committed crimes.
30. A distinct maximum pre-trial detention period has been established for the investigation phase, ensuring that detention automatically ends if this period is exceeded. Additionally, shorter pre-trial detention periods have been introduced for juvenile offenders.
31. The advance payment mechanism has been revised to enhance its applicability.
32. The scope of postponement of public prosecution has been expanded, and a specialized postponement model for minors has been introduced.
33. To enable public prosecutors to conduct more effective investigations, regulations have been introduced to enhance the effectiveness of the procedure for returning indictments.

34. The scope of the conciliation in criminal proceedings, one of the alternative dispute resolution methods, has been expanded, and its effectiveness has been enhanced.
35. Alternative execution procedures have been developed, the efficiency of the enforcement system has been improved and the scope of home detention for the elderly, women, and minors has been expanded.
36. Convicts over the age of 65, who are unable to sustain themselves in penal institutions due to serious illness, disability, or senility, have been granted to serve their sentences under probationary supervision.
37. The scope of the execution method allowing prison sentences to be served on weekends, at night, or at home has been expanded.
38. The sentence threshold for home detention for women and elderly convicts has been increased, and children have also been included in this procedure. Additionally, female convicts who have recently given birth have been granted the opportunity to serve their sentences at home, while pregnant women may have their sentences postponed.
39. To ensure that all decisions related to the execution of criminal judgments are made by specialized judges, the capacity of the offices of execution judges has been strengthened.
40. A mechanism has been established allowing individuals to file complaints with the offices of execution judges against public prosecutors' decisions regarding the execution of criminal judgments.
41. A new practice requiring good behavior evaluations for convicts to be carried out at all stages of sentence execution, at six-month intervals, has been introduced. Moreover, the structure of relevant committees has been revised to advance the effectiveness of these evaluations.

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42. The authority of the Chief Public Prosecutor's office to defer the execution of a prison sentence in cases of urgent necessity has been extended from six months to one year.
43. Convicts may now request a temporary suspension of their sentence in the event that their spouse or child suffers from a chronic illness or disability.
44. For certain crimes listed in the catalog, the law now requires the existence of strong suspicion based on concrete evidence for the of pre-trial detention.
45. For decisions on pre-trial detention, its continuation, or rejection of a release request, it is now mandatory to explicitly justify, with concrete facts, the reason of why judicial control measures would be insufficient.
46. A new regulation allows individuals detained outside working hours to be released if they commit to appearing before a judicial authority at a designated time.
47. A time limit has been imposed on judicial control measures. This time limit is imposed to juveniles by half.
48. Committing intentional homicide, assault, torture, and deprivation of liberty against a divorced spouse has been added to the aggravated forms of these crimes as an another factor.
49. Expedited trial procedures and simplified trial procedures have been introduced for certain offenses.
50. The interview panel for the judicial entrance exam has been expanded to include representatives from high courts and the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP), ensuring broader representation.

51. Graduates of vocational and technical high schools' justice departments, alongside those from higher vocational schools of justice, have been given priority in judicial personnel recruitment exams.
52. The profession of "Assistant Judges and Prosecutors" has been introduced into the Turkish judicial system to provide better training for judges and prosecutors.
53. The Examination for Admission to Legal Professions is now being implemented.⁴ This exam is aimed at enhancing the qualifications of the future legal professionals and promoting merit-based selection.
54. The structure of the Compensation Commission has been reformed to handle applications related to violations of the right to trial within reasonable time and damages arising from protective measures.
55. Responsibilities for child custody and establishing personal contact with children, previously handled by enforcement offices, have been transferred to Judicial Support and Victim Services Directorates, to be carried out by experts.
56. The jurisdiction of specialized courts handling commercial, intellectual, and industrial property disputes will now be determined by the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP) based on a recommendation from the Ministry of Justice, without being restricted by provincial or district boundaries.
57. Administrative courts are now required to issue final decisions with full reasoning within thirty days.
58. Debtors have been granted the right to voluntarily sell their seized assets.
59. Enforcement fees and costs have been reduced, and the stamp duty requirement for installment-based debt payments in enforcement proceedings has been abolished.

⁴ The first Examination for Admission to Legal Professions (2024-HMGS) and the Administrative Justice Preliminary Examination (2024-İYÖS) were held on September 29, 2024.

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- 60. New regulations have been introduced to accelerate the enforcement process while maintaining a fair balance between debtors and creditors. The transition to an e-auction system has helped reduce enforcement-related expenses.
- 61. Measures have been implemented to facilitate the efficient liquidation of assets that no longer require storage in trustee warehouses.
- 62. The efficiency of justice has been increased through regulations regarding the preliminary review stage in simplified and written civil proceedings.
- 63. The financial resources allocated to bar associations for legal aid have been increased through an amendment to the Attorneyship Law.
- 64. Consumer disputes as well as disputes in lease agreements, dissolution of co-ownership, condominium law, neighbor relations, and agricultural production contracts have been made subject to mandatory mediation as a prerequisite for court litigation.

Administrative Activities and Practices

- 65. The Human Rights Action Plan was announced on March 2, 2021.
- 66. The number of regional courts of appeal has been increased to 17, while the number of regional administrative courts has been raised to 9. Moreover, the number of chambers and judges within these courts has been expanded, strengthening the appellate system.
- 67. To ensure the completion of judicial proceedings in a reasonable time period, the number of civil and criminal courts increased from 6,301 in 2018 to 8,399, while the number of administrative courts rose from 195 to 233.
- 68. The number of judges and public prosecutors was adjusted in proportion to the workload, going up from 19,429 in 2018 to 25,692.

69. The total number of personnel rose from 123,175 in 2018 to 180,819. In addition, the number and capacity of Personnel Training Centers were increased.
70. The IT system used in the judiciary has been enriched with new technologies and applications. According to the 2022 report of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), Türkiye ranks 4th among 49 countries in the use of information technologies in the judiciary.
71. New digital platforms, including the Attorney Portal and CELSE, have been introduced to facilitate lawyers' access to judicial proceedings.
72. The minimum ranking required for admission to law schools was raised from 190,000 to 125,000, ensuring that higher-achieving students would enter law schools.
73. In-service training has been incorporated as a criterion for the promotion of judges and public prosecutors.
74. The Value Added Tax (VAT) rate on certain attorney services has been reduced.
75. Citizens residing abroad can now instantly obtain copies of notarial transactions conducted at foreign missions from the nearest notary public in Türkiye.
76. The "Guiding Principles for Experts and the Standards Required in Expert Reports" have been established.
77. With the Presidential Decree on Supporting Crime Victims, victim rights have been institutionalized within a structured framework.
78. To reinforce the specialization of enforcement services, the "New Enforcement Office Model" has been introduced.⁵

⁵ The New Enforcement Office Model features six specialized sub-offices. These are: Advisory and Quality Management Office, Principle Office, Seizure Office, Sales Office, Financial Transactions Office, and Files and Archives Office.

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79. Child Justice Centers have started to be established to bring together juvenile heavy penal courts, juvenile courts, chief public prosecution juvenile offices, and the Judicial Support and Victim Services Directorates with the aim of conducting child-friendly procedures⁶.
80. The Turkish Judicial Ethics Declaration has been adopted by the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP) and shared with the public.⁷
81. The compliance of judges' and public prosecutors' decisions with the rulings of the Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has been included as a criterion for promotion and professional evaluation.
82. To better safeguard the right to trial within reasonable time, the Judicial Performance Assessment and Monitoring Center has been established within the Council of Judges and Prosecutors.
83. Procedures for individuals in financial hardship to apply for legal aid have been simplified, and mediation services have been incorporated into the legal aid system.
84. The relevant interfaces on the UYAP have been updated to prioritize cases involving juvenile offenders.
85. The "Legal Clinics Program" has been scaled up.
86. The Forensic Medicine Institute has introduced the "Target Time Limit", to strengthen the right to trial within reasonable time.

⁶ As part of efforts to establish an effective, sustainable, and accessible victim support system, based on restorative justice principles and the social rule of law, Judicial Support and Victim Services Directorates (JSVSD) have been established within the Department of Judicial Support and Victim Services of the Ministry of Justice to provide information, guidance, and psychosocial support services to victims of crime, particularly vulnerable groups. A total of 171 Judicial Support and Victim Services Directorates (JSVSD) are now operational, employing 30 directors, 88 deputy directors, 504 psychologists, 693 social workers, and 274 pedagogues..

⁷ <https://www.hsk.gov.tr/Eklentiler/Dosyalar/41eae89-7c48-44ac-b3de-575ee357691c.pdf>

Preparatory Phase

87. During the preparatory phase, national and international developments in the field of justice were analyzed, stakeholder opinions were considered, and justice-related statistical analyses were conducted. Moreover, top policy documents were reviewed, and surveys were conducted with internal and external stakeholders, ensuring broad participation and representation.
88. Written opinions were provided by the Council of Judges and Prosecutors, Supreme Courts, Presidency Legal Policies Council, Justice Academy of Türkiye, Union of Turkish Bar Associations, Provincial Bar Associations, Council of Higher Education, Law Schools, Union of Turkish Notaries, Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye, Personal Data Protection Authority, and the Ombudsman Institution, and meetings with these stakeholders were held, accordingly.
89. Justice counsellors serving abroad provided insights and information on best practices and judicial systems in their respective countries.
90. Evaluation meetings were conducted with judicial members from the high judiciary, appellate courts, and first-instance courts, as well as with representatives of civil society organizations.
91. Through a dedicated website, public opinions and suggestions were collected, exceeding 56,000 submissions.
92. Reports and assessments by the European Union, the Council of Europe, Venice Commission, and other international organizations, as well as case law of the European Court of Human Rights, were taken into account. Furthermore, discussions were held with representatives of the Council of Europe and the European Union regarding the judicial reform process.
93. Outputs from EU-funded projects were utilized.

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Scope

94. The Judicial Reform Strategy includes 5 objectives, 45 targets, and 264 actions.
95. The objectives, targets, and actions in the document have been drafted by analyzing the opinions and suggestions received from citizens, institutions, and organizations during the preparatory process.
96. As in previous judicial reform strategies, a clear and measurable "Action Plan" will be formulated following the publication of the document.

Monitoring and Evaluation System

97. An online platform and an electronic monitoring system were established for the Third Judicial Reform Strategy. This system enabled continuous and systematic monitoring of the activities planned throughout the implementation period.
98. To ensure effective monitoring of the foregoing Strategy Document's implementation and tracking of activities, periodic implementation reports will be drafted through the electronic monitoring and evaluation system and made public via the official website.

VISION

 A TIMELY AND PREDICTABLE
JUSTICE SYSTEM BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW



THEMES

1

RULE OF LAW:

Judicial
Independence and
Impartiality

2

LEGAL SECURITY:

Reasonable
Time, Swiftmess,
Predictable and
Solution-Oriented
Justice

3

EFFECTIVENESS OF THE JUDICIARY:

Simplified,
Facilitated,
and Efficiency-
Oriented
Processes and
Practices



4

**TRUST AND
SATISFACTION:**

Easy Access to
Justice, Restorative
and Reparative Justice
Practices, and an
Effective Criminal
Justice System for
Public Confidence

5

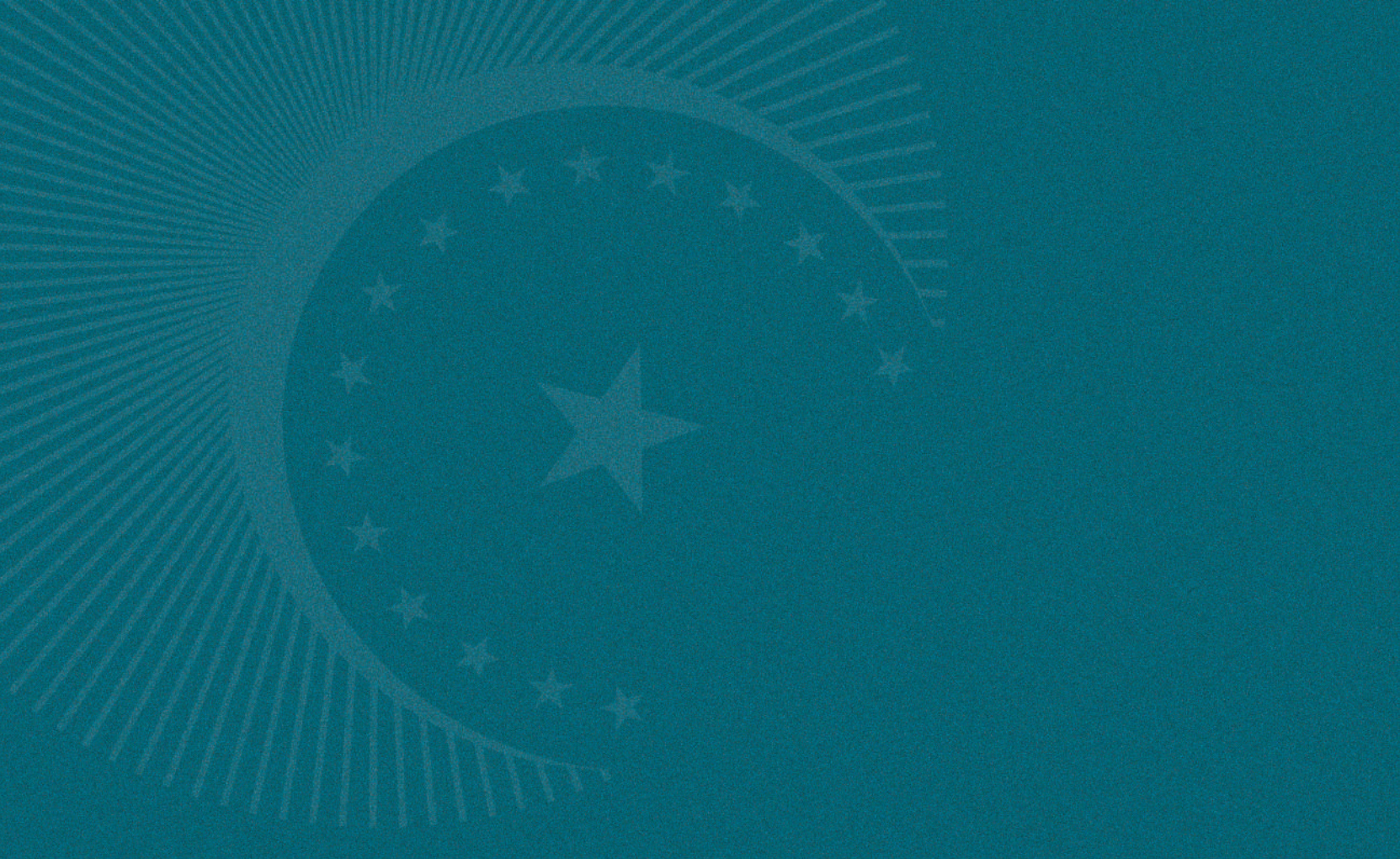
**TECHNOLOGY-
ASSISTED JUSTICE:**

Digital Transformation
and Artificial
Intelligence in Judicial
Services and Forensic
Sciences

6

**PROFESSIONAL
COMPETENCE:**

Value-Based
Legal Education
and Merit-Based
Practices

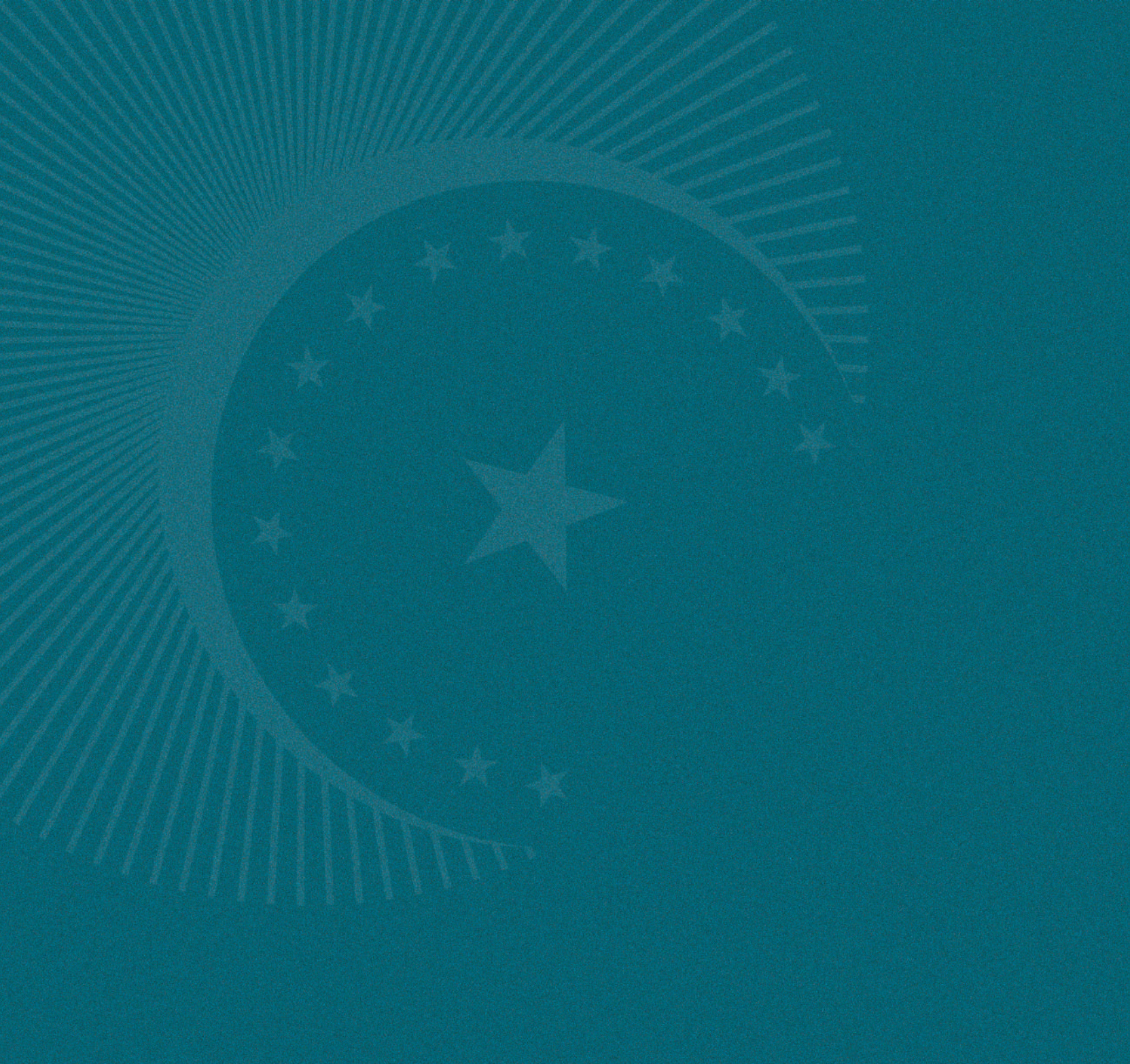


45 Targets

264 Actions

Objectives

- 1 Strengthening the Institutional Structure and Restructuring of Processes
- 2 Strengthening the Human Resources Capacity
- 3 Improving the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System
- 4 Enhancing the Efficiency of Civil and Administrative Judicial Proceedings
- 5 Facilitating Access to Justice



18 Targets
107 Actions

1

Objective

Strengthening Institutional Structure and
Restructuring the Processes

Ensuring that judicial services are delivered efficiently and, in a citizen-centered manner without delays requires the strengthening of the institutional structure of the judiciary. Concepts such as effectiveness, efficiency, and performance are meaningful only to the extent that they serve the right to fair trial. The targets and actions outlined in the foregoing Strategy Document focus on developing organizational and technological infrastructure, expediting judicial processes within the framework of the right to fair trial, and ultimately consolidating public trust in the justice system.

The protection and promotion of human rights is addressed as a key priority. Accordingly, one of the primary targets of this document is the formulation and implementation of a “Human Rights Action Plan” to enhance awareness on human rights and ensure more effective protection of rights.

In the previous period, the Personal Data Protection Law has ensured the protection of privacy and data confidentiality in the processing of personal data. This law also established the Personal Data Protection Authority. These regulations represent fundamental reforms introduced into the system. In the new reform period, one of the key priorities will include further improvement of legislation and practice related to personal data protection.

In the previous period, the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye (HREIT) was established to serve as a national preventive mechanism for the protection and promotion of human rights. New initiatives are planned in the forthcoming period to strengthen the organizational structure of

HREIT, which works to promote the right to equal treatment, prevent discrimination, and effectively combat torture and ill-treatment.

One of the most significant reforms introduced in the system is the introduction of the opportunity to submit individual applications to the Constitutional Court. The regulatory measures to be implemented with a view to further consolidating this application process and addressing the challenges encountered in practice will help enhance the protection of human rights.

For the same purpose, the jurisdictions of criminal courts will be reorganized so as to achieve a more effective criminal justice system and enhance specialization. This restructuring will facilitate more accurate and expedited resolution of complex cases requiring technical expertise.

To improve access to justice during the implementation period, new courthouses and administrative courts will be established where they are needed. Caseload analyses will be carried out with a view to identifying the needs.

To expedite judicial proceedings, measures will be implemented to eliminate delays caused by recording and rogatory procedures. This includes designating specialized courts for such matters and integrating information technology into these procedures. These reforms aim not only to reduce case backlog but also to advance the overall efficiency of judicial proceedings.

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A data-driven analysis system for monitoring the performance and efficiency of courts will be developed, enabling judicial proceedings to be streamlined within the limits set by the principles of the right to be heard, thereby further strengthening the system.

Enhancing the effectiveness of appeal and appellate review processes will be one of the most significant areas to improve efficiency in the judicial system.

To ensure that appeal reviews are concluded within a reasonable time, the number of chambers and members in the Court of Cassation and the Council of State will be reassessed in proportion to their workload. In addition, partial reviews in appeal proceedings will be eliminated to ensure that judicial decisions are examined comprehensively.

The number of chambers and judges in regional courts of appeal and administrative courts will also be increased in alignment with the changes planned for the Court of Cassation and the Council of State. A structure that facilitates specialization within these courts will be established, thereby expediting judicial processes.

Furthermore, reducing jurisdictional conflicts in appellate reviews, reassessing finality thresholds, and allowing direct appeals to the Court of Cassation or the Council of State in certain cases are among the policies aimed at the same objective.

Specialization initiatives have yielded significant results in ensuring that trials are concluded more swiftly, effectively, and with higher quality.

Considering the contributions of past specialization practices, judges will be enabled to specialize as civil or criminal judges, and their acquisition of knowledge and experience in specific areas will be supported.

Specialization will also be achieved in cases related to environmental issues, health, insurance, traffic, and workplace accidents to expedite decision-making processes. Moreover, the designation of specialized courts for drug-related offenses will bolster the effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

Strengthening the rights of the defence is a key element for the right to fair trial, and the foregoing document outlines policies in this regard. Making it mandatory to carry out certain legal transactions through an attorney and expanding the requirement for private legal entities such as companies and housing cooperatives to retain legal counsel aim to ensure comprehensive legal security and facilitate more effective and accurate resolution of commercial disputes. Expanding the authorizations granted to attorneys for accessing information and documents will contribute to a more effective functioning of the defence mechanism and enable courts to render more accurate decisions.

To assess the performance of judicial services and take needed necessary measures to address any shortcomings, new organizational units will be established within the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP).

With a view to ensuring that the hearings proceed without interruption and addressing the issues encountered in prolonged trials, measures such as prioritizing cases based on their filing date will yield greater efficiency across the justice system. Other key actions taken in this direction include the introduction of requirements like giving precedence to cases where a decision of reversal has been issued.

Strengthening the integration of information technologies into the justice system significantly contributes to expediting judicial proceedings. Therefore, in addition to expanding the integration of the National Judiciary Informatics System (UYAP), the development of a new UYAP software with enhanced cybersecurity measures and the widespread adoption of electronic hearings will serve to accelerate judicial proceedings.

The foregoing Strategy Document also envisions restructuring the organization and duties of civil, criminal and administrative justice commissions to ensure the more effective and efficient delivery of judicial services. In this regard, new responsibilities and powers will be assigned to justice commissions to expedite judicial proceedings and reinforce performance and efficiency. These new duties and powers aim to develop solutions at the local level to uphold the right to trial within reasonable time.

Inspection processes within the judiciary play a critical role in improving the quality of judicial services, addressing issues with a preventive approach, and ensuring that judicial proceedings are concluded within a reasonable time period.

An effective inspection mechanism not only addresses existing issues but also anticipates potential shortcomings within the justice system, allowing for implementing preventive measures in a timely manner. In this regard, efforts will focus on enhancing inspection capacity and developing a more systematic and effective inspection model.

Expert services are essential for judicial proceedings that require technical knowledge and expertise. Accurate and timely expert reports are among the most critical tools for ensuring rapid and fair trials. With this in mind, regulations governing expert services will be updated to align with current needs. In this context, the qualifications and areas of expertise required for expert witnesses will be redefined, and targeted training programs will be introduced. Additionally, deadlines for submitting expert reports will be shortened, while criminal and disciplinary sanctions related to expert duties will be strengthened to enhance deterrence. Furthermore, a performance-based expert system and standardized report templates will be established to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of expert assignments.

Strengthening the capacity of the Forensic Medicine Institution, i.e. the official expert witness organization, is vital for ensuring that judicial services operate more effectively on a scientific and technical basis. Efforts will focus on enhancing its organizational structure, physical and technological infrastructure, and increasing the number of specialized units. In addition, advancements in artificial intelligence and international accreditation capacity will further improve the efficiency of judicial proceedings.

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

To address challenges in the judicial notification process and expedite proceedings, a simplified notification system will be introduced to minimize unlawful notifications. Expanding the mandatory use of electronic notifications and making this system more accessible to all will be addressed as one of the key priorities.

Reforms in the notary system will also play a significant role in reducing the judiciary's workload and expediting proceedings. As part of this effort, notaries will be authorized to handle certain ex parte proceedings and, limited to the pre-litigation phase, the determination of evidence.

Furthermore, the digitization of notarial services and the promotion of electronic transactions will enable more rapid and secure service delivery.

Establishing effective communication between the judiciary and the public is of great importance. To this end, an organizational structure will be established within the Ministry to ensure that accurate information about judicial services is announced to the public in a timely manner. Providing training to press spokespersons and media communication personnel in courthouses, enhancing cooperation with media professionals, and increasing the capacity of media communication offices will be among the other planned efforts.

Objective 1

Strengthening Institutional Structure and Restructuring the Processes

■ Target 1.1

Within the preparations of the new constitution, a series of efforts will be undertaken to:

- Strengthen judicial independence and impartiality,
- Enhance the safeguards for ensuring that judges and prosecutors can render decisions based on law, conscience, and justice, free from any external pressure,
- Re-evaluate the structure of the CJP and judicial bodies,
- Reinforce legal remedies and the right of defence.

A New
Democratic
and Civil
Constitution
Based on the
Rule of Law

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.2

Institutional capacity in the field of human rights will be strengthened to ensure more effective protection of rights and freedoms.

Actions

- a. A new Human Rights Action Plan will be formulated and implemented effectively.
- b. Regulations will be introduced to strengthen individual legal remedies and enhance their effectiveness.
- c. The institutional capacity of the Personal Data Protection Authority will be reinforced, and the harmonization process of the Personal Data Protection Law with the EU acquis, particularly the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), will be finalized.
- d. The institutional structure of the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Türkiye (HREIT) will be strengthened and aligned with the UN Principles on National Human Rights Institutions, and efforts will be made to bolster the effectiveness of the reports drafted by the Institution and to revise the settlement procedure.
- e. Regulations will be introduced to address issues related to the individual application system before the Constitutional Court.
- f. The right to a fair trial and legal security will be reinforced through new legal remedies.
- g. New measures and practices will be developed to enhance the standards of freedom of expression and the press.
- h. Steps will be taken to improve standards related to the right to liberty and security.
- i. Efforts will be made to increase awareness of human rights in all areas.

A New Human Rights Action Plan for More Effective Protection of Rights and Freedoms

Effective Protection of Personal Data

A Stronger and More Effective HREIT

■ Target 1.3

The organizational structure of the courts will be strengthened to ensure the right to trial within reasonable time.

Actions

- a.** The jurisdiction of criminal courts will be redefined to enhance the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and strengthen specialization.
- b.** New courthouses and administrative courts will be established in regions where access to justice necessitates their presence.
- c.** Instead of dividing the jurisdiction of existing courts, a preference will be given to establishing new courts, considering available staff members and physical resources.
- d.** The need for new courts will be determined in a way that allows for a rapid response to sudden increases in caseloads.
- e.** An organizational structure will be established within the Ministry to monitor the performance and efficiency of courts based on data analysis and to establish new courts and implement other measures within the framework of the duties and powers of the Ministry.
- f.** Legislative amendments will be introduced to update the organizational laws regulating the establishment, jurisdictions, and authorities of courts, in alignment with current needs.
- g.** To foster judicial efficiency, the current single-judge system in certain courts, particularly civil courts of first instance, will be replaced with multi-judge panels.
- h.** The provisions governing the procedural rules of panel-based courts in civil and criminal jurisdictions will be reviewed.
- i.** Dedicated courts will be designated to handle procedural matters such as recording and rogatory proceedings, reducing delays and inefficiencies caused by these processes.



New
courts to
address
caseload



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.4

Regulations will be introduced to bolster the effectiveness of the appeal process.

Actions

- a. The organizational structure of the Court of Cassation and the Council of State will be strengthened, and necessary measures will be taken to ensure that appeal reviews are concluded within a maximum period of six months.
- b. The number of chambers and members in the Court of Cassation and the Council of State will be adjusted in proportion to their caseload to enhance efficiency.
- c. Partial reviews in appeal proceedings will be avoided unless strictly necessary.

A Maximum
Six-Month
Period for
Appeal
Reviews

New
Chambers and
Members at
the Court of
Cassation and
the Council of
State

■ Target 1.5

Regional appellate courts will be strengthened to ensure the completion of judicial proceedings within reasonable time.

Actions

- a. The organizational structure of appellate courts will be reinforced to ensure that appellate reviews are concluded within a maximum period of six months.
- b. The number of chambers and judges at the appellate courts will be increased in proportion to their respective caseloads, and in a manner that would promote specialization. Chambers will be structured to operate as a single panel.
- c. The authority of the Chief Public Prosecution Offices at regional courts of appeal to object to chamber decisions will be expanded.
- d. Appellate reviews will consider not only the date a case was referred to the regional court of appeal but also the date it was first filed in the relevant court of first instance.
- e. Civil chambers at regional courts of appeal will be granted the authority to correct and dismiss cases outright in certain matters, such as court fees, litigation expenses, and attorney fees.
- f. Case files will undergo preliminary review before being archived in the relevant chamber to minimize jurisdictional disputes within regional courts of appeal.
- g. The finality threshold in appellate review will be reassessed, and a direct appellate system will be introduced for certain disputes.



A maximum six-month period for appellate reviews

Priority resolution for prolonged cases at the appellate level

Direct appeal for certain disputes



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.6

Practices regarding the specialization will be developed to ensure more efficient and expedited judicial processes.

Actions

- a. Judges will specialize as civil or criminal judges.
- b. An impact analysis will be conducted on the areas of specialization which are designated based on case allocation, and relevant practices will be improved.
- c. Considering caseload distribution, specialization will be ensured for case types such as environment, healthcare, insurance, traffic accidents, and workplace accident-related pecuniary and non-pecuniary compensation claims.
- d. Specialized courts will be designated for offenses related to drug use and trafficking.



New
specialized
courts for
swiftness
and quality



Target 1.7

Efforts will be undertaken to strengthen the defence and reinforce lawyers' effective participation in judicial proceedings.

Actions

- a.** The Attorneyship Law will be revised to strengthen the efficiency of judicial services and strengthen the defence.
- b.** Initiatives will be launched for requiring certain transactions to be carried out through attorneys, expanding the obligation for companies and housing cooperatives to retain legal counsel, and introducing mandatory attorney representation in specific cases as part of preventive legal practices.
- c.** The legal competences granted to attorneys for accessing information and documents will be expanded.
- d.** Financial support will be provided to trainee attorneys at the beginning of their internships.
- e.** Regulations will be introduced concerning the working conditions and personal benefits of public attorneys.
- f.** Efforts will be made to reduce taxes on mandatory defence and legal representation as well as other attorney services with a view to increasing access to justice.
- g.** The provisions laid down in the relevant regulations and tariffs concerning payments to mandatory defence attorneys and legal representatives will be reviewed in consideration of the nature of the services provided.
- h.** A remuneration system aligned with the profession's qualifications will be established for salaried attorneys.



A new
Attorneyship
Law for a
stronger
defence

Legal
representation
for preventive
and protective
justice

Financial support
for trainee
lawyers



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.8

Institutional measures will be implemented, and new practices will be developed to ensure the completion of judicial proceedings within a reasonable timeframe.

Actions

- a. The shorter target timeframes for criminal and civil proceedings will be redefined.
- b. The implementation of target timeframes will be monitored, and measures will be taken to address factors causing delays.
- c. Target timeframes will also be set for appellate review.
- d. “The Justice Institutional Performance and Efficiency Department” will be established within the Ministry, tasked with carrying out activities designed to promote timely, effective, and high-quality delivery of justice services.
- e. “The Judicial Performance and Efficiency Unit” will be established within the Council of Judges and Prosecutors to oversee institutional performance and efficiency, particularly regarding target timeframes.
- f. The principle of uninterrupted hearings will be ensured, and hearings will be adjourned for a maximum period of two months only in exceptional cases that are specified by law.
- g. In cases involving a prejudicial question, courts will issue a “suspension of hearings order,” ensuring that no hearings are held until the prejudicial question is resolved.
- h. The scheduling of cases in first-instance courts will be adjusted to prevent violations of the right to trial within reasonable time.
- i. The scope of disputes that can be resolved without a hearing will be expanded.
- j. Cases where a reversal decision has been issued will be prioritized and handled expeditiously.

Shorter target
timeframes in
trials

Target timeframes
for appellate
courts

Uninterrupted
hearings, maximum
two-month
adjournments

Resolution of
certain disputes
without hearings

■ Target 1.9

The judiciary informatics system will be further enhanced in alignment with modern technologies.

Actions

- a. Artificial intelligence-based recommendation systems will be developed to support judicial proceedings.
- b. Artificial intelligence technology will be integrated into the judiciary informatics system to facilitate citizens' access to justice and expedite judicial proceedings.
- c. Artificial intelligence will be utilized for real-time document analysis, rapid filling out of incomplete information and documents, verification of expert reports, automatic tracking of correspondences, and inter-agency information sharing.
- d. An institutional framework will be established to develop artificial intelligence applications and define their ethical and legal boundaries.
- e. Digital solution platforms, online dispute resolution mechanisms, and electronic hearing systems will be developed to enhance access to justice and promote the right to trial within reasonable time.
- f. Court hearings will be recorded electronically.
- g. The e-hearing system in civil courts will be expanded to include rogatory proceedings.
- h. A new UYAP (National Judiciary Informatics System) software, compatible with modern technological needs and strengthened with cybersecurity measures, will be developed.
- i. The number of online services and system integrations provided through UYAP will be increased.



Judicial
services
supported
with artificial
intelligence



Digital
solutions for
access to
justice



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.10

Criminal, civil and administrative justice commissions will be restructured.

Actions

- a. The structure and responsibilities of justice commissions will be redefined to enhance the efficiency of judicial services.
- b. “Judicial Services Efficiency” offices will be established within justice commissions to promote the right to trial within reasonable time and oversee performance and efficiency tools, including target timeframes.
- c. A mechanism chaired by the president of the justice commission, comprising judges, public prosecutors, and representatives of relevant institutions will be established in an effort to pinpoint the problems encountered in judicial services and propose solutions.
- d. Presidents of justice commissions will be assigned responsibilities to ensure that trials are concluded within the target timeframes.
- e. Justice commissions will be tasked with identifying the factors that negatively affect the caseload and functioning of judicial chambers as well as the delivery of these services. They will also be expected to draft reports on the issues they have spotted, and submit these reports to the Ministry of Justice and the Council of Judges and Prosecutors.
- f. Presidents of justice commissions will be authorized to draw up performance reports on judges until they reach a certain level of seniority.



Effective
monitoring
for time
management
in judiciary



■ Target 1.11

The capacity for inspecting the justice and judiciary organization will be strengthened.

Actions

- a. Preventive inspection mechanisms will be developed to improve performance and efficiency and to ensure judicial processes are concluded within a reasonable time.
- b. Inspection boards will be restructured to facilitate the implementation of preventive inspection practices.
- c. Units will be established within inspection boards to conduct real-time monitoring and promptly resolve identified issues.
- d. Post-inspection reports will include examples of best practices.
- e. The seniority requirement for appointment as an inspector will be increased.
- f. Inspectors will receive training on subjects that necessitate specialization upon appointment and throughout their terms of office.
- g. Supervision offices will be established in the jurisdiction of heavy penal courts to strengthen the authority of public prosecutors in overseeing institutions such as enforcement offices, notaries and their cash accounts.



Real-time
monitoring,
effective
inspections



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.12

Legislative amendments and administrative measures will be implemented to address issues in expert services.

Actions

- a. The core and sub-specialization areas of experts, as well as their qualification requirements will be updated.
- b. Training programs will be developed for experts in areas where needed, in line with supreme court case law.
- c. To ensure standardization in expert witness services and expedite report drafting, the private law legal entity expert system will be expanded and made more effective, particularly in real estate and vehicle valuation matters.
- d. Deadlines for expert reports will be curtailed, and stricter sanctions will be imposed on experts who fail to submit reports on time, misuse their role, or provide false reports.
- e. After defining procedures for assessing the performance of experts and implementing a performance-based system, an automated assignment system will be introduced to ensure experts are appointed in rotation.
- f. The guidelines outlining the principles of experts and reporting standards will be revised, and specific report templates will be developed based on core and sub-specialization areas.

A new era
in expert
witness
services:
Legal entity
experts

Strict supervision
of expert
practices

Automated
assignment
system for
experts

■ Target 1.13

Legislative amendments and administrative measures will be introduced to reduce errors in notification procedures and expedite their execution.

Actions

- a. A simplified notification procedure will be established to minimize irregularities.
- b. The mandatory electronic notification system will be scaled up to cover all public officials.
- c. Citizens residing abroad will be required to obtain an electronic notification address upon entry and exit from the country.
- d. Legislative provisions concerning notifications to be made to foreign nationals will be revised to facilitate the process.
- e. For those required to have an electronic notification address under the Notification Law, an obligation to provide an electronic notification address for statements of claims, responses, and enforcement proceedings will be introduced.

Mandatory
electronic
notifications
for public
officials

■ Target 1.14

The scientific, technical, physical, and administrative capacity of the Forensic Medicine Institution will be strengthened.

Actions

- a. The organizational structure and physical infrastructure of the Institution's central and provincial offices will be enhanced.
- b. The number of forensic medicine specialist boards, forensic medicine specialization departments, forensic medicine group presidencies, and forensic medicine branch directorates will be scaled up.
- c. The technological infrastructure of the Institution will be improved through the integration of artificial intelligence applications.
- d. The Institution's capacity for international accreditation will be consolidated, and its national and international influence across forensic sciences will be expanded.

A robust
forensic
infrastructure
for swift
and reliable
results

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.15

The responsibilities of notaries will be redefined to reduce the workload of the judiciary.

Actions

- a. The Notary Law will be revised in view of the contemporary needs for increasing the effectiveness of judicial services.
- b. A notary assistant position will be introduced, to be held by professionals holding a law degree.
- c. Certain ex parte proceedings, such as execution of a will and issuing an inheritance certificate, determining the place of deposit, inviting a spouse to the marital home, and determining whether a good is defective, as well as evidence determination limited to the pre-litigation phase, will be allowed to be conducted by notaries.
- d. Regulations will be introduced to encourage notarization of certain contracts and transactions that exceed a specific monetary threshold or carry particular significance, thereby enhancing legal security.
- e. The “Electronic Identity Verification System” will be more widely implemented.
- f. A QR code system will be introduced for documents issued by notaries.
- g. Negotiable instruments and bank protests will be processed electronically through notary offices.
- h. Integration will be established between notary offices and the “National Vehicle Identification System” (UTTS).
- i. Notary offices will be authorized to annotate real estate preliminary sales contracts in the land registry.

A new era
in notary
services:
Notary
Assistants

Authorization
for handling
ex-parte
proceedings
and evidence
recording

■ Target 1.16

Efforts will be undertaken to strengthen the justice system's communication with the public.

Actions

- An organizational structure will be established within the Ministry of Justice to strengthen communication between the justice system and the public and media, ensuring accurate information is shared in a timely manner.
- Awareness raising and training programs will be conducted for press spokesperson and personnel working for media communication offices.
- Events for media representatives will be organized to improve relations between the judiciary and the media.
- Experienced staff members with a degree in communication-related areas will be employed in media communication offices at the courthouses where such personnel are required.

Accurate
information,
effective
communication,
combating
disinformation

■ Target 1.17

The capacity for international judicial assistance and judicial cooperation will be enhanced in collaboration with relevant institutions.

Actions

- The Ministry of Justice's capacity will be enhanced in countries with intensive judicial cooperation.
- International collaboration will be strengthened in areas such as transnational organized crime, terrorism, financing of terrorism, cybercrimes, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, money laundering, and drug trafficking.
- "Offices for International Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters" will be established, taking into account the workload, to promote international judicial cooperation in criminal matters and improve coordination in this area at the courthouse level.

Offices for
International
Judicial
Cooperation
in Criminal
Matters

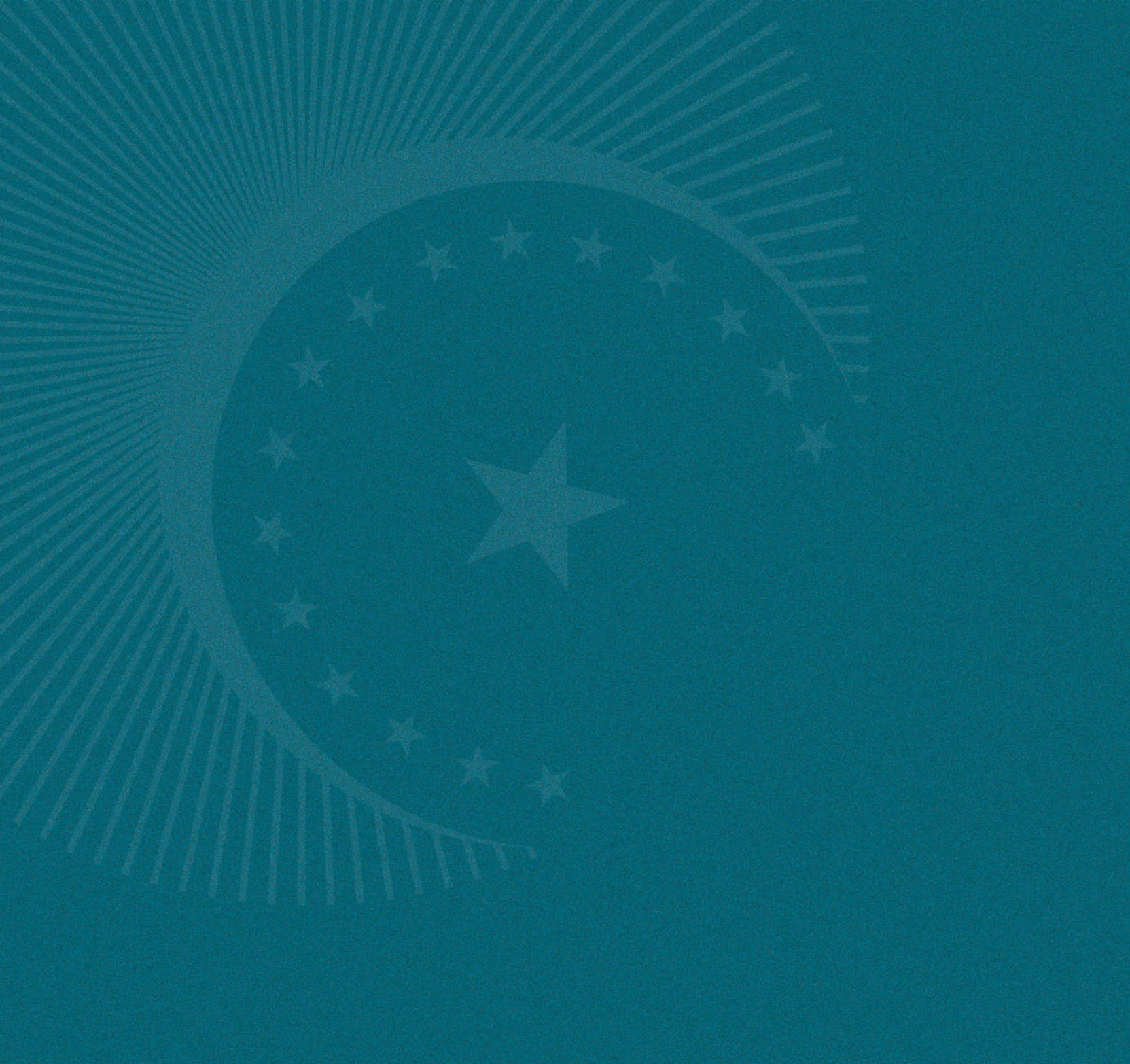
JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 1.18

Institutional capacity regarding Türkiye's accession to the European Union will be strengthened.

Actions

- a. Training programs on EU projects will be delivered, and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness and sustainability of these projects will be improved.
- b. Members of the judiciary will be provided with internship opportunities in international organizations, particularly within the European Union.
- c. Efforts aimed at aligning national legislation with EU acquis will continue within the scope of the accession process.



7 Targets

38 Actions

2

Objective

Strengthening the Human
Resources Capacity

The delivery and continuity of high-quality judicial services require not only a robust organizational structure but also a highly qualified human resource base.

Significant progress has been achieved over the recent years through efforts designed to enhance both the quality and quantity of the members of the judiciary and judicial staff. The new Judicial Reform Strategy sets forth key objectives and actions aimed at further strengthening the human resources capacity. One of the primary areas of focus under this objective is the further enhancement of legal education. To improve the quality of legal education, the strategy outlines several measures, including raising the minimum ranking for admission to law schools, introduction of new criteria for the establishment of law schools, choosing open-ended exams as the primary assessment method which is recognized as the most effective tool for evaluating reasoning skills, and broadening and diversifying the curriculum. All of these measures reflect a consensus across the judiciary and legal community.

The establishment of the position of assistant judges and prosecutors has made the in-service training phase for these professions more effective while also expanding support mechanisms for judges and prosecutors in judicial proceedings. This organizational reform has been successfully implemented, and in the coming period, it will be further strengthened through ongoing evaluation and improvements.

With population growth, evolving economic relations, and advancing technology, the judiciary's workload continues to increase. Strengthening the capacity of the judiciary to manage this increasing workload and to prevent exceeding reasonable time is one of the primary goals. Accordingly, the strategy establishes targets for maintaining an adequate number of judges, prosecutors, and judicial personnel in proportion to the caseload and for developing specialized support services to assist judicial activities.

Another key aspect would be improving the regulations governing the transfer, promotion, and disciplinary procedures of judges and prosecutors in a way that positively impacts performance. The measures set out in the foregoing Strategy Document aim to enhance performance, increase professional efficiency, and strengthen the job security of the members of the judiciary.

Expanding career opportunities for judicial staff will not only foster their performance but also help reduce the workload of judges and prosecutors by enabling the delegation of certain non-judicial tasks to support personnel. In this context, a new "specialist clerk" position will be introduced as an intermediate role between clerks and chief clerks. Alongside the creation of this position, the job descriptions of chief clerks will be redefined, and their authority—particularly in civil proceedings—will be expanded. This reform will allow judges and prosecutors to focus more exclusively on judicial functions.

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

Objective 2

Strengthening the Human Resources Capacity

■ Target 2.1

Measures will be developed in cooperation with relevant organizations to enhance the quality of legal education.

Actions

- a. The minimum ranking required for admission to law schools will be gradually raised, and efforts will be undertaken to redefine the score type used in placement to better reflect the nature of legal education.
- b. A select number of students who achieve the highest scores in the university entrance exam and those who demonstrate academic excellence during their studies will be awarded the “Ministry of Justice Scholarship.”
- c. The criteria for establishing new law schools will be redefined.
- d. The curriculum of law schools will be revised to include subjects such as legal methodology, legal reasoning, legal language, and ethics.
- e. Measures will be implemented to encourage the use of open-ended exams instead of multiple-choice tests as the primary assessment method in law schools.
- f. Law students will be given the opportunity to complete internships at courthouses, as well as alongside lawyers, notaries, and mediators.

Higher
admission
standards for
law schools

Ministry of Justice
merit-based
scholarships for
law students

Effective legal
education

■ Target 2.2

The organizational structure of the Justice Academy of Türkiye will be strengthened.

Actions

- a. The duties and powers of the Justice Academy of Türkiye will be regulated by law.
- b. Training centers affiliated with the Justice Academy will be established to ensure that in-service training programs are specialized, effective, and widely accessible.
- c. An “Education Board” will be established within the Justice Academy, comprising representatives from various organizations within the judiciary and the justice system, to make decisions and provide opinions on specific training-related matters.
- d. Certified specialization programs will be organized for legal professionals
- e. A “Legal Research Center” will be established within the Justice Academy.
- f. Artificial intelligence-based digital training materials will be developed.

Effective
training for
a justice
system that
inspires
confidence

Scientific
contributions
to justice:
The Legal
Research
Center

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 2.3

The process of working as an assistant judge or prosecutor will be structured to enhance professional competence, and in-service training will be strengthened.

Actions

- a. The selection process for assistant judges and prosecutors will consist of a series of stages including a multiple-choice exam, an open-ended exam, and an interview.
- b. The number of judges and public prosecutors receiving foreign language education and pursuing postgraduate studies abroad will be increased.
- c. Opportunities for judges and public prosecutors to participate in study visits and internships abroad will be expanded to allow them to observe international judicial practices firsthand.

Stronger
readiness
preparation for
the profession
through the
assistant
judgeship and
prosecutorship

■ Target 2.4

The number of judges, public prosecutors, and judicial staff will be maintained at a level proportional to the workload, and specialized support services will be developed to assist judicial activities.

Actions

- a. The need for judges, public prosecutors, and judicial staff will be determined annually through performance management tools and data-driven analysis.
- b. The number of judges and public prosecutors assigned to courthouses will be determined based on workload and disposition time.
- c. New specialist positions will be created in various fields, particularly in information technology, to serve in court and prosecution offices.

New
specialist
positions in
courthouses

■ Target 2.5

The provisions concerning the transfer, promotion, and disciplinary procedures of judges and public prosecutors will be revised.

Actions

- a. The rights of judges and public prosecutors within disciplinary proceedings will be broadened, and the provisions regarding the impact of investigations on promotions will be reviewed within the framework of professional predictability.
- b. The transfer of judges and public prosecutors will be carried out within the framework of geographical guarantee.
- c. The regional system, which is included in the regulations governing appointments and transfer, will be reorganized.
- d. Disciplinary offenses and sanctions will be redefined with more objective criteria that include judicial efficiency, and the time limits set for investigations will be revised within the framework of predictability and security of the tenure of judges.
- e. Promotion criteria and the scoring system used for the distribution of case files will be reviewed, and new indicators will be established, which will focus on the quality and specifics of case files.
- f. When determining the competences of judges who are assigned to specialized courts, consideration will be given to their prior competences, requests, in-service training they have previously received, and any professional publications they have authored.
- g. It will be made mandatory for judges who are assigned to specialized courts for the first time to undergo in-service training before commencing their duties.
- h. The minimum professional seniority requirements for appointment to certain positions will be redefined.
- i. Arrangements will be made to ensure that, at the beginning of their careers, judges serve as panel members in courts for a certain period.
- j. The principles regarding the compulsory in-service training that judges and public prosecutors must complete in order to be classified as first-degree judges will be determined by the Council of Judges and Prosecutors (CJP).



New regional
system
for the
appointment
and transfer
of judges

Working in
panel courts at
the beginning
of the
profession

Effective
in-service
training



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 2.6

The management of human resources within the justice system will be improved.

Actions

- a. Ethical principles specific to judicial personnel will be established.
- b. In order to ensure an efficient distribution of staff members, the permanent staffing criteria will be redefined in view of factors such as the number of courts and public prosecutors as well as the workload.
- c. The relocation of personnel will be scheduled within a fixed timetable, and a system will be established in which relocations are carried out based on professional service points, while artificial intelligence-supported personnel management applications will be developed.
- d. The workspaces of prosecution and court clerks' offices will be designed to enhance professional performance.
- e. The number of personnel training centers and the number of personnel receiving training will be increased.
- f. Interactive and participatory learning methods will be employed in trainings delivered at personnel training centers, and training modules will be further strengthened to ensure alignment with scientific standards.
- g. The scope and implementation of the Personalized Staff Training System (BİPES) will be further scaled up in view of current needs.

Effective
Management
in Human
Resources

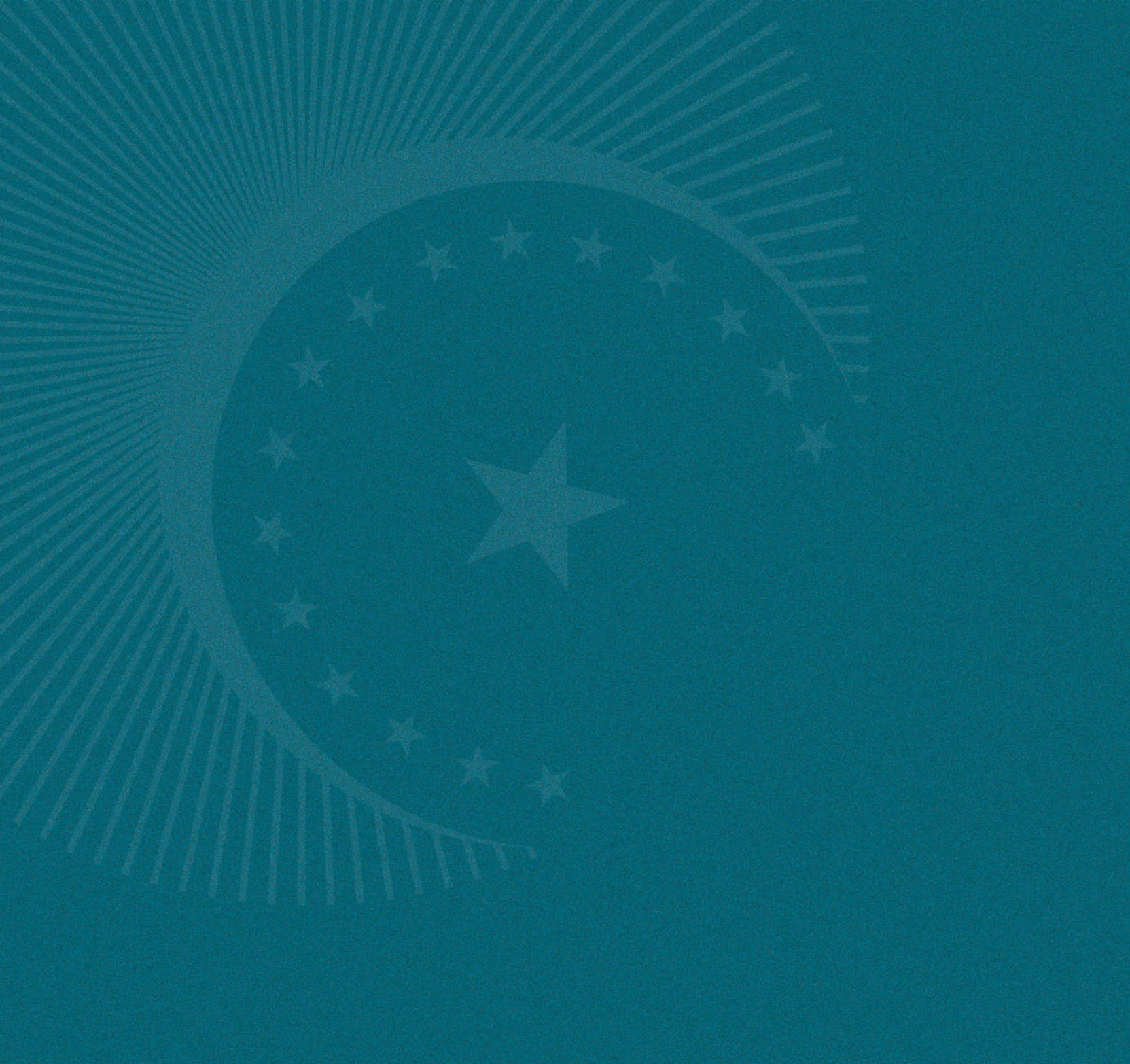
■ Target 2.7

Career opportunities for judicial personnel will be expanded.

Actions

- a. A judicial services category will be established within the Civil Servants Law.
- b. In an effort to advance the career opportunities for courthouse personnel, the position of "specialist clerk" will be created.
- c. The authorities of court clerks will be broadened in order to enable them to fulfill their duties in a more efficient and effective manner.

Judicial
services
category in
the public
sector



9 Targets

63 Actions

3

Objective
objective

Improving the Efficiency of the
Criminal Justice System

The criminal justice system plays a vital role not only in safeguarding individual rights and freedoms but also in maintaining social order. Therefore, it is crucial to establish a dynamic structure that aligns with universal standards and can respond to new types of disputes that may arise due to factors such as population growth, technological advancements, and social and economic developments. With this approach, this Strategy Document takes a holistic view of substantive criminal law, criminal procedure law, and execution law.

In order to prevent lengthy judicial proceedings, procedural rules must be further refined in a manner that ensures both compliance with the right to a fair trial and a more efficient and solution-oriented process. The foregoing Strategy Document outlines measures aimed at developing alternative procedural rules that incorporate safeguards fully serving the right to a fair trial. The introduction of simplified and accelerated procedures of trial into the judicial system in recent years should be regarded as the first step in this direction.

One of the key policies in criminal proceedings is to conclude cases in a single hearing. To achieve this, a policy has been adopted that emphasizes thorough collection of evidence during the investigation phase, encourages the discussion of existing evidence in hearings rather than gathering new evidence, and seeks to minimize redundant judicial procedures.

In comparative law, various mechanisms have been developed to resolve disputes at the investigation stage, preventing them from proceeding to trial. Reducing the number of cases filed in court will contribute significantly to conducting higher-quality trials and ensuring adherence to the principle of concluding hearings in a single hearing.

Alternative dispute resolution methods have now firmly established their place in the legal system and gained broad societal acceptance. While mediation has enriched civil law, reconciliation has enhanced criminal justice by offering an appealing resolution option for beneficiaries. Therefore, the Strategy Document also includes measures aimed at promoting pre-trial resolution mechanisms.

In addition, the balance between offenses and sanctions outlined in the Turkish Penal Code and other laws containing criminal provisions will be comprehensively reviewed, with particular attention to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, especially the right to a fair trial. Within this scope, several issues will be addressed in the coming period, including reassessment of the balance between crime, punishment, and execution based on societal needs, reevaluating the classification of certain acts as crimes or misdemeanors, and strengthening the implementation of alternative sanctions to short-term imprisonment and expanding their scope.

An effective criminal justice system requires deterrent sanctions. Therefore, in order to combat crime and criminality more effectively, it is foreseen that increasing the amounts of judicial fines will contribute positively to the criminal justice system.

The rapid advancement and widespread adoption of information technologies have led to the emergence of new types of offenses. In this regard, developing more effective strategies to combat crimes committed through information systems has become a matter of paramount importance for ensuring individual and societal security.

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

In order to strengthen the fight against cyber and fraud-related crimes, the Strategy Document includes measures such as:

- Establishing stricter rules for phone subscriptions by requiring additional identity verification methods,
- Enhancing the organizational capacity of public prosecution offices in tackling cyber-crimes and fraud offenses,
- Implementing regulatory reforms to address challenges related to seizure and confiscation, particularly in cases involving fraud and theft committed through banking systems and information technologies.

The Strategy Document also introduces effective measures aimed at strengthening deterrence in crime prevention, covering issues such as protecting of families, safeguarding physical integrity, environmental and traffic safety, regulation of hunting rifles and other firearms.

The execution of penalties is one of the most critical stages of the criminal justice system. During previous Judicial Reform Strategy periods, extensive efforts were made to develop diverse execution methods, including alternative execution methods. Similar initiatives will continue in this period, particularly for elderly individuals, seriously ill persons, and women with children. In this context, special execution procedures—such as mandatory community service—will be revisited and further developed.

Other actions set forth in the Strategy Document in this direction include reevaluating the practice of fixed length probation, imposing obligations on

convicts during probation in line with the nature of their offenses, revisiting regulations to ensure that individuals suffering from mental illnesses and substance addiction are not reintegrated into society without undergoing rehabilitation.

The criminal record practices stand out as a key component of the criminal justice system. Therefore, the Strategy Document includes measures such as reviewing the retention periods for criminal and archival records, introducing artificial intelligence algorithms to assess applications for the deletion or correction of criminal records, expanding rule-based decision support modules to allow for the automated application of criminal record deletion rules.

One of the prominent issues addressed in the foregoing Strategy Document is strengthening mechanisms designed to ensure the effective protection of children throughout judicial processes. In this regard, several key measures have been outlined, including:

- Ensuring the specialization of public prosecutors assigned to juvenile investigation offices,
- Expanding the establishment of juvenile justice centers and child monitoring centers,
- Handling first-time offenses committed by children under the age of 15—except for serious crimes—within child-specific protection mechanisms rather than through prosecution,
- Developing special rehabilitation measures for juvenile offenders who have been involved in criminal activities multiple times.

Objective 3

Improving the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System

■ Target 3.1

Regulations will be introduced with a view to increasing the effectiveness of investigations and ensuring that they are concluded within a reasonable period of time.

Actions

- a. The specialized bureaus established within the chief public prosecution offices will be standardized, and delays arising from changes in work distribution and transfer of investigation files between bureaus will be prevented.
- b. The organizational capacity of public prosecution offices in tackling cybercrimes and fraud offenses will be enhanced.
- c. Investigation guidelines will be developed for different types of offenses and will be kept up to date.
- d. Regulatory reforms will be implemented to address challenges related to seizure and confiscation, particularly in cases involving fraud and theft committed through banking systems and information technologies.
- e. Measures will be taken to promote deterrence and expand the responsibilities of banks and electronic money institutions in preventing offenses committed through the use of information systems of banks or credit institutions.
- f. Strict rules will be introduced regarding the establishment of telephone subscriptions by implementing certain identity verification methods in order to prevent offenses.
- g. The subscription records of all telephone subscribers will be updated, and lines for which subscription records are not updated within a certain period will be deactivated.
- h. Regulations will be introduced with a view to protecting the parties involved in online sales.



Effective
investigation
for material
truth



Robust
measures in
combating
cybercrimes
and fraud



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 3.2

The balance of offenses, sanctions, and execution will be restructured in a manner that upholds the principle of safeguarding rights and freedoms, particularly the right to a fair trial.

Actions

- a. The balance of offenses, sanctions, and execution in criminal legislation will be reconsidered in line with societal needs.
- b. The classification of certain acts as offenses or misdemeanors in the legislation will be redefined.
- c. Alternative sanctions to short-term imprisonment will be implemented effectively, and their scope will be expanded.
- d. The sums of judicial fines will be redefined in order to ensure the deterrent effect of penalties.
- e. The criminal justice system will be enriched with new types of sanctions as alternatives to custodial sentences.
- f. The practice of fixed length probation will be reassessed to promote the deterrent effect of penalties.
- g. Obligations will be imposed on convicts under probation, which are in line with the nature of their offenses.
- h. The provisions laid down in the legislation, which ensure that individuals suffering from mental illnesses and substance addiction are not reintegrated into society without undergoing rehabilitation will be reviewed.
- i. Regulations will be introduced with a view to identifying, confiscating, and managing crime proceeds, and an organizational structure tasked with handling these matters will be established, after examining international best practices.

Balance in
offenses,
sanctions,
and
execution

■ Target 3.3

New provisions will be introduced with a view to strengthening deterrence in the criminal justice system.

Actions

- a. A regulation will be introduced to allow pretrial detention for offenses with a maximum prison sentence of up to two years and subject to a detention ban, if the suspect's behavior strongly indicates a likelihood of reoffending, considering the manner of the crime and its potential to severely disrupt public order.
- b. Sanctions for traffic offenses and misdemeanors that endanger road safety will be revised with greater deterrence in mind.
- c. Actions such as exiting a vehicle in traffic with intent to attack will be subject to distinct penalties, including the revocation of the offender's driver's license.
- d. Leaving the scene of a fatal or injury-causing traffic accident without necessity will be classified as a separate offense.
- e. Harsher penalties will be imposed for the offense of forming a criminal organization, as well as for crimes against bodily integrity, personal liberty, and the environment.
- f. Stricter penalties will be introduced for the unauthorized carrying of blank-firing and gas-powered guns.
- g. The licensing framework for hunting rifles will be revised, and penalties for unlicensed possession will be increased.
- h. Penalties will be increased for individuals who discharge firearms, including those capable of firing sound and gas cartridges, at events such as engagements, weddings, and military send-offs.
- i. Legal provisions concerning crimes and penalties related to the protection of the family under the Constitution will be reassessed to ensure their more effective implementation.
- j. Provisions governing cyber and fraud-related offenses will be revised to enhance the fight against such crimes.

Effective
criminal
justice for
public order

Strict sanctions
against
aggression in
traffic

Deterrent
penalties for
firearm use during
celebrations

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 3.4

Regulations in line with the understanding of Restorative Justice will be introduced, and the effectiveness of the reconciliation mechanism will be enhanced.

Actions

- New provisions will be introduced in order to encourage suspects or defendants to compensate victims, particularly in offenses against property.
- In offenses subject to a complaint, a mechanism will be established to dismiss the case if the complainant fails to appear at the first hearing without a valid excuse despite receiving plenary summons.
- Efforts will be made to raise public awareness regarding reconciliation.

Restorative
justice and
reconciliation

■ Target 3.5

The criminal record system will be restructured within the scope of the right not to be labelled as criminal.

Actions

- The periods for the deletion of criminal records and archive records will be reviewed.
- Provisions concerning the restoration of restricted rights and the loss of rights will be reconsidered in order to address certain challenges encountered in practice.
- A regulation will be introduced to prevent the recording of final convictions for judicial fines where the appeal process is not available, in the criminal record system.
- Specific provisions will be enacted in favor of children regarding the incorporation of convictions in their criminal records.
- Artificial intelligence algorithms will be utilized to assess the applications for the deletion or correction of criminal records.
- The rule-based decision support module will be expanded to create a system that allows for the collective implementation of the rules of criminal record deletion.

A criminal
record system
strengthening
the right not to
be labeled as
criminal.

■ Target 3.6

The capacity for the execution and probation system will be enhanced.

Actions

- a. The number of high-security forensic psychiatric hospitals will be increased.
- b. The infrastructure of the Project on the Integration of Smart Technologies into Penal Institutions (ACEP) will be reinforced in line with technological advancements.
- c. Efforts will be undertaken to develop alternative technological methods to facilitate inmates' access to their lawyers.
- d. The number of hospital ward beds designated for convicts in public hospitals will be increased in accordance with international standards.
- e. A greater number of forensic psychiatric units will be designated for detainees and convicts in city hospitals.
- f. The number of campus-type public hospitals and district clinics serving penal institutions will be increased.
- g. Dedicated penal institutions tailored for the rehabilitation of drug addicts will be established.
- h. The scope of alternative execution methods will be expanded for elderly and severely ill convicts, as well as for female convicts with children.
- i. Dedicated penal institutions suitable for the rehabilitation of detainees and convicts in need of care due to severe illness or physical disability will be established.
- j. The capacity of psychosocial support services will be strengthened.
- k. The electronic monitoring system will be improved by utilizing national technological resources.
- l. Specialized intervention programs will be developed for individuals in probation who have been convicted for drug-related offenses.

Effective
fight against
drug-related
offenses

Alternative
execution
methods
for elderly,
severely ill, and
female convicts
with children

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 3.7

New practices in penal institutions tailored to the needs will be developed.

Actions

- a. The rehabilitation and reintegration of convicts into society across the execution system will be reinforced, vocational training programs will be developed, and the production capacity of prison workshops will be increased for this purpose.
- b. Programs enabling convicts to perform community service will be expanded.
- c. Processes and procedures related to visitation and health services for convicts and detainees will be digitalized using advanced technological methods.
- d. Efforts will be undertaken to enable children with relatives in penal institutions maintain their social relationships in a manner that serves their development.
- e. Multi-program high schools established in closed penal institutions will be scaled up to ensure that juvenile offenders have access to formal education.



Socially
integrated
convicts,
secure
society



■ Target 3.8

Mechanisms for the enhanced protection of children in judicial proceedings will be strengthened, and restorative justice practices for children will be developed.

Actions

- a.** Specialization of public prosecutors assigned to juvenile investigation will be ensured.
- b.** Juvenile courts and juvenile heavy penal courts will be expanded, and their physical conditions will be adapted in alignment with the purposes of the juvenile justice system.
- c.** New juvenile justice centers and child monitoring centers will be established.
- d.** Protective and supportive injunction orders issued under the Child Protection Law will be rendered exclusively by designated courts, and their implementation will be effectively monitored.
- e.** Except for certain serious crimes, mechanisms will be introduced to prevent children under 15 years of age from facing investigation or prosecution for their first offense, and ensure that their cases be handled within child-specific protection mechanisms, or public prosecutors be granted the discretion to decide on the public interest of initiating proceedings and judges have the authority to not to impose penalties.
- f.** Special rehabilitation measures will be developed for juvenile offenders who have been involved in multiple offenses.
- g.** Alternative sanctions to short-term imprisonment will be introduced for juvenile offenders.
- h.** Drawing up social inquiry reports for juvenile offenders will be made mandatory.



Promoting
the best
interests of
the child in
the criminal
justice
system



Protection
mechanisms
for first-
time juvenile
offenders



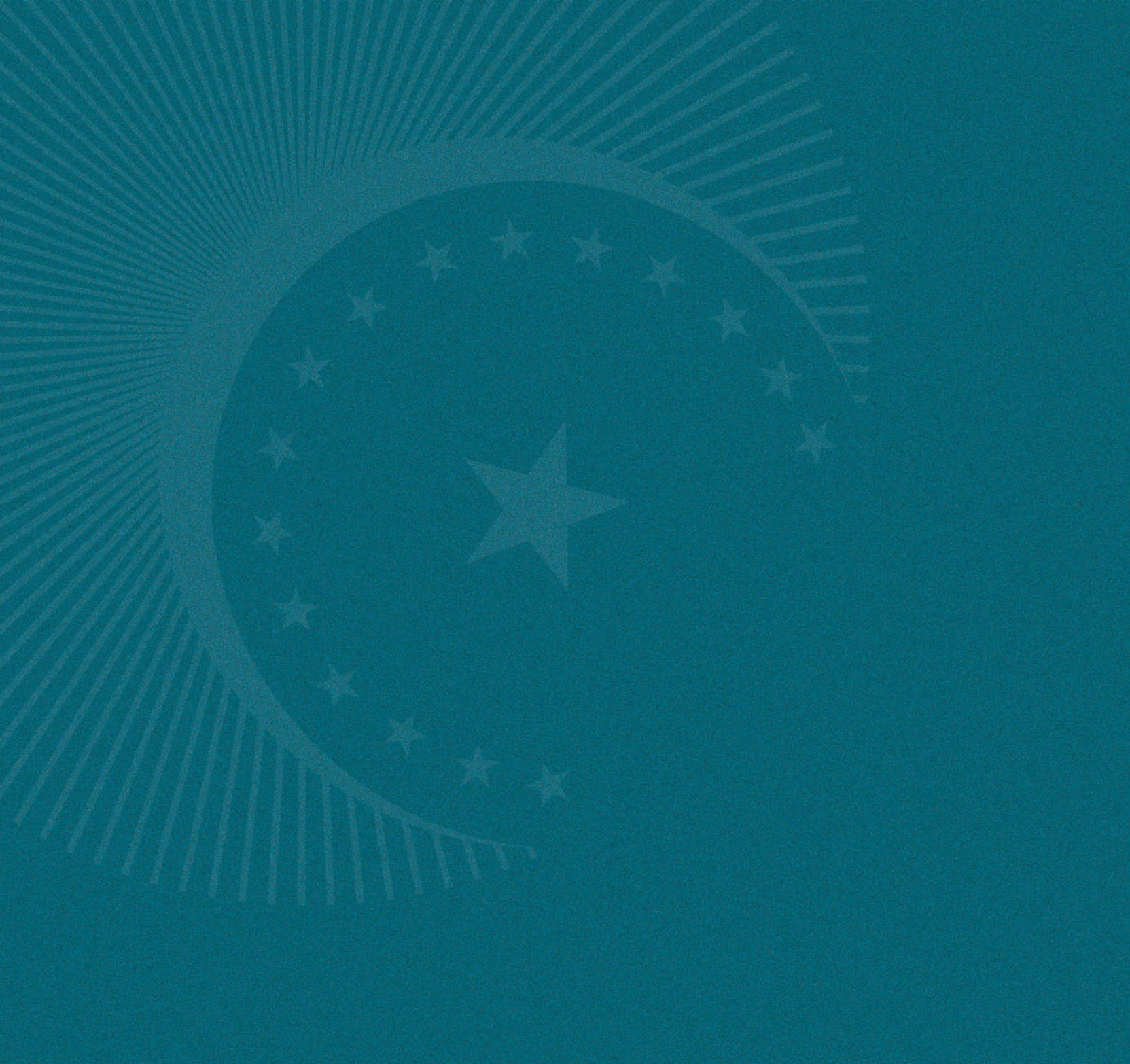
JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 3.9

The capacities of the Judicial Support and Victim Directorates will be strengthened.

Actions

- a. The number and qualifications of social workers, psychologists, pedagogues, and other personnel serving in the judicial support and victim services directorates will be increased.
- b. Training activities will be organized for the personnel working in judicial support and victim services.



6 Targets

34 Actions

4

Objective

Enhancing the Efficiency of Civil and
Administrative Judicial Proceedings

Civil and administrative judicial proceedings fulfill a critical function in shaping social life and society's understanding of justice. The system is also directly linked to economic life and a secure investment environment. In this regard, it is of great importance to ensure that judicial processes become more transparent, comprehensible, and expedited.

Judicial fees are determined either as fixed or proportional in accordance with the applicable legislation, with the rate and amount of fees varying depending on the nature of the case and the way it is concluded⁸. Simplifying the differences arising from the Law on Fees and special laws concerning the nature, rate, calculation, and temporary or permanent exemptions of fees to the greatest extent possible will significantly reduce the workload of courts, thereby accelerating proceedings.

The Code of Civil Procedure No. 6100 has incorporated class actions into the legal system as a type of lawsuit. Through this lawsuit type, the requirement of "legal interest" as a prerequisite for filing a case has been expanded in favor of societal interest. In an effort to better safeguard the interests of the relevant social entities and to alleviate the caseload of courts, the legal provisions regarding this newly established mechanism will be revisited, particularly in relation to individuals who, while not directly involved in the lawsuit, are clearly members of the affected group.

Within the legal system, the rapid resolution of certain disputes due to their nature or subject matter is not only a necessity for the parties involved but also an imperative for the effective and efficient operation of the justice system. In this context, steps will be taken to ensure that small claims and minor lawsuits are resolved through simplified and expedited judicial

proceedings while maintaining necessary procedural safeguards.

In civil proceedings, judicial processes may be prolonged due to the failure of non-party entities to comply with or obstruct the enforcement of interim decisions regarding requests for information and documents made by the court. Eliminating the issues arising from such instances by imposing criminal sanctions for the deliberate non-compliance or obstruction of interim decisions by non-party entities will provide a significant contribution to the functioning of the system.

Like all other freedoms, the freedom to claim rights can only be exercised through legitimate means and methods within legal systems. In this regard, the "Obligation to Act Honestly and Tell the Truth" laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure constitutes one of the limitations of this right under civil procedure law. This is also a requirement of the "Principle of Good Faith" established under Article 2 of the Turkish Civil Code. Thus, the law underscores that the freedom to claim rights and the principle of party presentation cannot be exercised without limits, enshrining a fundamental principle in this regard.

Universal principles specific to this matter, along with the aforementioned special regulations and the natural boundaries of the exercise of rights, necessitate the absolute prevention of bad-faith party conduct that would lead to new injustices in the exercise of the the freedom to claim rights. Although the relevant legislation provides for sanctions against dishonest conduct, it has been observed in practice that these provisions remain insufficient in certain cases to deter bad-faith party actions. For this reason, new legislative measures will be introduced in an effort to deter parties from violating the principle of good faith

⁸ **Article 15 of the Law on Fees:** Judicial fees shall be levied on the transactions specified in Schedule (1) based on either a proportional rate according to the monetary value of the transaction or a fixed rate determined by the nature and type of the transaction.

Article 22 of the Law on Fees: If waiver of the lawsuit, acceptance of the lawsuit, or settlement occurs at the first hearing, one-third of the judgment and decree fee shall be charged; if it occurs at a later stage, two-thirds of the fee shall be charged.

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

and related obligations while ensuring that procedural rights are not unduly restricted.

The family institution is of vital importance for the continuity of society, a fact upon which all segments of society unequivocally agree. Safeguarding this institution is among the fundamental duties of the state. As prescribed by the Constitution, the state is obliged to take necessary measures to ensure the welfare and well-being of families, particularly the protection of mothers and children⁹.

Within the justice system, procedural regulations specific to family law are stipulated separately under various pieces of legislation, including but not limited to the Turkish Civil Code, the Law on the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence Against Women, and the Law on the Establishment, Duties, and Trial Procedures of Family Courts.

The prolongation of proceedings arising from family law disputes can lead to adverse consequences for the civil and financial status of the parties as well as for their common children. In this regard, the provisions related to divorce and alimony within family law will be revisited and specific procedural rules will be introduced.

The mediation mechanism, which has made a substantial contribution to fostering a culture of social reconciliation, serves a crucial function in alleviating the caseload of the judiciary. In the upcoming period, efforts will be undertaken with a view to strengthening the organizational structure of mediation in an effort to further advance its effectiveness in this field.

The enforcement and bankruptcy system plays an essential role in ensuring the smooth continuation of social and economic life. The current Enforcement and

Bankruptcy Law No. 2004, which has been in force since 1932, has undergone numerous amendments over time. However, the need for a new enforcement and bankruptcy law that takes technological advancements into account has become unavoidable. In an effort to ensure that the enforcement and bankruptcy system does not lag behind the dynamism of commercial life and to prevent disruptions in resolving potential disputes arising from future developments, a new enforcement and bankruptcy law will be introduced.

A portion of the efforts aimed at simplifying and enhancing the efficiency of judicial procedures will pertain to administrative procedural law. In this regard, mandatory recourse to settlement mechanisms in full remedy actions where the administration is a party will be introduced, with a view to fostering alternative dispute resolution methods in the field of administrative law. Additionally, measures will be implemented to shorten the case completion process in administrative justice, and procedural rules allowing for direct case consolidation and separation will be introduced. Furthermore, jurisdictional rules will be reconsidered with a view to ensuring the balanced distribution of caseload, thereby enabling administrative proceedings to be concluded within a shorter timeframe.

In the same vein, allowing for determination of evidence as well as incorporating a mechanism for completing judgments in cases where certain claims have not been ruled upon—which are currently unavailable in administrative judicial procedures—are expected to contribute positively to strengthening the efficiency of the administrative justice.

⁹ **Article 41 of the 1982 Constitution:** Family is the foundation of the Turkish society and based on the equality between the spouses. The State shall take the necessary measures and establish the necessary organization to protect peace and welfare of the family, especially mother and children, and to ensure the instruction of family planning and its practice. Every child has the right to protection and care and the right to have and maintain a personal and direct relation with his/her mother and father unless it is contrary to his/her best interests. The State shall take measures for the protection of the children against all kinds of abuse and violence.

Objective 4

Enhancing the Efficiency of Civil and Administrative Judicial Proceedings

■ Target 4.1

The processes in civil proceedings will be simplified.

Actions

- a. Regulations will be introduced to eliminate grievances arising from rulings of lack of jurisdiction due to incorrect judicial pathways.
- b. The division of jurisdiction among civil courts of first instance, commercial courts, and consumer courts will be redefined, taking into account case-specific jurisprudence.
- c. Regulations will be introduced to ensure that claims and lawsuits below a certain value and monetary threshold are resolved through a simplified and expedited judicial procedure.
- d. Litigation fees will be streamlined, and the collection method will be reorganized.
- e. In cases where disputes are resolved through settlement, fixed fees will be applied instead of proportional judgment and writ fees.
- f. The collection of litigation fees and advance court costs via electronic payment methods will be enabled.
- g. The effectiveness of class action provisions will be enhanced with a view to better protecting collective interests.
- h. Within the framework of the right to trial within a reasonable time, the efficiency of the preliminary review phase will be analyzed, and necessary regulations will be introduced.
- i. Provisions will be adopted to ensure that all instructions laid down in the preliminary proceedings report are fulfilled before the preliminary review hearing by the office of the court clerk and that this process is monitored effectively.
- j. In an effort to consolidate legal certainty, promissory notes will be produced under official registration.

More rapid
resolution
of cases
below a
certain
value and
amount

Legal certainty
through
registered
promissory
notes

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 4.2

The efficiency of civil proceedings will be improved.

Actions

- a. Criminal sanctions will be introduced for failure to provide, or obstruction of access to, documents and information requested by the court in writing.
- b. Violations of the duty to act honestly and tell the truth, as stipulated in the Code of Civil Procedure, will be subject to stricter sanctions.
- c. Measures will be adopted to prevent the misuse of legal remedies through abusive procedural actions by the parties.
- d. A new guardianship system will be introduced to better protect the interests of legally incapacitated individuals while also facilitating legal processes for citizens.

Criminal
sanctions for
non-compliance
with interim
rulings of civil
courts

A new
guardianship
system to
better protect
the interests
of legally
incapacitated
individuals

■ Target 4.3

Measures will be developed to address issues arising from the practical implementation of family law.

Actions

- a. The shortcomings in divorce law, including its financial implications, will be reviewed, and efforts will be made to introduce a new divorce procedure that better serves the rights and interests of the parties and children.
- b. Divorce cases will be allowed to proceed during the judicial recess.
- c. Efforts will be undertaken to restructure the establishment and procedural framework of family courts.
- d. Mediation in family law will be introduced to prevent emotional strain on family members in non-violent family disputes.



A new divorce procedure tailored to protect the rights and interests of the parties and children



Mediation in family law

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 4.4

The effectiveness of mediation and arbitration will be enhanced.

Actions

- a. Legislative efforts will be undertaken to strengthen the institutional framework of mediation, diversify oversight mechanisms, and set standards for mediation venues.
- b. The mediation process will be restructured to further facilitate reaching an agreement between parties.
- c. The scope of mandatory mediation, particularly in claims and compensation cases heard before civil courts of first instance, will be expanded.
- d. Measures will be taken to promote the effectiveness of voluntary mediation.
- e. Institutional arbitration will be expanded across various fields.



■ Target 4.5

The administrative judicial procedure will be simplified and its efficiency will be increased.

Actions

- a. Settlement will be made a mandatory step in full remedy actions involving the administration.
- b. Reforms will be introduced to shorten the case completion process in administrative courts.
- c. The pilot action model will be implemented for administrative disputes.
- d. Regulations will be enacted to allow for the determination of evidence in administrative justice.
- e. Jurisdictional rules will be revised to ensure a balanced distribution of workload among administrative courts, in line with the right to trial within reasonable time.
- f. To reinforce the right to trial within reasonable time, regulations will be introduced to allow for the consolidation or direct separation of administrative case files.
- g. To prevent delays in administrative trials, regulations will be introduced to allow courts to issue a supplementary decision on matters that were requested in the lawsuit petition but were not ruled upon.



Pilot action
model in
administrative
justice

Determination
of evidence in
administrative
courts



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 4.6

The enforcement and bankruptcy system will be restructured while maintaining a fair balance between creditors and debtors.

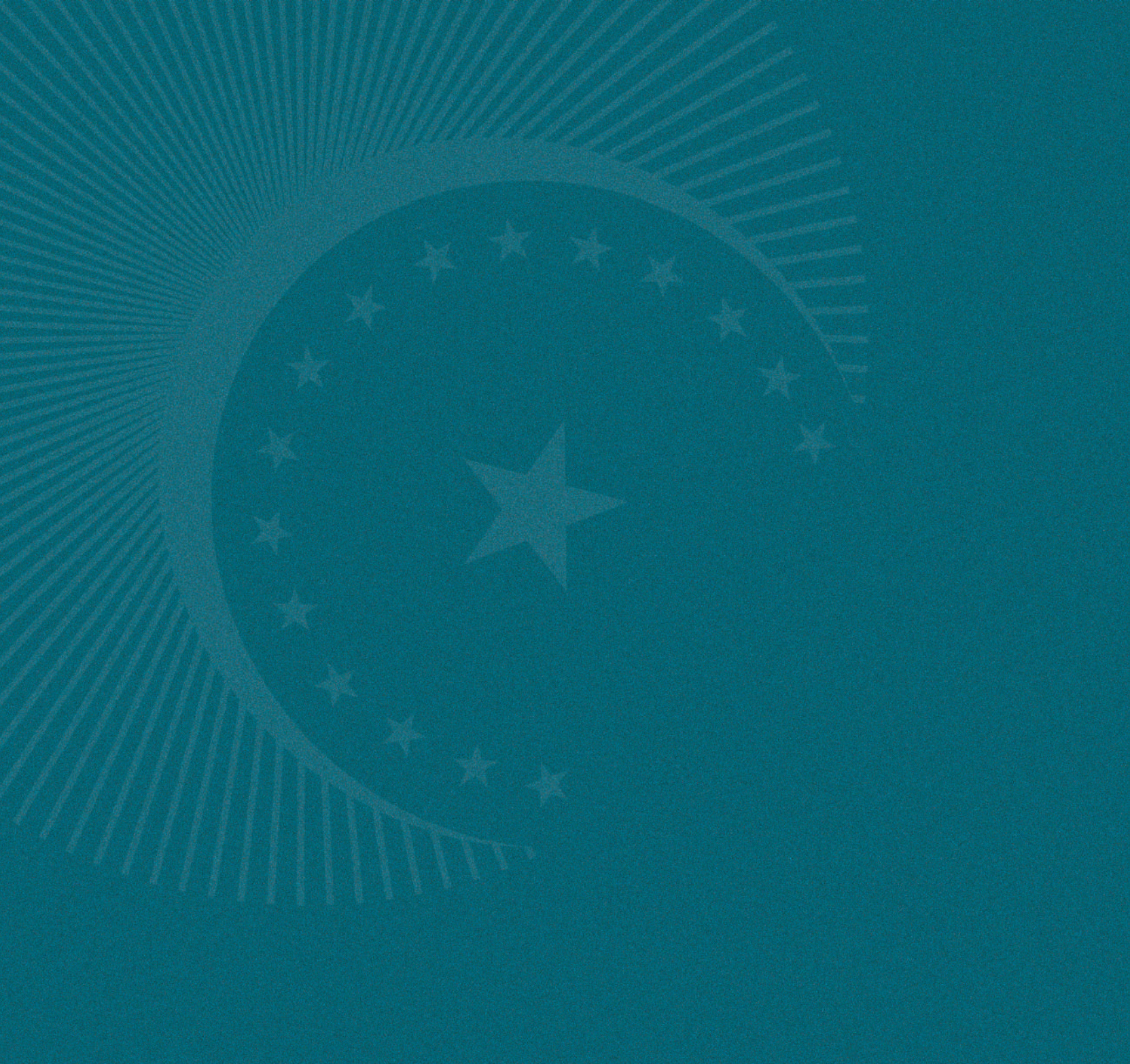
Actions

- a. A new Enforcement and Bankruptcy Law will be drafted to address contemporary needs while ensuring a fair balance between creditors and debtors.
- b. A rapid, cost-effective, and party-protective alternative enforcement mechanism will be developed for the claims below a certain monetary threshold.
- c. The use of the electronic file system will be scaled up, and all pending physical files at enforcement offices will be integrated into the UYAP system.
- d. Regulations will be introduced to make concordat (debt restructuring) a reliable and effective tool for maintaining a stable economic structure.



New
Enforcement
and
Bankruptcy
Law





5 Targets
22 Actions

5

Objective

Facilitating Access to Justice

A key requirement of the rule of law is ensuring that access to justice is as simplified as possible. Judicial services must be structured in a way that allows all beneficiaries to reach them effortlessly.

Equitable access to justice also requires that user-friendly applications within the system be made available to all on equal terms. With this objective in mind, steps will be taken to improve and facilitate access to justice by considering the needs of all segments of society.

Legal aid refers to ensuring that individuals with limited financial means are exempt from court fees and expenses while also providing them with free legal representation. In this regard, funding allocated to the legal aid system will be increased, and standardized criteria will be established for reviewing the applications to promote fair and equal access for all eligible individuals.

Front desks in courthouses allow citizens to complete their transactions swiftly from a single location while their guiding function significantly facilitates users' legal procedures within the courthouse. These desks relieve court clerks of much of their paperwork burden, thereby enhancing their efficiency. Strengthening the effectiveness of front desks and thereby maximizing access to justice has been prioritized in the foregoing Strategy Document.

Promoting women's access to justice is among the key priorities for the coming period. In pursuit of this goal, the Strategy Document sets forth various initiatives.

These initiatives include scaling up the bureaus for investigating the cases of domestic violence and

violence against women, the development of legal aid practices that ensure stronger protection of women's rights, and the advancement and widespread implementation of these measures through in-service and pre-service training programs.

Efforts will also focus on improving access to justice by addressing the specific needs of different beneficiary groups. In this context, legal aid application forms and informative materials on the rights of victims and witnesses will be redesigned to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Moreover, awareness-raising initiatives will be carried out to promote the use of judicial interview rooms which are designed to facilitate the process for the elderly and handicapped victims when giving testimonies.

Preventive law has become a comprehensive concept encompassing various aspects, particularly the strengthening of the legal profession, the defence, and notarial services. The areas examined under this concept are mainly focused on preventing disputes from arising or ensuring their easy resolution.

As part of preventive law initiatives, the foregoing Strategy Document also sets forth the objective of introducing fundamental legal education and fostering legal awareness from an early age. To this end, in addition to expanding the "Law and Justice Course," which has been offered in lower-secondary schools since the 2013-2014 academic year, to also be taught in high schools, further efforts will be made to disseminate fundamental legal knowledge throughout society.

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

Objective 5

Facilitating Access to Justice

■ Target 5.1

Regulations will be introduced to facilitate access to justice.

Actions

- a. Provisions on legal aid in the legislation will be reviewed.
- b. The financial resources allocated to legal aid will be increased.
- c. Standards will be established for assessing legal aid applications.
- d. Measures will be taken to improve the efficiency of services provided at front desks in courthouses.

Stronger
legal aid for
accessible
justice

■ Target 5.2

Practices across the justice system on women's rights will be improved, and access to justice for women who are victims of violence will be strengthened.

Actions

- a. Bureaus for investigating the cases of domestic violence and violence against women within public prosecution offices will be scaled up, and the prosecutors assigned to these bureaus will be specialized.
- b. Legal aid practices that enhance the protection of women's rights will be further developed.
- c. Training programs on women's rights will be developed and implemented in both in-service and pre-service training.
- d. The capacity of judicial support and victim services directorates to assist female victims throughout legal proceedings will be strengthened.

Zero
tolerance
for violence
against
women

JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 5.3

Access to justice for elderly and handicapped individuals will be facilitated.

Actions

- a. Legal aid application forms will be adapted to accommodate the specific needs of individuals with disabilities.
- b. Materials regarding the rights of victims and witnesses will be made accessible to handicapped individuals.
- c. Awareness raising initiatives will be launched to promote the use of judicial interview rooms for the statements of elderly and handicapped victims.
- d. A video-based sign language interpretation service will be provided to help hearing-impaired individuals express themselves during legal proceedings.
- e. A mobile application will be developed to provide information and guidance to hearing-impaired individuals, helping them navigate their interactions at courthouses.
- f. A training module will be created for judicial personnel to enhance their ability to facilitate access to justice for individuals with disabilities.

Easier
access to
justice for
the elderly
and the
handicapped

■ Target 5.4

The physical capacity of justice services will be strengthened with an environmentally conscious understanding that promotes access to justice.

Actions

- a. The locations of newly built courthouses will be carefully selected to ensure easy access for the public.
- b. Courthouses will be designed to be elderly- and disability-friendly, with accessible facilities and adequate social spaces.
- c. Disaster and emergency response centers will be established in designated locations to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of judicial services in the aftermath of a natural disaster.



JUDICIAL REFORM STRATEGY

■ Target 5.5

Practices of preventive law will be developed.

Actions

- a. The “law and justice course”, currently included in lower-secondary school curricula, will be expanded to cover high schools as well.
- b. Efforts will be made to disseminate basic legal knowledge to the general public.
- c. Initiatives will be launched to encourage the implementation of pro bono legal services.
- d. The “legal clinics” will be expanded, and the scope of legal issues covered by these clinics will be broadened.
- e. A framework document will be drawn up in collaboration with relevant organizations to establish standards for the legal clinics.



Legal
clinics
practice
in all law
faculties



CENTURY OF TÜRKİYE
CENTURY OF JUSTICE

NOTES

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