**Turkiye to buy F-16 warplanes from U.S.**

Turkiye and the United States have signed a contract for the sale of F-16 warplanes after Washington greenlighted the $23 billion deal following months of negotiations, Turkish Defence Ministry sources said on Thursday.

“The contract was signed and delegations from both sides are negotiating the details,” the Ministry sources said.

Under the deal, Turkiye will get 40 new F-16s and upgrades to 79 of the jets in its existing fleet.

The State Department last week hailed “a major step forward” in Turkiye’s purchase of new F-16 fighter jets calling them “the most advanced F-16 ever made available only to closest Allies and partners”.

“Just the latest example of United States enduring commitment to security partnership with Turkiye,” it said in a social media post.

The United States did not green light the transaction until Turkiye’s instruments of ratification of Sweden’s membership had arrived in Washington.