



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI XARİCİ İŞLƏR NAZİRLİYİNİN JURNALI
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Postal address: Analysis and Strategic Studies Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sh.Gurbanov Str. 50, Baku AZ 1009
Tel.: 596-91-31; e-mail: mtsa@mfa.gov.az

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THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES (TURKIC COUNCIL)



The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) was established by Nakhchivan Agreement in 2009 as an intergovernmental organization, with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive cooperation among Turkic Speaking States. Its four founding member states are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.

The Turkic Council reflects the common political will that emanates from the Process of Summits of the Heads of States of the Turkic Speaking States. The process began at the very first Summit of the Heads of Turkic Speaking States held in Ankara in 1992, which brought together the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Turkey. Subsequent summits were: Istanbul Summit in 1994; Bishkek Summit in 1995; Tashkent Summit in 1996; Astana Summit in 1998; Baku Summit in 2000; Istanbul Summit in 2001; Antalya Summit in 2006; Nakhchivan Summit in 2009 and Istanbul Summit in 2010.

The Nakhchivan Agreement entered into force in November 2010. At the Istanbul Summit of 2010 the Turkic Council began its activities with a Secretariat headquartered in Istanbul. These summits, after the establishment of the Turkic Council were renamed as “Summits of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”.

Since 2011, the Turkic Council convenes its annual summits under certain topics, where the Heads of State of the Turkic Council evaluate the past period and set goals for the next year. Seven Summits have been held in Almaty, Bishkek, Gabala, Bodrum, Astana, Cholpon-Ata and Baku since the establishment of the Council and the next one will be hosted by Turkey in 2021. These major annual events are convened with the participation of the Presidents of Member States, Foreign Ministers and other Ministers as appropriate.



During the 7th Summit held in Baku in October 2019, Uzbekistan joined the Council as a full member. Hungary received observer status at the Turkic Council during its 6th Summit in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic in September 2018.

The Turkic Council is committed to the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and other universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of states, as well as the maintenance of international peace, security and development of good neighbourly and friendly relations.

Turkic Council is an organization dedicated to strengthening peace and stability, promoting wide-ranging cooperation and disclosing the potential for common development among its member states. Although it brings together a particular group of countries, the organization does not take an exclusive approach. On the contrary, by promoting deeper relations and solidarity amongst Turkic speaking countries, it aims to serve as a new regional instrument for advancing international cooperation in Eurasian continent, particularly in Central Asia and Caucasus.



Constructed on four main pillars of common history, common language, common identity and common culture, the Turkic Council does not limit itself to the confines of these commonalities. Rather, it aims to broaden the existing bilateral cooperation areas such as economy, science, education, transportation, customs, tourism and other various fields among the Member States into multilateral cooperation for the benefit of the region.

At the same time, the Turkic Council does not limit itself within the frames of its Member States and willingly cooperates with its neighbouring states in order to ensure peace and stability in its region particularly in the fields such as transport, customs and tourism.

The principal organs of the Turkic Council are the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Elders, the Senior Officials Committee and the Secretariat. The activities of the organization are also supported by its affiliated organizations such as the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States (TURKPA), the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY), the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Organization consists of the following main institutions:

- Council of Heads of States;
- Council of Foreign Ministers;
- Council of Elders;
- Senior Officials Committee;
- Secretariat.

Turkic Council's main decisive body is the Council of Heads of States (CHS) which is chaired by the country assuming the Chairmanship-in-office (rotation according to the alphabetical order). The current chairman is the Republic of Azerbaijan. The activities of the Turkic Council are coordinated and supported by its Secretariat located in Istanbul.

The main mechanism of the political cooperation among Turkic Speaking States is the annual Summits where the CHS convenes. The CHS embodies the highest political will behind the Turkic Council and is the utmost organ guiding its primary motivations and activities. The CHS, through adopting Summit Declarations, reviews the past work and brings in new instructions for the following year.

Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) considers the issues of current activities of the Turkic Council, brings international issues for discussion in the frame of the CHS meetings, and approves the staff matrix and financial report of the Secretariat. The CFM meets on a regular basis on the sidelines of the Summits. To discuss issues relating to the work of the Council and of common concern, Foreign Ministers also meet at informal CFM meetings every year in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

In addition to the conventional structures of contemporary international organizations, the Turkic Council has a distinct and unique entity, the Council of Elders (CoE), which equips it with the guidance of esteemed notables from the Turkic communities. Bearing in mind that wisdom, knowledge and experience of statesmen, academics and intellectuals constitute a significant source in dealing with rampant problems faced in the region, this unique entity represents a major innovative approach in addressing today's regional and global challenges. As the permanent advisory body to the Turkic Council, the CoE convenes semi-annually and submits its opinions, proposals and practical recommendations to the CFM and the CHS.

The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) is an authorized decision making body of the Turkic Council. The main purpose of this body is to coordinate the activities of the Secretariat as well as to consider and endorse draft documents, worked up by the Secretariat before their submission for adoption by the CFM and approval by the CHS.

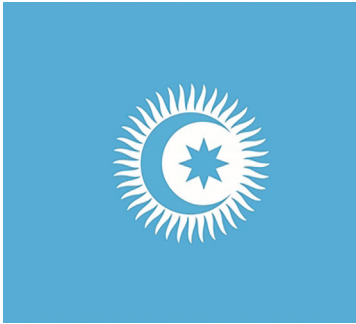
Logo and Flag

The logo and flag of the Turkic Council was presented to the public during the press conference of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) prior to the II. Summit of the Turkic Council held on 22 August 2012 in Bishkek.

The logo and flag contain the elements of the national flags of the Member States of the Turkic Council.



Accordingly; the logo and flag of the Turkic Council consist of the star of the flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the blue color of the flag of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the sun of the flag of the Kyrgyz Republic and the crescent of the flag of the Republic of Turkey.



The flag of the Turkic Council, together with the flags of the Member States, was solemnly raised to the flagpole by Nursultan Nazarbayev, Founding President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Abdullah Gül, 11th President of the Republic of Turkey, at the premises of the Turkic Council on 12 October 2012 in Istanbul.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

The Turkic Council is designed as an umbrella organization for the cooperation mechanisms among the Turkic Speaking States. The affiliated organizations of the Turkic Council are as follows:

- TURKPA;
- TURKSOY;
- Turkic Academy;
- Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation.

TURKPA



Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States (TURKPA) was established on 21 November 2008 by the Istanbul Agreement signed by the Heads of Parliaments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and the Republic of Turkey in Istanbul

in order to develop and strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation among the Member States. The TURKPA Secretariat is located in Baku and has the status of international organization.

Based on historical, cultural and language affinity, the organization seeks to develop political dialogue among the Member States by means of parliamentary diplomacy, harmonize the national legislation of the Member States and strengthen mutual activities with regard to other issues relating to the inter-parliamentary cooperation.

The highest decision making body of TURKPA is the Council of Assembly consisting of the Heads of Parliaments of the Parties. The Council of Assembly defines the ways and prospects of development of cooperation among the Parties, regulates performance of the aims and duties of the Assembly. The Assembly has four permanent specialized commissions on legal affairs and international relations, on economic cooperation, on social, cultural and humanitarian affairs, on environment and natural resources. The commissions consider the issues within their competences, ensure the execution of the decisions adopted by the Council of Assembly and during the Plenary Session, assess documentation and examine proposals submitted to the commissions, adopt reports and recommendations to be presented at the Plenary Sessions.

In addition to promoting legislative cooperation among the Member States and adopting reports and recommendations in the respective fields, TURKPA holds expert workshops in order to provide a professional input on the work of the commissions, organizes international conferences and forums on various themes concerning the inter-parliamentary cooperation.

TURKPA also conducts international election observation missions to monitor the elections in the Member States for the purpose of compliance with their relevant national legislation and international standards.

TURKSOY



TURKSOY

The International Organization of Turkic Culture, TURKSOY, is the UNESCO of the Turkic World and was established in 1993 upon signing of its founding agreement by the Ministers of Culture of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey.

Later on, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the autonomous republics of the Russian Federation; Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Altai, Sakha, Tyva and Khakassia as well as the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia (Moldova) joined TURKSOY as member states with an observer status.

For more than 27 years now, TURKSOY has been working under the auspices of the Heads of States of its member countries with their approval and appreciation. Since its establishment, TURKSOY has been carrying out activities to strengthen the ties of brotherhood and solidarity among Turkic peoples, transmit the common Turkic culture to future generations and introduce it to the world.

Turkic Academy



Turkic Academy was founded in 2012 by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey as an international organization under the aegis of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) with the aim of coordinating scientific researches on the language, literature, culture, history of Turkic people and evaluating the contribution of the Turkic civilization to the human civilization based on indigenous sources.

Hungary has been granted observer status in Turkic Academy at the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council held on 3 September 2018 in Cholpon-Ata.

Located in Astana, Turkic Academy is presided by a Scientific Council, consisting of the Ministers in charge of Education of the Member States as well as the President and Vice-Presidents of Turkic Academy. The functions of Executive Body of the Academy are performed by the President. Since 2014 the President of the Turkic Academy is Prof. Darkhan Kydyrali. His term of office was prolonged at the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council by the Council of Heads of States for 4 years.

The main mission of the Academy is to lead scientific studies on Turkic history, ethnography, languages etc. as well as preparing common textbooks/teaching materials across the Turkic world for the use of educational establishments in the Member States. The Academy has issued more than 90 publications, working on common literature, geography, history textbooks to promote the common history, culture and heritage of the Turkic States, as well as implementing the social research project called Turkic Barometer. The Turkic Academy conducts important archeological researches and excavations, which led to the discovery of ancient artifacts related to the Turkic era in Mongolia.

Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation



TURKIC CULTURE AND HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation started its activities following the decision of Heads of States during the Astana Summit, which was held on 11 September 2015. The Charter of the Foundation was adopted at the Bishkek Summit on 23 August 2012. The Foundation's Secretariat is located in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The objectives of the Foundation are to protect study and promote the Turkic culture and heritage through support and funding activities, projects and programs. In order to achieve this aims, the Foundation planning to:

- provide funds for preserving, protecting, restoring and promoting the Turkic culture and heritage;
- assist in resolving scientific and technical issues with respect to protection, restoration and promotion of the Turkic culture and heritage;
- support the training of specialists in the field of protection, restoration and promotion of the Turkic culture and heritage;
- assist in organizing seminars, workshops, conferences, congresses and field studies, as well as exhibitions;
- provide aids in preparation of electronic and printed scientific periodicals and scientific publications;
- sponsor contests, festivals, tournaments etc;
- assist in reviving, supporting and developing traditional craftsmanship and applied art in the territories where the Turkic speaking peoples reside;
- provide assistance to the craftsmen, artists and other creative art workers in defending their intellectual property rights.

Several important international events, conferences, exhibitions and forums aimed at preserving and promoting the culture of Turkic speaking peoples and strengthening unity amongst its nations were organized since the establishment of the organisation with participation of high-level government officials. As a result of the Foundation's growing number of partnerships in its member states and beyond, it already managed to sign Memorandum of Understandings with several international organisations and national institutions.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Nakhchivan Declaration

3 October 2009, Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic Kurmanbek Bakiyev and President of the Republic of Turkey Abdullah Gul participated at the Ninth Summit of the Heads of the Turkic Speaking States held on 2 and 3 October 2009 in Nakhchivan city, Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Heads of State,

Noting the importance of the existing high-level contacts and cooperation in all spheres, based on affinity of history, language and culture, equality and mutual benefit,

Affirming the advantage of Summits of the Heads of the Turkic Speaking States and the provisions of declarations adopted at the previous Summits, including the Antalya Declaration, adopted at the Summit in the Republic of Turkey in 2006,

Being convinced that strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations and existing solidarity among Turkic Speaking States deepens the cooperation in the Eurasian region,

Noting with satisfaction the signing of the Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States at the Ninth Summit of the Heads of the Turkic speaking Countries held on 2 and 3 October 2009 in Nakhchivan city,

Noting the leading role of economy and trade in contemporary international relations,

Expressing their adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, to the documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and above all to the Helsinki Final Act,

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the States on the basis of principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, non-interference in domestic affairs of each other, non-use and non-threat of the use of force,

Declared the following:

1. Noted that the Ninth Summit of the Heads of the Turkic Speaking States held in Nakhchivan city shall significantly contribute to further development and deepening of multilateral and bilateral relations and cooperation among Turkic Speaking States in various fields.
2. Expressed their intention to develop, on the basis of mutual interests, relations and solidarity implicit in commonness of history, affinity of language and culture among Turkic Speaking States.

3. Reaffirmed their adherence to the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and development of market economy, rule of law and good governance.
4. Expressed their intention to develop mutual relations in the field of trade and economy, and to enlarge cooperation, in particular in the fields of industry, agriculture, transport, communication and in other fields on the basis of principles of equality and mutual benefit.
5. Emphasizing that dynamically developing economies of Turkic Speaking States create conditions for cooperation in various fields, noted the necessity of adopting additional measures aiming at enhancing and deepening the trade-economic, scientific-technical and humanitarian cooperation among Turkic Speaking States in accordance with their potential.
6. Confirmed the increasing role of the energy resources of the Caspian region ensuring the energy security of Europe, expressed the assurance that the strategic Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipelines serve global energy security and sustainable economic development of the countries of the region. In this context, they highlighted the importance of increase in pipe capacity of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and emphasized the importance of the connection between the Aktau port and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline.
7. Noted that the establishment of the new railway connection Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, which is one of the integral parts of the East-West corridor and directed to increase freight volumes between Europe and Asia, shall contribute to expansion of international transport-communication links and economic development, security and stability of the region.
8. Emphasized that they shall attach much more importance to deepening relations among Turkic Speaking States and with this aim shall contribute to organization of mutual visits, exchange of experience and cooperation. Expressed their support to enhancing contacts among parliaments, central and local authorities, mass media, which will serve to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as development of public links among peoples of the Turkic Speaking States.
9. Affirming mutual interest in broadening relations in the spheres of science, education, culture, art, tourism, sports and in other spheres, expressed their adherence to support and strengthen spiritual and humanitarian contacts among Turkic Speaking peoples.
10. Expressed support to the contacts between scientific organizations and scientists, as well as to concrete projects in the relevant spheres, and reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in the field of education.
11. Confirmed the necessity of further promotion of political consultations directed to the strengthening of regional and global security, development of interaction in all spheres of cooperation, close contacts and joint action. Expressed their intention to promote strengthening the confidence and mutual understanding among Turkic Speaking States.
12. The Parties stated for continuation of further interaction on the reconstruction and peaceful reestablishment of Afghanistan and welcomed the elections held in Afghanistan on 20 August 2009, which were a serious challenge on the part of the Afghan authorities given the situation in the country.

13. The Parties expressed the intention to jointly take part in aid programmes of the international community for Afghanistan, and in realization of joint projects on reconstruction of its economy. In this connection the Parties salute all initiatives of Turkic Speaking States on the Afghan solution, in particular the Bishkek initiatives of the Kyrgyz Republic.
14. Drew attention to the necessity of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and guaranteeing the rights and liberties of the Turkic-origin community which is an integral part of the whole Iraqi society.
15. Underlined the importance of the contribution of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (CICA) to the development of dialogue and cooperation on security matters in Asia and stressed that during the Kazakh Chairmanship CICA has made important progress in the way of institutionalization, and emphasized full support to the CICA Chairmanship of Turkey during 2010-2012.
16. Noted with satisfaction the progress Turkey has achieved in the European Union accession process whereas Turkey is a significant State of the Eurasian area whose membership in the European Union will create political, economic and social momentum for the development of the region as a whole.
17. Expressing their expectation for a settlement of the Cyprus problem within the framework of a new Partnership to be established on the basis of United Nations parameters, expressed their support for the ongoing comprehensive settlement negotiations between the two sides in Cyprus as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's calls and Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) resolutions concerning the lifting without delay of the isolation upon the Turkish Cypriots.
18. The Parties underlined the importance of joint efforts for strengthening multilateral cooperation within the structure of the OIC in order to increase the effectiveness of the OIC and welcomed the foreseen Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2011 of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC.
19. Affirmed their position on the inadmissibility of forcible change of borders, and declared that consolidation of efforts of the international community against acts of aggression, endangering international peace and stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States is a main factor in providing global security.
20. Noted that they pay special attention to strengthening the role of the United Nations in solving global and strategic issues to achieve international security, sustainable development, as well as the purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. They mentioned that the reforms being carried out in the United Nations should be directed to strengthening of the central role of the United Nations in international issues, the fast and effective use of its potential against new threats and challenges to the international legal order.
21. Confirmed their intention in a serious manner to consider the candidature of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Kyrgyz Republic to non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council for the period 2012-2013 at the election to this body to be held in the course of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in 2011.

22. Affirmed the concern over the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and its severe consequences and noted the importance of peaceful resolution of the aforementioned conflict, which is one of the obstacles to stability and regional cooperation, on the basis of territorial integrity, inviolability of borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms of international law; reaffirmed their conviction that resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be a significant progress in providing peace, stability and prosperity in the Eurasian area.

23. Noted with satisfaction the contribution of the United Nations initiative, Alliance of Civilizations, and the initiative of the President of Kazakhstan N. Nazarbayev, the Congress of leaders of world and traditional religions, aiming at encouraging greater cross-cultural mutual understanding and dialogue among religions, and fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect, promotion of peace, harmony and mutual understanding among different world cultures.

24. Confirmed that the cooperation of the Turkic Speaking States within the Economic Cooperation Organization will continue with a view to contributing to strengthening the organization and establishing economic stability and increase of welfare in the region.

25. Expressed support for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States, the activity of which is aimed at deepening cooperation among Parliaments representing the brotherly peoples.

26. Emphasized the significance of cooperation and joint action in the fight against crime, including terrorism, human trafficking, illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, illicit arms trade, as well as other threats and challenges endangering international security.

27. Reaffirmed their intention to interact with each other and with international organizations and forums for further strengthening cooperation in this field.

28. Noted that the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States established on the basis of the Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, signed at the Ninth Summit of the Heads of the Turkic Speaking States, defines a new stage in strengthening interaction among the Turkic Speaking States.

29. Expressed that the high-level contacts between Turkic Speaking States based in historical roots are maintained in the spirit of friendship and good-neighbourliness, meeting the interests of Turkic Speaking States. The Parties will make efforts in order to develop close cooperation in protection of common cultural heritage, passing this heritage to future generations and promote its propaganda in an international arena.

30. Emphasized that TURKSOY plays an important role in the identification, development, expansion and popularization of the common values of the Turkic world in international level, as well as appreciated its contribution to the deepening of cultural relations among Turkic Speaking States. In this regard, they noted the significance of TURKSOY in further strengthening the links and cooperation based on common language, culture and spiritual values of the peoples of Turkic Speaking States.

31. Unanimously supported the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the establishment of the TURKSOY Fund for the preservation and maintenance of the rich Turkic cultural

heritage which significantly contributed to the development of the world civilization. The Governments of the States Parties are charged to work over organizational matters related to the establishment and activity of the TURKSOY Fund.

32. Made a decision to hold the Tenth Summit of the Heads of the Turkic Speaking States in the Kyrgyz Republic.

33. The guests expressed their satisfaction with the result of the Summit and pronounced their gratitude to the people of Azerbaijan and to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for the warm welcome and hospitality.

Signed on 3 October 2009 in Nakhchivan city in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

Ilham Aliyev
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Nursultan Nazarbayev
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Kurmanbek Bakiyev
President of the Kyrgyz Republic

Abdullah Gul
President of the Republic of Turkey

Nakhchivan Agreement on the establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

3 October 2009, Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan

Turkic Speaking States, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”;

based on historical ties, common language, culture and traditions of their peoples;

aiming at further deepening the comprehensive cooperation;

desiring to jointly contribute to strengthening peace, ensuring security and stability, in the region and in the world as a whole, in terms of development of processes of political multipolarity, economic and informational globalization;

considering that the interaction within the common structure facilitates the disclosure of huge potential for good-neighbourliness, unity and cooperation among States and their peoples;

proceeding from the spirit of mutual confidence, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations and aspiration towards common development established at the Summits of the Heads of the Turkic Speaking States;

reaffirming their adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of States, as well as those related to the maintenance of international peace, security and development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations and the cooperation among States;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

The Parties hereby establish a cooperation mechanism in the form of an international establishment — “Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” (hereinafter referred to as “CCTS”).

Article 2

Purposes and tasks

The main purposes and tasks of CCTS are:

strengthening mutual confidence, friendship and good-neighbourliness among the Parties;

maintaining peace, strengthening security and confidence in the region and in the world as a whole;

search for common positions on foreign policy issues of mutual interest, including those in the framework of international organizations and at international forums;

coordination of actions to combat international terrorism and separatism, extremism, trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, as well as the assistance to international policy on control over illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

promotion of effective regional and bilateral cooperation in political, trade and economic, law enforcement, environmental, cultural, scientific-technical, military-technical, educational, energy, transportation, credit and finance areas and other areas of common interest;

creation of favorable conditions for trade and investment, further simplification of Customs and transit procedures aiming at facilitation of movement of goods, capital, services and technologies, and simplification of financial and banking operations;

aiming for comprehensive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development in the region through joint actions on the basis of equal partnership in order to steadily increase and improve the living conditions of the peoples of the Parties;

discussing questions of ensuring the rule of law and good governance and guaranteeing human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with generally recognized principles and norms of international law;

expansion of interaction in the field of science and technology, education, health, culture, sports and tourism;

encouragement of interaction of the mass media and communication of the Parties in promoting, popularizing and disseminating the great cultural and historical heritage of the Turkic peoples;

discussing questions of exchange of legal information for the development of interaction and mutual legal assistance, and cooperation in various spheres of law.

Article 3

Structure

In order to fulfill the purposes and tasks of the present Agreement the following is established:

The Council of Heads of State;

The Council of Foreign Ministers;

The Senior Officials Committee;

The Council of Elders of the Turkic Speaking States;

The Secretariat.

Article 4

Other forms of cooperation

To deepen the cooperation among the parliaments of the Turkic Speaking States the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking States is functioning pursuant to the Istanbul Agreement of 21 November 2008.

With a view to developing cooperation in the field of science, education, culture and art, dissemination and popularization of the common values of the Turkic world at international level, deepening cultural ties among the Turkic Speaking States, the Parties are cooperating in the framework of TURKSOY.

Article 5

The Council of Heads of State

The Council of Heads of State (CHS) is conducting its activity in the form of regular meetings of the Heads of Parties, in the framework of which there shall be:

- considered the questions of interactions of Parties on the settlement of actual international problems;
- defined the priority directions of cooperation of Parties within the CCTS;
- held the review of activity of CCTS.

The meeting of CHS shall be held once a year. The venue of the next meeting of CHS is determined, as a rule, in accordance with the English alphabetical order of the official names of the Parties.

Extraordinary CHS meetings may be convened based on the consent of Parties. The venue of the extraordinary meeting of the CHS is determined by consent of the Parties.

Article 6

The Council of Foreign Ministers

The Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) within its competence shall:

- consider the issues of current activities of the CCTS;
- define more actual international issues for their discussion in the frame of CHS meetings;
- approve Staff Matrix and financial report of the Secretariat.

The CFM may, if necessary, make statements on behalf of the CCTS.

The meetings of CMF, as a rule, shall take place before the meetings of CHS at the venue of CHS meetings.

Extraordinary CFM meetings may be convened based on the consent of Parties. The venue of the extraordinary meeting of the CFM is determined by consent of the Parties.

Article 7

The Senior Officials Committee

The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) consists of, at least, one representative from each Party.

SOC, within its competence, shall:

- coordinate activity of the Secretariat;
- consider and endorse draft documents, worked up by the Secretariat before their adoption by the CFM and approval by the CHS.

The SOC meetings are convened, as a rule, prior to the meetings of the CFM.

Article 8

Chairmanship

The Party hosting the regular meeting of the CHS shall be CCTS Chairman until the next regular meeting of the CHS.

Article 9

The Council of Elders

The Council of Elders of the Turkic Speaking States (Council of Elders) is a permanent advisory-consultative institution, functioning under the auspices of CCTS.

Detailed aspects of the activity of the Council of Elders, including financial matters, should be defined by a separate document titled Regulation of the Council of Elders, which shall be adopted (accepted) by CFM.

The Council of Elders in its activities is guided by the present Agreement and the aforementioned Regulation.

Article 10

Secretariat

To facilitate the implementation of the purposes and tasks of the CCTS, the Parties establish a Secretariat, which is a permanent executive body of the CCTS.

The Secretariat within its competence shall:

- take necessary administrative, organizational, protocol and technical measures for holding meetings of CHS, CFM and SOC, as well as other meetings under the auspices of CCTS;
- prepare draft documents;
- establish and ensure archiving of documents;
- act as clearing house of documents and information, submitted by the Parties and received from other international organizations and forums;
- disseminate common information on CCTS;
- implement other tasks and duties, defined by CHS, CFM and SOC;
- prepare draft Staff Matrix and submit it to the SOC for approval;
- submit to the SOC its financial activities report.

The Secretariat shall be led by the Secretary-General, who shall be approved by the CHS upon the CFM proposal. The Secretary-General has deputies from each Party except from the Party of his/her nationality.

The Secretary-General is appointed from among the citizens of the Parties on a rotational basis in accordance with the English alphabetical order of the official names of the Parties for a period of three years without the right to prolongation of the term of office.

The Deputies of the Secretary-General are appointed from among the citizens of the Parties by the CHS decision for a period of three years without the right of prolongation for the next term.

The officials of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Parties in accordance with their national legislations from among their citizens.

In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General, his deputies and other officials of the Secretariat shall not seek or receive instructions from any Party, as well as third parties. They shall refrain from any actions which might influence their position as international officials responsible only to the CHS. The Parties undertake to respect the international character of the duties of the Secretary-General, his

deputies and other officials of the Secretariat and not to influence them while performing their duties.

The location of the Secretariat is the city of Istanbul (Republic of Turkey).

The Parties endow the Secretariat with the right to conclude an international treaty with the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the conditions of the Secretariat's location in the territory of the Republic of Turkey, draft of which should be initially approved by the CFM.

The Secretariat of the CCTS shall enjoy in the territory of each Party such legal capacity as necessary for the implementation of the purposes and tasks of the CCTS.

The Secretariat shall enjoy international legal capacity to implement the purposes and tasks of CCTS, in particular:

- conclude treaties with the consent of all Parties;
- acquire and dispose the property;
- act in the courts as plaintiff or defendant;
- open accounts and make transactions in cash assets.

Article 11

Financing

The Secretariat has its own budget, which is formed and executed in accordance with a separate international treaty concluded among the Parties.

The Parties themselves shall bear the expenses for the participation of their representatives and experts in the events within the frame of CCTS.

Article 12

Privileges and immunities

Members of delegations and officials of the Secretariat for the period of participation in the work of meetings of CHS, CMF, SOC and the Council of Elders shall enjoy in the territory of the Host Party privileges and immunities that are accorded by international law to the personnel of accredited diplomatic missions.

Article 13

Permanent representatives

In accordance with their national legislations the Parties shall appoint their permanent representatives to the Secretariat.

Article 14

Other meetings

The Parties may agree to convene the meetings of heads of relevant ministries, agencies and organizations of the Parties to discuss specific and/or technical issues.

Article 15

Relations with international organizations and forums

The CCTS can enter into interaction and dialogue, including on specific areas of cooperation, with international organizations and forums.

Article 16

Observers

Observer status with the CCTS may be granted to States, international organizations and international forums.

The order and procedure for granting such status shall be established by the Rules of Procedure of the CCTS.

Article 17

Languages

The working languages of the CCTS are the State languages of the Parties and the English language.

Article 18

Rules of Procedure

Procedural issues shall be defined by the CCTS Rules of Procedure, which shall be adopted by the CFM and approved by the CHS.

Article 19

Relations with other treaties

The present Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties under other international treaties to which they are parties.

Article 20**Settlement of disagreements**

In case of disagreements concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, the Parties shall settle them through consultations and negotiations.

Article 21**Amendments and additions**

By mutual consent of the Parties amendments and additions may be made to the present Agreement in the form of separate protocols being an integral part of the present Agreement and entering into force in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 22 of the present Agreement.

Article 22**Validity, entry into force and accession**

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the receipt of the third written notification by the depositary on the completion of domestic procedures required for its entry into force.

After its entry into force this Agreement is open to accession by Turkic Speaking States.


This Agreement shall enter into force for the acceding State on the thirtieth day after the receipt by the depositary of its instrument of accession.


Article 23**The depositary**


The depositary of the present Agreement is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.


Done in the city of Nakhchivan, on the 3rd day of October 2009 in a single original copy in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish and English languages. All texts are equally authentic.

The original copy of the present Agreement shall be kept by the depositary, which shall send to each signatory Party a certified copy.


For the Republic of Azerbaijan


For the Republic of Kazakhstan


For the Kyrgyz Republic


For the Republic of Turkey

SUMMITS OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL

Declaration of the First Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

21 October 2011, Almaty, Kazakhstan



President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Roza Otunbaeva and Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Bekir Bozdağ met at the 1st Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) held on 21 October 2011 in Almaty; and

Acknowledging the remarkable progress shown by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, who are celebrating their 20th anniversaries of independence, through reforms in the political, economic, social, legal and other spheres; appreciating that they consolidated their status in international community as independent states;

Reaffirming their intention of further developing relations and strengthening solidarity amongst Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic States) based on the common history, language, identity and culture;

Confirming the congruity of the previous ten summits of the Heads of the Turkic States, as well as the provisions of the declarations adopted at the previous summits;

Reiterating their satisfaction with the establishment of the Turkic Council as a full-fledged international organization as envisaged by the Nakhchivan Agreement;

Observing the particular significance of relaunching Summits under the organizational framework of the Turkic Council;

Being convinced that the comprehensive ties and existing solidarity amongst Turkic States reinforce regional and international cooperation in the Eurasian region;

Recognizing economic cooperation as a key driver of regional integration amongst Member States of the Turkic Council;

Expressing their adherence to the purposes and principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter, to the documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and above all to the Helsinki Final Act;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the States in accordance with the basic principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs and refraining from the threat or use of force;

have declared the following:

I. General issues

1. *Noted* that the 1st Summit of the Turkic Council held in Almaty marks a new era in the development of bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation amongst Turkic States.

2. *Motivated* by their common history, culture, identity and language, expressed their determination to further develop mutual interests, relations and solidarity.

3. *Expressed* their satisfaction at the conclusion of the Agreements and by-laws of the Turkic Council complementing the Nakhchivan Agreement, namely the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States regarding the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, Rules of Procedure of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, Regulation of the Council of Elders of the Turkic Speaking States functioning under the auspices of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and Regulations for the Staff of the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States.

4. *Recognized* the crucial role of the Secretariat of the Turkic Council as the pivotal advisory institution of coordination amongst Turkic States and noted their conviction that activities of the Secretariat will inject new dynamism to wide-ranging regional cooperation.

5. *Underlined* that mass media in Member States should play an important role in creating greater awareness among people about the Turkic Council and related bodies; welcomed, in this respect, the establishment of the “Media Platform of the Turkic Speaking States.

6. *Welcomed* the recommendations adopted at the Second meeting of Council of Elders held in Istanbul on 29-30 September 2011 and directed their relevant Government bodies of Member States to form Joint Committees by coordination of the Secretariat with a view to assessing and devising mechanisms for their attainment.

II. Economic issues

7. *Expressed* their intention to develop relations in the fields of economy and trade based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit and to enlarge cooperation in all fields including industry, agriculture, transport, communication, water and energy issues, alternative energy and tourism.

8. *Stressed* the importance of improving the investment climate amongst Member States, to deepen mutually beneficial economic ties.

9. *Expressed* that the overarching goal of economic cooperation is to realize free movement of goods, capital, services and technology amongst Member States of the Turkic Council.

10. *Extended* full support to decisions taken by the Ministers in charge of Economy during their 1st Meeting which was held in Astana on 13 October, 2011, welcomed the decision to form working groups on improving the investment climate; measures for diversification of economy; development of transportation; entrepreneurship as the basis of economic relations and directed the Ministers to report to the next Meeting of Heads of State on the progress achieved.

11. *Welcomed*, in this vein, the establishment of the Turkic Business Council and decisions of its inaugural meeting, noting their conviction that the activities of the Business Council will strengthen the productive network between the business communities of Turkic States.

12. *Further encouraged* realization of pioneering projects in the Public-Private Partnership model and urged Ministers of Economy and encouraged the Turkic Business Council to undertake joint initiatives to this end.

13. *Noted* efforts towards the Harmonization of Property acquisition legislation with a view to removing of property acquisition barriers which negatively affect investors.

14. *Reiterated* their conviction that establishment of a Insurance Companies' Association will secure trade transactions.

15. *Agreed on* strengthening current efforts to facilitate granting visas and work permits particularly for businessmen with a view to improving trade and investment opportunities.

III. International Projects

16. *Confirmed* the increasing role of the energy resources of Caspian region in ensuring the energy security of Europe expressed the assurance that the strategic Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan crude oil and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum natural gas pipelines not only contribute to global energy security but also support sustainable economic development in the countries of the region. In this context they highlighted the importance of further utilization of increased capacity of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline and emphasized the importance of the connection between the existing and future Caspian ports and oil terminals of Turkic States with Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan crude oil pipeline and other transportation systems originating on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

17. *Noted* that establishment of the new railway connection Baku-Tbilisi-Kars, to be operational as of 2012, will streamline transportation amongst Turkic States, help increase the trade volume in Eurasia region and expedite regional development and economic cooperation.

IV. Security issues

18. *Decided* to hold discussions on security issues involving Member States within the framework of Turkic Council with a view to develop common positions.

19. *Reaffirmed* their commitment to the maintenance of national and regional security, stability and peace as well as to principles of democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as development of market economy, rule of law and good governance.

20. *Reiterated* their position on the inadmissibility of forcible change of the borders, noted their conviction that strengthening of the struggle of the international community against acts of aggression threatening peace and stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, is a determining factor for the maintenance of global security.

21. *Reemphasized* the importance of cooperation and joint action in the fight against particular threats such as terrorism, extremism and, separatism which resort to use of force, human trafficking and illegal migration, illicit trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, transnational organized crime as well as trafficking in firearms and stressed the importance of solidarity within the international community to this end.

22. *Noted* that they pay special attention to strengthening the role of the UN in solving global and strategic issues to achieve international security and sustainable development. They confirmed that the reforms being carried out in the UN should be directed to the fast and effective use of its existing capabilities against new threats and challenges to international legal order.

23. *Expressed* their support for promotion of international peace and security through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

24. *Expressed* the importance they attach to the peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is one of the main obstacles to lasting stability and regional cooperation on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed their conviction that the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be a significant progress in providing peace, stability and prosperity in Eurasian area.

25. *Noted* their support for the success of the ongoing UN-sponsored settlement process in Cyprus with the aim set forth by the UN Secretary General to reach a settlement before the end of 2011, and expressed their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

26. *Reiterated* their support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and expressed their support to the “Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan” to be held in Turkey on 2 November 2011 and Meeting of the International Contact Group on Afghanistan to be held in Astana on 15 November 2011 which would help promote regional cooperation for the benefit of Afghanistan and with the strong emphasis on regional ownership.

27. *Drew attention* to the necessity of preserving the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and guaranteeing the basic rights and liberties of all components of Iraqi people including the Turkoman which constitute an integral part of it.

28. *Welcomed* effective actions of the Kyrgyz Republic in reconstruction of the South of the Kyrgyz Republic after the tragic events in June 2010.

V. Social and cultural issues

29. *Expressed* their satisfaction with the Second Plenary meeting of TURKPA held in Astana on 27-28 April 2011, commending the significant role played by TURKPA as the coordinating body between Parliaments of the Member States.

30. *Commended* the efforts of the International Turkic Culture Organization (TURKSOY) in its task towards the identification, enrichment, expansion and promotion of the common values and in deepening cultural relations throughout the Turkic world.

31. *Supported* the proposal of TURKSOY to declare Eskişehir (Turkey) as the Capital of Turkic Culture for 2013.

32. *Welcomed* the initiative to establish Turkic Interuniversity Union, noting that such projects will contribute to the further development of relations between scientific institutions, educational institutions and scientists, as well as providing enriching experiences for university students.

33. *Agreed upon* the creation of a “Turkic Scientific Research Fund” to pool existing research and development potentials of Turkic States as well as to further develop this potential through synergy and urged the Secretariat to initiate institutional procedures to realize the establishment of this Fund before the Bishkek Summit.

34. *Declared* their willingness to improve their cooperation regarding climate change and environmental issues, including international platforms thereon.

35. *Stressed* the necessity of international cooperation aiming at comprehensive and rational use of water resources.

VI. Cooperation within International Organizations

36. *Expressed* strong support for Turkey’s accession to the EU, which would have important implications for promoting cross-cultural dialogue and understanding with positive repercussions for Eurasia and beyond.

37. *Emphasized* the necessity of strengthening of cooperation and solidarity on the basis of common values, inter alia within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

38. *Stressed* support of the Turkic Council for the Conference of Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in its efforts to bring peace and stability to the Asian continent.

39. *Underlined* that observer status of the Turkic Council in the UN General Assembly will contribute to fruitful cooperation between the two organizations, decided to collectively pursue the issue until this status is achieved.

40. *Welcomed* the institutional cooperation established between the Turkic Council and the Economic Cooperation Organization and affirmed that they will contribute to the efforts of two organizations towards advancing regional cooperation.

41. *Expressed* their common will to be in dialogue and cooperation with the Council of Europe.

42. *Drew attention* to the importance of the adoption of common positions in international organizations in order to express concerns of Turkic States more vigorously in multilateral platforms.

43. *Expressed*, in this regard, their will to cooperate and coordinate candidatures to inter-national organizations and positions, as well as international events through the Turkic Council Secretariat.

44. *Invited* Ministers of Foreign Affairs to meet regularly in order to jointly assess international political issues under the chairmanship of the Chairman-in-Office.

45. *Deemed* appropriate the participation of Turkic Council Secretariat as observer at international meetings where Member States take part.

VII. Other issues

46. *Welcomed* the successful conclusion of the parliamentary elections held in Kyrgyzstan on 10 October 2010 and confirmed their continued support for Kyrgyzstan in establishment of parliamentary form of governance and democratic transformation.

47. *Extended* congratulations to Kazakhstan for successfully hosting the Astana OSCE Summit on 1-2 December 2010 as well as the 38th session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers held in Astana on 28-30 June 2011, and also extended congratulations to Turkey for successfully holding the 11th ECO summit on 23 December 2010 and the 4th UN Summit on the Least Developed Countries on 9-13 May 2011 in Istanbul.

48. *Welcomed* the assumption of the Chair-manship-in-Office of the Turkic Council by the Republic of Kazakhstan, expressed confidence that the Kazakh Chairmanship, in close cooperation with the Member States, will bring new dynamism to the Turkic Council.

49. *Agreed upon* to hold the Second Summit of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States in Kyrgyzstan in 2012 under the topic of “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”.

Expressed profound thanks to His Excellency Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for steering the deliberations of the First Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States most eloquently to a successful conclusion, and sincerely appreciated the warm hospitality shown by the people of and Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and immaculate arrangements made for the Summit.

Signed on 21 October, 2011 in Almaty in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

**President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev**

**President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nursultan Nazarbayev**

**President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Roza Otunbaeva**

**Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
Bekir Bozdağ**

Declaration of the Second Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

23 August 2012, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



The Council of Heads of States of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 23 August 2012 under the theme “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül and Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Artur Rasi-zade attended the meeting, which was presided over

by President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Almazbek Atambaev.

The Heads of State and Government,

Reiterating their intention to strengthen their solidarity rooted in the common history, language, identity and culture of Turkic peoples;

Reaffirming their resolve to further deepen their relations under the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council;

Maintaining their commitment to democratic values, respect for human rights and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter;

Reconfirming their adherence to decisions taken at the previous Summits of the Heads of Turkic States;

Expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved in the field of economic cooperation since the Almaty Summit;

Stressing the importance of culture, science and education as central elements for further integration amongst their countries and peoples;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the States in accordance with the basic principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs and refraining from the threat or use of force;

have declared:

Cultural Cooperation

1. To launch a new joint agenda of Turkic culture with a view to creating a comprehensive basis for deepened societal ties. In this context:

a) welcomed the report of the First Meeting of the Ministries of Culture of the Member Countries of the Turkic Council which was held on 3 August 2012, in Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyz Republic;

- b) expressed their appreciation for the establishment of Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation;
- c) commended the establishment of Turkic Academy as a hub of scientific research into Turkic history and language;
- d) supported the joint initiative to propose new Turkic heritage items to UNESCO and called upon the Secretariat, Ministries of Culture, UNESCO national commissions, TURKSOY and IRCICA to accelerate preparations to this end;
- e) encouraging humanitarian contacts among the Turkic peoples and dialogue between civilizations, supported the initiative of holding Issyk-Kul Forum in 2013 in honor of 85th birth anniversary of the Turkic Nations' great writer Chingiz Aitmatov, founder of the Forum;
- f) as a token of tribute to common history, traditions, language and culture welcomed the initiative of Kyrgyz Republic on revival and support of Turkic peoples' traditions and to hold the "Games of the nomads" on regular basis;
- g) reaffirmed to consider the adoption of new vocabulary to be proposed by the Joint Terminology Committee as official reference as early as 2013;
- h) commended the achievements of TURKSOY during its 19 years of activity and recognized the necessity to strengthen the financial and institutional basis of the organization;
- i) instructed the Secretariat to work in coordination with relevant government departments of Member States to finalize the draft Statute of the Turkic World Prize before the Third Summit;
- j) attaching great importance to cultural integration of the Turkic Speaking nations welcomed the initiatives to establish Union of Writers of Turkic Speaking States and Union of Cinema Workers of Turkic Speaking States.

Cooperation in Science and Education

2. To establish substantial, wide ranging cooperation in the fields of science and education through joint institutions and specific programmes. In this regard:

- a) welcomed the report of the First Meeting of Ministers of Education of Member Countries of the Turkic Council, which was held on 10 August 2012 in Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyz Republic. They urged the Ministers of Education to continue to meet regularly;
- b) encouraged the Ministers of Education to continue the work on common textbook on Turkic history with the possibility of its inclusion in national curriculums;
- c) welcomed the initiative to establish Turkic Interuniversity Union;
- d) called upon relevant institutions on science to convene and assess necessary joint steps to be taken to establish Turkic Scientific Research Fund on the basis of the draft study presented by the Secretariat.

Economic cooperation

3. To welcome the report of the Second Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy of the Turkic Speaking States held in Baku on 14 August 2012 with a view to enhancing economic cooperation and expand its scope. In this regard:

- a) called for the development of the legal framework for improving the investment climate;
- b) emphasized the importance of conducting an Investment Climate Survey, as well as a study to analyze the international trade complementarities among members of the Turkic Council;
- c) welcomed the Kyrgyz Republic's initiative for the establishment of a Development Fund of the Turkic Council, with a primary aim of fostering prosperity and stability in the region as well as deepening and expanding spheres of economic cooperation and integration, and instructed the Ministers in Charge of Economy to speed up the studies evaluating the establishment of the Development Fund;
- d) urged the Ministers of Transportation to meet regularly in order to strengthen and improve the existing cooperation in transportation;
- e) called upon the relevant authorities to undertake a review of the existing transport infrastructure with a view to sharing experiences and adopting best practices in this sphere;
- f) urged Turkic Business Council to further develop joint programmes to enhance the competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of the Member States;
- g) instructed the relevant authorities to enhance cooperation in customs services through holding regular meetings on issues related to customs;
- h) welcomed Turkey's proposal for holding a Business Forum and Export Products Exhibition which will be organized by Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) in the first half of 2013 in Istanbul, in the margin of Third Meeting of Ministers In Charge of Economy of the Turkic Council;
- i) welcomed the launch of the "Joint Investment Promotion Portal of the Turkic Council", emphasized the importance of sharing best practices and promotion of women and young entrepreneurship.

Cooperation on Foreign Policy and Security

Issues

4. To ensure closer coordination of foreign and security policy amongst Member States with a view to providing joint contribution to regional and global stability, peace and prosperity.

To this end:

- a) instructed their Ministers of Foreign Affairs to continue regular consultations on international issues under the aegis of the Chairman-in-Office, including through:

- i. informal gathering each September on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly;
 - ii. extraordinary meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers, convened on the initiative of either party;
- b) called for support for each other's candidacies to international organizations, including the UN and expressed their will to cooperate and coordinate candidatures to international organizations and positions, as well as international events through the Turkic Council Secretariat;
 - c) expressed their belief that membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the UN Security Council will contribute to common interests of the Turkic Speaking States;
5. To reaffirm their commitment to strengthen their cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations, transnational organized crime, human trafficking and illegal migration, illicit trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic substances, as well as trafficking in weapons.
 6. To emphasize their support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan and express their readiness to further contribute to security, stability and development of the country including through initiatives for enhancement of regional cooperation such as the Istanbul Process.
 7. To express their grave concern with respect to ongoing crisis in Syria as well as its repercussions to regional security and stability, called for an immediate cessation of the crisis in accordance with the will and aspirations of the Syrian people within the territorial integrity and national unity of Syria.
 8. To express the importance they attach to the peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is one of the main obstacles to lasting stability and regional cooperation on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed their conviction that the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be a significant progress in providing peace, stability and prosperity in Eurasian area.
 9. To confirm their strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations based on political equality of the two peoples in the Island, and expressed their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.
 10. To encourage further interaction between the Turkic Council and other international organizations such as UN, OIC, ECO, CICA, OSCE, UNESCO and Council of Europe.
 11. To instruct the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to accelerate joint efforts within the OSCE to increase the visibility of the Turkic Council and TURKPA, including through their participation at the upcoming OSCE Ministerial Council to be held in Dublin.
 12. To include the important issue of water resources as a regular item in the agenda of Council of Foreign Ministers sessions starting from 2013. To this end, tasked the Secretariat to collaborate with Ministries of Foreign Affairs and research institutes of Member States as well as relevant international organizations to submit a report to the Third Summit. The report will take into account the wider context

of environmental degradation, climate change and rational utilization of water resources and propose a plan of action to address existing water-related socio-economic problems.

13. To emphasize the importance of the inter-Parliamentary dimension in strengthening political dialogue amongst Turkic states. In view of this particular potential:

a) noted with satisfaction the outcome of the Third Plenary Session of TURKPA, held on 15 June 2012 in Bishkek;

b) called upon TURKPA to organize parallel theme debates in Member State Parliaments in connection with the aims of the Turkic Council with a view to giving impetus to the work of the Turkic Council.

Other Issues

14. To express satisfaction with the general progress as presented by the Secretary General in his annual report, and tasked the Secretary General to submit an additional mid-term review report by May 2013.

15. Having received the report of Kazakhstan as the outgoing Chairman of the Turkic Council in 2011-2012, to congratulate the Kazakh side for a successful term as the first Chairman-in-Office of the organization.

16. To appoint Mr. Gismat Gozalov from the Republic of Azerbaijan and Mr. Darkhan Kydyrali from the Republic of Kazakhstan who assumed their functions with prior consent as Deputy Secretary Generals of the Turkic Council, as of 1 February 2012 and 24 April 2012 respectively, in accordance with Article 10 of the Nakhchivan Agreement.

17. To hold the Third Summit of the Turkic Council in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2013. Expressed profound thanks to H.E. Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, for steering the deliberations of the Second Summit of the Turkic Council to a successful conclusion and appreciated the warm hospitality of the Government and people of Kyrgyzstan. Finally, they welcomed the assumption of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Turkic Council by the Kyrgyz Republic for the term 2012-2013.

Signed on 23 August 2012 in Bishkek in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Artur Rasi-zade

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nursultan Nazarbayev

President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Almazbek Atambaev

President of the Republic of Turkey
Abdullah Gül

Declaration of the Third Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

16 August 2013, Gabala, Azerbaijan

The Council of Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 16 August 2013 in Gabala, Azerbaijan. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül, and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Sapardurdy Toilyev attended the meeting, which was presided over by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev.



Heads of State:

Reiterating their intention to strengthen their solidarity rooted in the common history, language, identity and culture of the Turkic speaking peoples;

Reaffirming their resolve to further deepen their relations under the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council;

Reconfirming their adherence to decisions taken at the previous Summits of the Turkic Council;

Expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved in all fields of cooperation since the Almaty and Bishkek Summits;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the States in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs;

have declared the following:

Cultural Cooperation

1. Welcoming the improvement achieved so far in cultural field and emphasizing on furthering cooperation in cultural affairs:

- a) noted the importance of the prompt completion of ratification processes of the Charter of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation;
- b) supported the initiative of holding of the International Congress “Chyngyz Aitmatov and his Issyk-

Kul Forum” in 2013 in honour of 85th birth anniversary of the son of the Kyrgyz nation – the great writer of the Turkic speaking nations Chyngyz Aitmatov;

c) commended the achievements of TURKSOY during its 20 years of activity.

Cooperation in Sports

2. Instructed the Secretariat and relevant ministries and institutions of the Member States to start preparations for the First Turkic Universiade with participation of Council Members as well as other Turkic Speaking States.

Cooperation in Science and Education

3. Appreciating the improvement achieved so far in cooperation in the fields of science and education:

a) noted the importance of the prompt ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Academy;

b) appreciated the first meeting of the Terminology Committee held on 16 November 2012 in Istanbul and the decisions taken in the meeting, especially creation of a common terminology, preparation of dictionaries of common terms, and an alphabet to be used for scientific purposes;

c) expressed the importance of continuing with the necessary steps to carry forward the agenda of enhanced cooperation in education, including common textbooks on Turkic history and literature; and encouraged teaching of each other’s languages in educational establishments as elective courses;

d) welcomed the founding meetings of the Turkic Inter-University Union held in Istanbul and Bishkek, and instructed the relevant Ministries and state institutions to implement measures for realization of the goals of the Union.

Economic Cooperation

4. Taking note of the report of the Third Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy of the Turkic Speaking States held in Istanbul on 28 June 2013:

a) expressed satisfaction with the increase of trade and investment volume among Turkic Council Member States and stated their commitments to support endeavors and activities to this end;

b) supported the active participation of private sector in the relevant Working Groups of Turkic Council;

c) called for support of Turkic Business Council to facilitate economic cooperation among its Member States;

d) expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding amongst Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation, National Export and Investment Agency

of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency.

5. Welcoming the report of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council held in Baku on 3 July 2013:

a) noted the importance of further strengthening regional cooperation in order to increase the efficiency of transportation among the member states and instructed the Secretariat and the relevant authorities to enhance such cooperation through holding regular meetings;

b) welcomed the signing of the “Joint Cooperation Protocol on Development of Transport” by the Ministers of Transport of the Member States and of the “Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sister Seaport Relations and Cooperation among the Ports of Baku, Aktau and Samsun”;

c) urged the relevant authorities to work for increasing the efficiency of utilization of existing transport infrastructures among the member states in order to enhance the capacity of transportation in the region;

d) noted the importance of Central / East-West Corridor connecting Central Asia to Europe via Caspian and Marmara seas through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, the main element of which is Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway;

e) in this respect also noted that the Silk Wind project (effectively connecting Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Sea of Marmara through Zhezkazgan – Beineu roads and Baku – Tbilisi – Kars railway, Aktau and Baku Seaports as well as Marmaray railway tunnel) to be the shortest, secure and economically efficient connection of existing transport infrastructure among Member States as well as Trans-Europe and Trans-Asia transport networks.

6. Welcoming the establishment of Working Group on Customs aiming to enhance customs cooperation amongst Turkic Speaking States and the conduct of the First and Second Meetings of the Heads of the Customs Administration and the Report submitted in that respect:

a) highlighted the necessity to intensify efforts for facilitation of the passenger and freight transportation and increase the transit potential;

b) encouraged the use of mechanisms for the simplification of export and import procedures and introduction of advance information exchange system, as well as modern and IT based transit procedures between customs authorities of the Member States;

c) urged the Secretariat and Member States to cooperate with third parties, as well as international organizations in order to promote the projects of Turkic Council on customs issues.

Cooperation on Diaspora Affairs

7. Welcoming the initiative of the Secretariat to start the project of the cooperation amongst Turkic Speaking Diasporas:

a) expressed their appreciation for the Turkic Council First Forum of Turkic Diaspora Organizations, hosted by the State Committee on Affairs with Diaspora, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 21 June 2013 in Baku, where the “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy of the Turkic Council” was endorsed by the Forum participants, which was adopted by the Heads of state bodies and institutions, in charge of Diaspora Affairs of the Member States of the Turkic Council on 14 May 2013 in Ankara;

b) urged Heads of state bodies and institutions, in charge of Diaspora Affairs to prepare annual Joint Action Plans based on “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy of the Turkic Council”.

Cooperation on Foreign Policy and Security Issues

8. Instructed Ministers of Foreign Affairs to continue regular consultations on international issues of common interest under the aegis of the Chairman-in-Office.

9. Called for support for each other’s candidacies to international organizations, including the UN and expressed their will to cooperate in their candidatures to international organizations and positions, as well as international events.

10. Welcoming the first meeting of Security Consultations among member states held on 11 April 2013 in Baku at the level of senior officials, urged the continuation of Security Consultations on a regular basis; to this end:

a) called for the Member States to convene another round of security consultations in Astana in the first quarter of 2014, as per invitation of Kazakhstan;

b) appreciated the decision taken by the Member States to develop a common view on Afghanistan at the first meeting of Security Consultations, which was expressed by the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Erlan Abdyldaev, as the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council, at the Ministerial Conference of Istanbul Process on Afghanistan held on 26 April 2013 in Almaty.

11. Emphasizing their support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan and expressing their readiness to further contribute to security, stability and development of the country through initiatives such as the Istanbul Process, for enhancement of regional cooperation not only during the transition period of pre-2014 but also during transformation decade of 2015-2024; urged the Secretariat of the Turkic Council to identify modes of cooperation to take on a more active role as a supporting international organization of the Istanbul Process and follow up the issue in the meetings of security consultations.

12. Welcomed the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic on holding the International Scientific Conference on Afghanistan in October 2013 in Bishkek with participation of the Afghan authorities.

13. Reiterating the importance they attach to the peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is one of the main obstacles to lasting stability and regional cooperation on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed their conviction that the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be a significant progress in providing peace, stability and prosperity in Eurasian area.

14. To confirm their strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed just and lasting political settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations based on political equality of the two peoples in the Island, and expressed their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

15. Expressing their grave concern with respect to ongoing crisis in Syria as well as its repercussions to regional security and stability, called for an immediate cessation of the conflict in accordance with the will and aspirations of the Syrian people to preserve the territorial integrity and national unity of Syria.

16. Encouraging further interaction between the Turkic Council and other international organizations:

a) welcomed the endorsement of observer status granted to Turkic Council by Economic Cooperation Organization and supported the official application of the Secretariat to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for an observer status;

b) tasked the Member States to invite the Secretariat of the Turkic Council to the relevant regional and international meetings, organized in their countries.

17. Emphasizing the importance of the inter-Parliamentary dimension in strengthening political dialogue among Turkic States, noted with satisfaction the outcome of the Fourth Plenary Session of TURKPA, held on 10-12 June 2013 in Ankara.

Other Issues

18. Expressing satisfaction with the general progress as presented by the Secretary General in his annual report, tasked the Secretary General to submit an additional mid-term review report by May 2014.

19. Having received the report of Kyrgyzstan as the outgoing Chairman of the Turkic Council, congratulated the Kyrgyz side for a successful Chairmanship.

20. Decided to hold the Fourth Summit of the Turkic Council in the Republic of Turkey in 2014.

The Heads of State expressed profound thanks to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for steering the deliberations of the Third Summit of the Turkic Council to a successful conclusion and appreciated the warm hospitality of the Government and people of Azerbaijan. Finally, they welcomed the assumption of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Turkic Council by the Republic of Azerbaijan for the term 2013-2014.

Signed on 16 August 2013 in Gabala in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

**President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev**

**President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nursultan Nazarbayev**

**President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Almazbek Atambaev**

**President of the Republic of Turkey
Abdullah Gül**

Declaration of the Fourth Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

5 June 2014, Bodrum, Turkey



The Council of Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 5 June 2014 in Bodrum, Turkey on the theme of “Cooperation in Tourism” upon the kind invitation of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey. H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic,

participated in the meeting, which was presided over by H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey.

The Heads of State,

Reaffirming their adherence to the purposes and principles of Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Council;

Reiterating their strong will to further strengthen and consolidate the solidarity based on common history, language, culture and traditions of the Turkic speaking peoples;

Reconfirming their adherence to the goals of the Summits of the Turkic Council; and expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved in realizing them;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the Member States in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs;

Underlining their resolve to further deepen their relations under the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council.

have declared to:

Cooperation in the Field of Economy

1. Welcome the report of the First Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism Affairs of the Turkic Council held in İstanbul, Turkey, on 11 April 2014.
2. Stress that increasing cooperation in tourism sector will not only serve to stimulate awareness of the region among the Member States but also by third parties.

3. Underline the significance of exploiting comparative advantages of the Member States in tourism sector and the need for further strengthening cooperation in tourism affairs.
4. Highlight the importance of natural and geographic advantages of the Member States to their economic benefit, while utilizing their historical and cultural heritage.
5. Welcome the signing of the “Joint Cooperation Protocol on Tourism” by the Ministers in charge of Tourism Affairs of the Member States and the decision on the establishment of a Joint Tourism Business Association under the aegis of the Turkic Council in order to initiate multilateral cooperation in tourism among private sectors of the Member States and emphasize the importance of the continuation and development of the work and cooperation among the Member States by holding result oriented regular meetings.
6. Express satisfaction with the decision to develop a joint tour program named “Turkic Council-Modern Silk Road”, supported by a tourist guidebook, commend the establishment of a Task Force under the coordination of Kazakhstan to conduct field visits to the Member States throughout 2015 in order to determine destinations of this joint tour program and urge public and private institutions of the Member States to take necessary measures for its operationalization and promotion.
7. Welcome the implementation of tourism training programs by Turkey for other Member States, task relevant authorities of the Member States to support these vocational training programs.
8. Endorse the decision to organize regular info tours with the participation of mass media and tourism industry representatives of the Member States, appreciate the realization of the first info tour to this end by Azerbaijan.
9. Support the active participation of private sector in the relevant Working Groups of Turkic Council.
10. Commend the second meetings of the Turkic Business Council and the Business Forum held on 19 February 2014, in İstanbul, and call for regular meetings of the Turkic Business Council.
11. Underline their support for Kazakhstan’s efforts to organize the international specialized exhibition in Astana EXPO-2017 on the theme “Future energy” and reaffirm their participation.
12. Stress the importance of further strengthening cooperation among the Member States in the field of transport and the increasing efficiency of infrastructural networks aimed at facilitating trade flows.
13. Welcome the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Ministers of Transport held on 22 May 2014, in Astana.
14. Stress the importance of development of railway connections as an efficient and secure means of transport between Asia and Europe and underline their significant role in increasing trade volumes among the Member States.
15. Commend the establishment of the “Coordination Council in the field of Transport” to address the practical issues encountered by the transport operators on the spot.

16. Appreciate the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to hold international conference “Railway Route Baku-Tbilisi-Kars/ New Possibilities of the Development of the Silk Way Corridor” to be held in October 2014, in Baku.

17. Underline the importance of the meetings of the Heads of Customs Administrations to intensify efforts for facilitation of passenger and freight transportation by encouraging the use of mechanisms for the simplification of import-export procedures and increase transit potential.

Cooperation on Foreign Policy and Security Issues

18. Emphasize the need to work in close coordination and cooperation regarding the international issues of common interest through regular consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers under the aegis of Chairman-in-Office.

19. Call for support for the candidacies of Member States at international organizations, particularly in the UN.

20. Urge the continuation of Security Consultations among the Member States at appropriate levels.

21. Encourage further interaction between the Turkic Council and regional and international organizations and,

a) emphasize the importance of acting in coordination and collaboration for obtaining observer status in the UN General Assembly;

b) support the official application of the Secretariat to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for observer status;

c) express their readiness to invite the Secretariat to the relevant regional and international meetings, organized in their respective countries;

d) appreciate the common stance adopted by the Permanent Representatives of the Members States to the OSCE regarding the invitation of the Secretary General to the OSCE 20th Ministerial Council, and call for continuation of further solidarity for the upcoming meetings of the OSCE and other relevant international organizations.

22. Emphasize the significance of the inter-Parliamentary dimension in strengthening political dialogue among the Member States.

23. Reiterate the importance of the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

24. Welcome the resumption of comprehensive negotiation process in Cyprus on 11 February 2014 and confirm their strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed just and lasting political settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations based on political equality of the two peoples in the

Island, and express their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

25. Call on all parties to contribute to the de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in Ukraine by promoting dialogue and consensus. The Turkish side has informed the Council about its recent efforts and contacts concerning the situation of Crimean Tatar Turks who are historically known as integral part of the Turkic world.

26. Appreciate the organization of the Turkic Council Junior Diplomats 1st Joint Training Program on 13-25 April 2014 in Turkey, and welcome the offer of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the 2nd Joint Training Program.

Cooperation in Social and Humanitarian Affairs

27. Reiterate their support to the “First Nomadic Games” / “National Games of Turkic People” to be jointly organized by the Turkic Council Secretariat and the Kyrgyz Government in Issyk-Kul on 8-14 September 2014; and underline the importance of revitalizing historical and cultural features of the Member States through such activities.

28. Commend the establishment of the Union of Authors of Turkic Speaking State by TURKSOY on 18 February 2014 in Eskişehir.

29. Welcome the organization of the Forum of Turkic Scripture Day by the Turkic Academy on 19-20 May 2014, in Astana on the margins of celebration of May 18 as the Turkic Scripture Day.

30. Agree to make joint efforts to protect common elements of Turkic epics and rich history, as well as Turkic people’s diverse gastronomy through submitting joint multinational nominations to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.

31. Praise the activities in Eskişehir, Turkey, throughout 2013 in its capacity as the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World for 2013.

32. Welcome the initiative of Turkey to host the First Turkic Universiade and urge the relevant authorities of the Member States to provide the utmost cooperation for the organization of the First Turkic Universiade in 2015.

33. Express the importance of continuing with the necessary steps to carry forward the agenda of enhanced cooperation in education, including common textbooks on Turkic history and literature; and encourage teaching of each other’s languages in educational establishments as elective courses.

34. Appreciate the endorsement of the “Directive for the Establishment of the Turkic University Union and its Higher Education Area” during the Second Meeting of the Ministers of Education and urge the continuation of technical meetings aimed at full-operationalization of the Union, and instructed relevant Ministries and state institutions to implement necessary measures to this end.

35. Support the organization of the First General Assembly of the Turkic University Union to be hosted by Atatürk University, Chair University-in-Office, in October 2014.

36. Instruct continuation of the work towards establishing a “Joint Education Television”.
37. Encourage the establishment of “Regional Diaspora Centers” and support the strengthening of cooperation in diaspora affairs through activation of these Centers to implement joint action plans.
38. Emphasize the importance they attach to developing cultural, linguistic, social and humanitarian contacts and ties with other Turkic speaking countries and communities living in different parts of the world.

Other Issues

39. Underline the importance of the Turkic Council, as an umbrella organization to coordinate and to avoid duplication in the activities of institutions in different fields engaged in promoting and furthering links and cooperation among the countries of the Turkic world.
40. Welcome the general progress as presented by the Secretary General in his annual report.
41. Congratulate Azerbaijan for a successful Chairmanship as having received the report of Azerbaijan as the outgoing Chairman of the Turkic Council.
42. Thank first Secretary General Ambassador Mr. Halil Akıncı for his tireless efforts to the institutionalization and development of the Turkic Council and express their wishes of success for the next Secretary General Mr. Ramil Hasanov.
43. Commend the outgoing Deputy Secretary Generals Mr. Gismat Gozalov and Mr. Darkhan Kydyrali for their contributions.
44. Decide to hold the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council on 2015 in Kazakhstan.

The Heads of States have expressed profound thanks to H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, for steering the deliberations of the Fourth Summit of the Turkic Council to a successful conclusion and appreciated the warm hospitality of the Government and people of Turkey. Finally, they welcomed the assumption of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Turkic Council by the Republic of Turkey for the term 2014-2015.

Signed on 5 June 2014 in Bodrum in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nursultan Nazarbayev

President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Almazbek Atambaev

President of the Republic of Turkey
Abdullah Gül

Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

11 September 2015, Astana, Kazakhstan



The Council of Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 11 September 2015 in Astana, Kazakhstan upon the kind invitation of H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. H.E. İlham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and H.E. İsmet Yılmaz, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

participated in the meeting, which was presided over by H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. H.E. Sapardurdy Toyliyev, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan honoured the meeting upon the invitation of the Host.

The Heads of State,

Reaffirming their adherence to the purposes and principles of Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Council;

Reiterating their strong will to further strengthen and consolidate the solidarity based on common history, language, culture and traditions of the Turkic speaking peoples;

Reconfirming their commitment to the goals of the Summits of the Turkic Council; and expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved in realizing them;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the Member States in accordance with the generally accepted norms and principles of international law, including the respect of and support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders, noninterference in internal affairs;

Underlining their resolve to further deepen and widen cooperation within the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council;

declared that they:

Cooperation in Media and Information

1. Stress the importance of developing cooperation in media and information sphere among the Member States, and consider its indispensable role in promoting the communication and mutual understanding and raising the political, cultural, economic and social awareness about the Member States at the local and international levels.

2. Welcome the First Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Information and Media held on 18 August 2015 in Astana; commend the signing of the Turkic Council Joint Protocol on Information and Media, the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation among Official News Agencies of the Member States of the Turkic Council, the Protocol of Cooperation among the National TV Channels of the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States; take note of the Concept Paper for the establishment of the International Turkic TV Channel, and encourage the Parties to facilitate its establishment process.

3. Underline the importance of mutual information and media support in the event of major international activities hosted by the Member States.

Cooperation in Economy

4. Remain committed to the purpose of creating favourable conditions for increased trade and economic relations among the Member States, by taking necessary measures to ensure improving the investment climate, diversifying economic activities and supporting entrepreneurship, and welcome the Fourth Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Economy held on 20 June 2014 in Cholpon-Ata.

5. Instruct the Ministries in charge of Economy to continue the work on the establishment process of the Joint Turkic Investment Fund.

6. Commend the Third Meeting of the Turkic Business Council and the Third Business Forum held on 25 October 2014, in Nakhchivan, and encourage participation of the private sector representatives from the Member States and the wider region to the Fourth Business Forum to be held in the Kyrgyz Republic.

7. Wish success to the Republic of Turkey in hosting G20 Summit on 15-16 November 2015 in Antalya; and welcome the invitation extended to the Turkic Council for the Sixth Tourism (T.20) Ministers Meeting to be held on 29-30 September 2015, as well as the organisation of the Business 20 (B20) Azerbaijan Regional Consultation Forum on 12 May 2015 in Baku in the context of the Republic of Turkey's G20 Presidency.

8. Stress the importance of development of cooperation in the fields of services, alternative energy as well as information and communication technologies (ICT), and welcome the initiative to establish the Working Group on ICT and call on the Member States to organise the first meeting.

9. Reiterate their support for Kazakhstan's efforts to organize international specialized exhibition in Astana EXPO-2017 on the theme "Future energy; wish success to the Antalya EXPO-2016 on the theme "Flowers and Children" to be hosted by Turkey, and reaffirm the participation of the Member States.

10. Reaffirm the importance of exploiting comparative natural and geographic advantages of the Member States located on the traditional Silk Road with a view to translating them into joint economic benefit, and welcome the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism Affairs held in Baku on 20 May 2015; appreciate the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the umbrella institutions of the Member States in tourism which will form the basis of cooperation for the private sectors and encourage them for further cooperation through joint activities.

11. Take note of the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package, and encourage the relevant authorities to include it in national tourism strategies and make it more attractive in financial terms for the initial period.
12. Support continuation of regular info-tours as well as joint photo-exhibitions with the participation of the Member States; appreciate the tourism training programs conducted by Turkey for other Member States, and encourage for their continuation on a regular basis.
13. Highlight the importance of further strengthening cooperation among the Member States in the field of transport in a way to render the Eurasian transcontinental transport corridor passing through Member States a strategic path and a viable option in the East-West trade.
14. Stress the importance of strengthening railway connections among the Member States as efficient and stable means of transport and welcome the conclusion of the “Agreement on the Establishment of a Coordination Committee on the Development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route”(TITR) and praise joint efforts of the TITR in realization of the successful run of the first container train from Northwest China to Azerbaijan via Kazakhstan.
15. Underline the significance of regional cooperation for further strengthening regional transport infrastructure, enhancing transit potential, facilitating international trade and increasing competitiveness of TRACECA corridor.
16. Express satisfaction with the continuing cooperation among the Sister Ports of Baku, Aktau and Samsun, and welcome the official invitation extended to authorities of Turkmenistan to include Turkmenbashi Port in the Sister Ports process.
17. Welcome the Third Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administration on 2 July 2015 in Bishkek, and urge the national customs authorities to intensify their efforts within the context of Silk Road Initiative and Caravanserai Project to facilitate trade and international transit transport along the Silk Road.
18. Support the Eighth Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held on 14-16 October 2015 in Istanbul by the Republic of Turkey as the Chair-in-office of the Forum under the theme of “Strengthening Partnerships: Human Mobility for Sustainable Development”; and call for coordinated action towards the displacement crises in and around Member States caused by all sorts of reasons in line with the ongoing international endeavours.

Cooperation in Foreign Policy and Security Issues

19. Emphasize the need to continue close coordination and cooperation regarding international issues of common interest through regular consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers under the aegis of Chairman-in-Office.
20. Underline the importance of supporting candidacies of the Member States at international organizations, particularly the UN.

21. Urge national authorities of the Member States to invite the Secretariat to the regional and international meetings, organized in their respective countries.

22. Urge the continuation of Security Consultations among the Member States at appropriate levels, and welcome the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey to host the third round of consultations.

23. Express satisfaction with the increasing interaction of the Turkic Council with regional and international organizations. In this regard:

a) appreciate the diplomatic representations and activities coordinated by the Secretariat in line with the “Road Map” for obtaining observer status in the UN General Assembly, adopted at the informal meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in New York on 26 September 2014, and urge the continuation of the cooperation among the Member States to this end;

b) highlight the importance of increasing ties with specialized regional and international organizations, and welcome the meeting and the international conference to be co-organized in Istanbul by the Turkic Council and its international partners, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe-Eurasian Transport Links (UNECE-EATL) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), on 20-21 October and 27-28 October 2015 respectively;

c) urge closer cooperation among the Member States to coordinate their actions with a view to obtaining observer status in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the 13th Islamic Summit to be hosted in the Republic of Turkey in 2016, and wish success to the Republic of Turkey in hosting the 13th Islamic Summit Conference in 2016 and for its subsequent Chairmanship of OIC Summit;

d) welcome the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), and agree to take necessary measures for extension of the observer status of the Turkic Council at the ECO for another three years;

e) appreciate the common position on strengthening the visibility of the Turkic Council within the platform of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); welcome the invitation of the Secretary General of the Turkic Council to the OSCE 21st Ministerial Council, encourage the continuation of such common efforts for upcoming OSCE meetings, and appreciate steps taken by the Secretariat to establish institutional relations with the Secretariat of the OSCE;

f) welcome the establishment of dialogue with the European Union (EU) and its relevant bodies;

g) welcome the participation of the Turkic Council Secretariat in the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan on 31 October 2014 in Beijing, and urge the conclusion of the necessary procedures for Turkic Council to become an official supporting organisation to the Process;

h) express satisfaction with the signing of Memoranda of Understanding for Cooperation between the Turkic Council and World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and International Center for Sport Security (ICSS).

24. Reiterate the importance of the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
25. Welcome the resumption of comprehensive negotiation process in Cyprus on 15 May 2015 and the progress reached so far in the process; confirm their strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed just and lasting political settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations based on political equality of the two peoples in the Island, and express their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.
26. Call on parties to contribute to the de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in Ukraine by promoting dialogue and reconciliation in line with the Minsk agreements and the Republic of Turkey as the outgoing Chair of the Turkic Council has informed the Member States about the problems faced by the Crimean Tatars with regard to their status, security and safety.
27. Appreciate the organization of the Turkic Council Junior Diplomats 2nd Training Program on 2-15 March 2015 in Azerbaijan, and welcome the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the 3rd Training Program.
28. Take note of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centres of the Member States and their First meeting hosted by the Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 8 May 2015 in Baku, and instruct the continuation of collaboration through regular meetings and joint activities.
29. Commend the special publication titled “Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council: a Rising Actor in Regional Cooperation in Eurasia” edited by Centre for Strategic Research of the Republic of Turkey in honour of the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council, and encourage the continuation of similar initiatives.
30. Express their commitment to increase joint efforts towards the prevention of misperception and combating exclusionism, extremism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia within the framework of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and welcome the Seventh Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations which will be hosted by Azerbaijan in 2016.
31. Emphasize the importance of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to be held in Istanbul in May 2016, which will aim to shape the future agenda of the humanitarian system at a global scale, and stress the need for high-level participation to the WHS from the Member States of the Turkic Council.

Cooperation in Social and Cultural Affairs

32. Reaffirm the importance of developing cultural, linguistic and social ties within Turkic Speaking States and communities living in different parts of the world.
33. Welcome the establishment of the First Regional Diaspora Centre in Kyiv on 24 December 2014; support further strengthening of cooperation among Turkic Speaking Diasporas based on Joint Action Plans and through other Regional Diaspora Centres to be opened in the upcoming period; and appreciate the meeting of the Secretary General with the representatives of the Turkic Speaking Diasporas based in the USA on 13 May 2015 in New York.

34. Commend the successful organization of the “First World Nomad Games” in Issyk-Kul on 8-14 September 2014 with wide participation from across the world and welcoming the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic to host the “Second World Nomad Games” in 2016, instruct the Ministers in charge of Sports to hold all necessary preparations of this event.

35. Underline the significance of enhancing cooperation among the Turkic Speaking States in the field of youth and sport, and welcome the organization of the First Turkic Council Youth Camp on 19-25 August 2015 and 27 August-2 September 2015 in Trabzon and Samsun respectively to contribute to common understanding and mutual awareness among participants, as well as the Youth Festival to be held in 2016 in Azerbaijan.

36. Congratulate Azerbaijan on successful organisation of Baku 2015 First European Games on 12-28 June 2015.

37. Praise the activities of TURKSOY held in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, throughout 2014 as part of TURKSOY initiative of “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” for 2014, and express support for Merv, Turkmenistan, as “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” for 2015; welcome the Nowruz activities co-hosted by TURKSOY and UNESCO on 24 March 2015 in Paris and express their wish for the continuation of such initiatives; and appreciate the establishment of the Youth Chamber Choir of TURKSOY as a new initiative launched by the organization to foster social and cultural cooperation.

38. Welcome the “Korkut’s Legacy and the Turkic World” International Forum dedicated to the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and the 200th anniversary of the first printed version of the “Book of Dede Korkut” organized by the Turkic Academy in cooperation with UNESCO on 15 April 2015 in Paris;

Cooperation in Education and Science

39. Emphasize the essential role of educational cooperation in raising awareness of common identity among the younger generation that is the guarantee of joint development of the Turkic World, and welcome the Third and Fourth Meetings of the Ministers of Education held on 27-28 November 2014 in Baku and 4-5 September 2015 in Astana.

40. Highly commend the program of the common Turkic history textbook covering the period until the 15th century prepared by the Turkic Academy, and instruct the Turkic Academy and the relevant authorities of the Member States to submit the textbook for final examination and take necessary steps in order to introduce it into school curricula; and instigate work on a common Turkic history textbook covering the period from the 15th century until the 21st century, as well as common geography and literature textbooks.

41. Take note of the First General Assembly of the Turkic University Union hosted by Atatürk University, Chair University-in-Office, in Erzurum on 16-17 October 2014.

42. Welcome the accession of the Turkic Academy to the Union Académique Internationale (UAI) as an Associate Member and encourage it to continue expanding international cooperation.

43. Welcome the series of international scholarly events organized by the Turkic Academy in order to celebrate the 550th Anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate.

44. Praise the archaeological research and excavations conducted by the Turkic Academy with the support of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) in the Altai Mountains that resulted in invaluable discoveries pertaining to the common Turkic history and encourage further such research activities in Turkic world.

Institutional Cooperation in the Turkic World

45. Welcome the establishment of the Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and Centre of Nomadic Civilization as international organisations and call on the relevant authorities to take necessary steps for the completion of their institutionalisation process.

46. Commend the Coordination Meetings among Turkic Council, TURKSOY, TURKPA and Turkic Academy to ensure efficient coordination in order to strengthen cooperation in the Turkic world.

47. Welcome the work done on elaboration of the “Concept Paper on Guiding Principles for Integration in the Turkic World” by the Turkic Academy, and call for continuation of the work on this document.

48. Welcome the establishment of the “Union of the National Academies of Science of the Turkic World” under the coordination of the Turkic Academy, and call for the coordination of its activities by the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation.

49. Appreciate the establishment of the Scientific Council of the Turkic Academy comprising the Ministers of Education of the Member States.

50. Emphasizing the importance of the inter-Parliamentary dimension in strengthening political dialogue as well as economic and cultural cooperation among Turkic Speaking States, and welcome its activities on accumulating legislative experts’ potential and the organization of the Sixth Plenary Session of TURKPA to be held in December, 2015 in Astana.

Other Issues

51. Welcome the general progress as presented by the Secretary General in his annual report.

52. Welcome the participation of delegates of Turkmenistan and Hungary in certain meetings of the Turkic Council held since the last Summit, and express their wish for increased involvement of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Hungary in the work of the Turkic Council.

53. Having received the report of Turkey as the outgoing Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council in 2014-2015, congratulate Turkey for a successful Chairmanship.

54. Thank the outgoing Deputy Secretary General Mr. Adakhan Madumarov for his contributions.

55. Thank the First Secretary General Ambassador Mr. Halil Akıncı for his contributions to the work of the Secretariat in his capacity as the Advisor to the Secretariat in 2014-2015.

56. Decide to hold the Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council in 2016 in the Kyrgyz Republic.

57. The Heads of State express profound thanks to H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, for steering the deliberations of the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council to a successful conclusion and appreciate the warm hospitality of the Government and people of Kazakhstan. On this occasion, the Heads of State congratulate the 550th anniversary of Kazakh Khanate. Finally, they welcome the assumption of the Chairmanship of the Turkic Council by the Republic of Kazakhstan for the term 2015-2016.

Signed on 11 September 2015 in Astana in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
İlham Aliyev

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nursultan Nazarbayev

President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Almazbek Atambaev

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey
İsmet Yılmaz

Declaration of the Sixth Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

3 September 2018, Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan



The Council of Heads of States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 3 September 2018 in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan on the theme of “Cooperation in Youth and National Sports” upon the kind invitation of H.E. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic. H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and

H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey participated in the meeting, which was presided over by H.E. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic. H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, honoured the meeting upon the invitation of the Host.

The Heads of States of the Turkic Council,

Reiterating their adherence to the purposes and principles of Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Council;

Reaffirming their strong will to further strengthen and consolidate the solidarity based on common history, language, culture and traditions of the Turkic speaking nations;

Underlining their resolve to further deepen and widen cooperation within the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council;

Welcoming the progress achieved in realizing the goals specified in the Declarations of the Turkic Council Summits;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the Member States in accordance with the generally recognized norms and principles of international law, in particular the respect of and support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders, noninterference in internal affairs;

Commending the remarkable political and socio-economic progress that the Turkic Speaking States achieved since their independence, and expressing their wish for further cooperation among themselves as well as in the region;

Declared that they:

Cooperation in Youth and Sports

1. Express satisfaction with the enhanced cooperation among the Turkic Speaking States in the field of youth and sport; and encourage intensification of such efforts to bring closer the communities of the Member States.
2. Highly appreciate and emphasize the role of Kyrgyzstan as the founder of the World Nomad Games and commend the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic in presenting and promoting our ancient culture and traditions to the whole world through World Nomad Games, recognized by UN General Assembly resolution 71/249 of December 22, 2016 as an important tool for intercultural dialogue and making a valuable contribution to strengthening social cohesion, peace and development.
3. Highly commend the successful organization of the World Nomad Games, which were held in Issyk Kul in 2014, 2016 and 2018 with the aim to present and promote our ancient culture and traditions to the whole world, with the participation of representatives from different countries; and welcome the decision of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey to hold the Fourth World Nomad Games in the Republic of Turkey in 2020.
4. Welcome the decisions of the meetings of the First and Second meetings of Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports in 2016 and 2017 in Istanbul and Baku; encourage them to take necessary actions for the continuation of the successful organizations of the International Youth Camps and Festivals, Sports Tournaments, as well as for the operationalization of the Turkic Council Youth Platform and Young Leaders Forum that will strengthen the relationship among the youth organizations of the Member States; and praise the successful organization of First Turkic University Sports Games (Turkic Universiade) by the Republic of Azerbaijan and recommend its continuation on rotational basis.
5. Appreciate Turkic Council's founding member status in Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) and the Secretary General's appointment as the Vice Chair of the SIGA Council; and underline the significance of such efforts to uphold the universal values of sport in the Member States.
6. Highly appreciate the cooperation and partnership of the Turkic Council with credible international organizations in the field of youth and sports; commend the joint international conference of the Turkic Council and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) on the role of youth in preventing and countering extremism: holistic approaches from formation to radicalization" in 2016 in Istanbul with wide participation from across the world, and encourage the implementation of the outcomes of the conference through relevant projects.
7. Underscore the importance of promoting Islamic solidarity to confront the challenges facing the Islamic world and stress intention for more active and effective cooperation to strengthen fraternity, understanding and tolerance; in this regard, note the significance of the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games for promotion of Islamic culture and moral values around the world held in Baku on 12-22 May 2017.
8. Congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan on the successful organization of the 28th Winter Universiade held in 2017 in Almaty, and underline the importance of promotion of winter sport among young generation of the Turkic world; and welcome its initiative in holding an international wrestling tournament of "Álem barysy" as the event contributing to the improvement of the image of the Turkic national games at the international arena.

9. Congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting the First World Ethno Sport Games in 2021; wish successful organization of the games; and encourage the Member States to participate in this important sport event.

10. Congratulate the Member States for the successes achieved in International Sports Tournaments including the Rio 2016, Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and Asian Games 2018; and encourage to organize major international sporting events in Turkic Speaking States.

Cooperation in Economy

11. Remain committed to the purpose of creating favourable conditions among the Member States by taking necessary measures to increase trade and investment, as well as encouraging enhancement of cooperation and exchanges among the private sectors; welcome the decisions taken at Fifth (2015 Astana), Sixth (2016 Baku) and Seventh (2017 Istanbul) Meetings of the Ministers in Charge of Economy; and instruct the Secretariat to conclude the preparation of the Research Paper on investment climate and international trade complementarities of the Turkic Council Member States.

12. Commend the Fourth Meeting of the Turkic Business Council and the Business Forum held on 28 April 2016, in Bishkek, as well as Fifth Meeting of the Turkic Business Council held on 3 April 2017 in Astana; encourage the active participation of the private sector representatives from the Member States and the wider region to the Fifth Business Forum of the Turkic Council and Second Technical visit for investors to be held in the Republic of Turkey in 2018; and support the Secretariat and the economic institutions of the Member States in their efforts for the operationalization of the Turkic Council web portal (www.turkicbusiness.com).

13. Welcome the organization of Investment Statistics and Investment Climate Training Program combined with the Information and Experience Sharing Program in the field of Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises by Turkey in 2018 and support the further continuation of such experience sharing.

14. Express appreciation to the Member States for participation at the opening ceremony of Astana International Financial Centre on 5 July 2018 in Astana and welcome the Member States for active involvement to the work of the Centre.

15. Encourage the use of G-Global “the International info-communication platform” to consolidate the efforts for effective search of solutions to global economic problems.

16. Encourage the creation of favourable market conditions for external trade operations with the use of national currencies in trade among the Turkic States aiming to avoid risks of currency fluctuations.

17. Welcome the decisions taken at the First and Second meetings of the Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) held in 2016 in Baku and 2017 in Istanbul, stressing the importance of cooperation in the field of ICT; and urge the Member States to continue their efforts to enhance their cooperation and coordination in the field of e-Government, Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway (TASIM) and fiber-infrastructure, cyber security and satellite services.

18. Underline the significance of establishing cooperation in the field of alternative energy; and task the State Authorities in charge of Alternative Energy to hold meetings in order to generate joint projects for the benefit of the Member States noting the huge potential of the Member States in this field.

19. Congratulate Kazakhstan for successful organisation of International Exhibition EXPO-2017 with the theme “Future Energy”; commend its efforts to contribute to development of alternative energy and energy security; and welcome the establishment of the International Center for Green Technologies and Investments on the basis of EXPO in Astana.

20. Congratulate and support the start of Akkuyu Nuclear Power Plant construction in the Republic of Turkey as the first commercial nuclear power plant in a Turkic country.

21. Reaffirm the importance of exploring natural and geographic advantages of the Member States located on the Silk Road for joint economic benefit; and welcome the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism Affairs held in 2016 in Issyk Kul with the participation of Secretary General of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and the Fourth Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism Affairs in 2018 in Astana.

22. Praise the launch of the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package as a unique tourism project to reveal the joint cultural and historical heritage of the Member States along the Silk Road; and commend the preparation of the website (www.modernsilkradtour.com) by the Secretariat as well as the efforts to promote the Joint Tour Package through the realization of the familiarization trips, joint photo exhibitions, and presentations at international events, including the Modern Silk Road Festival, which will be held in Kazakhstan in 2019; express satisfaction with and encourage the continuation of support provided by the Member States at the national and international tourism exhibitions for the presentation of the Joint Tour Package.

23. Call on the national and/or commercial airline companies of the Member States to lend necessary support to the Secretariat for rendering the Joint Tour Package attractive and competitive in financial terms at the initial stage; and approve the allocation of necessary financial support by each Member States to ensure sustainability of the promotion of the Joint Tour Package.

24. Welcome the preparation of a documentary along the destination of the Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package and the promotional video by TRT Avaz, as well as Turkish Airlines’ coverage of the Joint Tour Package in its Skylife magazine; and encourage the continuation of such promotional activities by all relevant authorities of the Member States.

25. Appreciate the tourism training programs conducted by Turkey for other Member States that were noted in UN Reports as a successful development project that contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and encourage the continuation of vocational trainings in tourism sector on a regular basis.

26. Highlight the importance of enhancing cooperation among the Member States in the field of transport; welcome the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Ministers of Transport and the international “Workshop on Trans-Caspian Multimodal Route” held in 2016 in Istanbul, and underline the significance of improving multimodal transport infrastructure among the Member States.

27. Commend all efforts led by the relevant institutions of the Member States to facilitate bilateral and transit transport, as well as customs operations across the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Transport Corridor; encourage the relevant institutions of the Member States to take necessary steps to coordinate their efforts to render the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor an efficient, sustainable and seamless route between East and West and encourage deeper cooperation among the Turkic Council Sister Seaports with the inclusion of Kuryk Port of Kazakhstan.

28. Highly appreciate the results of the 5th Caspian Summit held on 12 August in Aktau and congratulate Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan on the signing of the Convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea, which opens new prospects for the development of transit and transport potential between the Turkic Speaking States.

29. Congratulate the Member States for the finalization of mega-projects such as Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran Railway and Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway, Marmaray undersea railway and Eurasia tunnels, Western Europe-Western China Road Corridor, Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge, rehabilitation of Bishkek-Naryn-Torugart Road, “Khorgos-Eastern Gate” dry port, the first phase of the Baku International Sea Trade Port in Alat, International Kuryk Seaport, extension of International Aktau Seaport as key components of the Eurasian transport map, and welcome the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project in the framework of contributing to the East-West Middle Corridor.

30. Stress on further intensification of customs cooperation among the Member States to revitalize historic Silk Road; support the involvement of the Turkic Council Secretariat in the Caravanserai Project; and welcome the interaction between the Turkic Council and the People’s Republic of China on the Caravanserai Project for the promotion of East-West trade routes.

31. Welcome the outcomes of the Sixth Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Turkic Council convened in 2017 in Antalya highlighting the importance of close collaboration with private sector of the Member States; and encourage the use of customs mechanisms such as Authorized Economic Operator for trade facilitation.

32. Encourage the use of mechanisms for the simplification of export and import procedures and introduction of advanced information exchange system, as well as modern and IT based transit procedures among customs authorities of the Member States, underscore the significance of the modernization of border gates; and call on the Member States to conclude the “Multilateral Agreement on Preliminary Information Exchange” for the facilitation of border crossings in a more effective and faster manner.

Cooperation in Foreign Policy/Security Issues and Relations with International Organizations

33. Emphasize the need to continue close coordination and cooperation regarding international issues of common interest through regular consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers; and underline the importance of supporting candidacies of the Member States at international organizations.

34. Commend Kazakhstan’s non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council for 2017-2018; and express satisfaction with the effective role of Kazakhstan with its rich experience in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peace diplomacy in successfully representing the region in the UN

Security Council

35. Support the nomination of the candidacy of the Kyrgyz Republic for non-permanent membership at the UN Security Council for the period 2027-2028 and the nomination of the candidacy of Baku for hosting World EXPO-2025 in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

36. Welcome the outcomes of the third round of Security Consultations among the Member States hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in 2016 and call on the continuation of this consultative mechanism on a regular basis.

37. Express satisfaction with the increasing cooperation of the Turkic Council with regional and international organizations. In this regard:

a) appreciate the positive outcomes of the coordinated efforts of the Member States and the Secretariat in line with the “Road Map” for obtaining observer status in the UN General Assembly, adopted at the Fifth Informal Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in New York in 2014; and instruct the continuation of the cooperation among the Member States to this end;

b) welcome the implementation of the “MoU between the Turkic Council and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)” signed in 2016 through the joint activities contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals in the region; appreciate the outcomes of the international conference co-organized on “the Role of Information Communication Technologies for Development” in 2015 and joint activities carried out with UNAOC and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in the course of 2016-2018; and call for the continuation of the cooperation through joint projects;

c) express satisfaction with the implementation of the “MoU for Cooperation between the Turkic Council and the UNOSSC” in 2016; commend the preparation of the joint report “How a Regional Organization uses South-South cooperation to Promote Regional and Global Development”; praise the Secretariat’s active role as an implementing partner for the realization of the Global South-South Development EXPO hosted by the Government of Turkey in 2017 in Antalya; and instruct the Secretariat to carry out projects contributing to the enhancement of South-South and triangular cooperation in the region;

d) welcome the signature of the “MoU between the Turkic Council and the UNAOC” in 2016, and encourage the continuation of joint initiatives between the two organizations;

e) express satisfaction with the enhanced cooperation between the Turkic Council and the UNWTO, as well as signing of “Code of Ethics of the UNWTO” by the Tour Operators involved in the Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project; and encourage the continuation of their joint work to promote the Silk Road tourism;

f) appreciate the signing of MoUs by Turkic Council with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) signed in Astana in 2017 in the framework of the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology, and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRI) in 2016; and call Member States for united action to obtain the observer status of the Turkic Council in the OIC;

g) welcome the decision taken at the 23rd Meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held in 2018 in Dushanbe regarding the extension of the observer status of the Turkic Council in the ECO for another three-year period;

h) appreciate the common position of the Member States on strengthening the visibility of the Turkic Council in Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); welcome the invitation of the Secretary General of the Turkic Council to the OSCE 22nd, 23rd and 24th Ministerial Council meetings, 3-4 December 2015 in Belgrade, 8-9 December 2016 in Hamburg, 7-8 December 2017 in Vienna; encourage the continuation of such common efforts for upcoming OSCE meetings; and appreciate steps taken by the Secretariat to establish institutional relations with the Secretariat of the OSCE;

i) commend the Secretariat for maintaining close cooperation with the World Customs Organisation (WCO) through tangible initiatives such as organisation of the Turkic Council Regional Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) in 2018 in Astana.

38. Congratulate the Member States for their increasing role in developmental and humanitarian assistance provided to the third countries across the world, as well as their contribution to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and praise the projects and activities of the Secretariat giving impetus to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

39. Appreciate the decision of the Kyrgyz Republic to hold the next autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) in Bishkek in 2018 and note that holding this event in the Kyrgyz Republic will contribute to the development of the inter-parliamentary relations in the region.

40. Condemn all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on ethnicity, race, religion and belief, underlining the importance of nurturing tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples and emphasize the significance of the 7th Global Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations of the United Nations held in Baku, on 25-27 April 2016.

41. Emphasize the essential efforts of the Member States in promoting multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue that contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights, the strengthening of international cooperation and the fight against discrimination and xenophobia.

42. Reiterate the importance of the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

43. Emphasize the need to reach a negotiated and mutually agreed political settlement in Cyprus based on existing realities, political equality of the two peoples and their co-ownership of the Island; express their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people; in their aspirations for peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

44. Appreciate the successful organization of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Turkic Council Junior Diplomats Joint Training Programs held in 2016 in Kazakhstan, 2017 in Kyrgyzstan, and 2018 in Turkey with the participation of junior diplomats from Uzbekistan and Hungary.

45. Welcome the outcomes of the Second, Third and Fourth Meetings of the Official Foreign Policy Research Centres of the Member States in 2015, 2016 and 2017; and praise the special academic publication dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Turkic Speaking States.

46. Highly appreciate the contribution of the Kyrgyz Republic to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the period 2016-2018, express support to Kyrgyzstan in its future activities in this field; and wish Kyrgyzstan a successful completion of its membership in this body.

47. Appreciate the efforts of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and TURKSOY for the support to the Government of Turkey in its bid to become a member of the Executive Board at UNESCO for the period of 2017-2021; and encourage those organizations to support the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in its bid to become a member of the Executive Board at UNESCO for the period of 2019-2023.

Cooperation in Social, Media and Cultural Affairs

48. Reaffirm the importance of developing cultural, linguistic and social ties within Turkic Speaking States and communities living in different parts of the world; welcome “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Action Plan of the Turkic Council for 2018-2019” adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Contact Group on Diaspora Affairs held in 2018 in Istanbul; and support further strengthening of cooperation among Turkic Speaking Diasporas.

49. Welcome the organization of the Turkic Council Second Diaspora Forum to be hosted by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Republic of Turkey in 2019; and encourage coordination among the Turkic Speaking Diaspora organizations across the world.

50. Emphasize the importance of developing media and information cooperation to enhance political, cultural, economic and social awareness about events in Turkic Speaking States at the local and international levels, and welcome the Action Plan prepared by Member States for a vision of future work.

51. Agree to continue cooperation between national TV channels and national news agencies, welcome the establishment of a Contact Group of representatives of national television channels of the Turkic Council and instructed to continue the production of joint educational, historical, sports and other television programs and projects.

52. Appreciate the efforts of TRT Avaz to continue broadcasting with the aim of promotion and better demonstration of the shared values; and encourage Member States to include TRT Avaz and other national channels of the Member States within their cable, satellite and IP systems.

53. Welcome the efforts of the Member States to protect the common elements of the Turkic epics and rich history, as well as the diverse gastronomy of the Turkic nations by submitting nominations for inscription to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO (inscription: Kok boru – traditional equestrian game in Kyrgyzstan; Dolma making and sharing tradition, a symbol of cultural identity in Azerbaijan; Kazakh traditional sport – Kazaksha Kures (Kazakh wrestling) in Kazakhstan; traditional craftsmanship of “çini-making” – handmade glazed tiles and ceramics made in Turkey).

54. Commemorate 95th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, the national leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the prominent statesman of the Turkic world; and praise the activities organized in the Member States on his life and legacy.

55. Appreciate the declaration of 2018 by TURKSOY as the year of the Kyrgyz writer Chyngyz Aitmatov in honour of the 90th anniversary of the birth of the prominent Kyrgyz writer and commend the activities organized in the Member States to raise awareness about his life and literary identity as the common heritage of the Turkic speaking people.

56. Commend the declaration of 2018 by Turkic Academy as the year of Magzhan Zhumabayev in honour of the 125th anniversary of the birth of the distinguished Kazakh writer; congratulate 100th anniversary of Gara Garayev, the prominent Azerbaijani composer; and praise the activities organized in Member States to raise awareness about their lives and literary identity as the common treasure of the Turkic speaking people.

57. Emphasize the importance of realization of projects such as “Sacred places of the Turkic world” and “100 prominent personalities of the Turkic World” aimed at strengthening and developing cultural and historical relations among the Turkic Speaking States.

Welcome the idea on the proclamation of the “International Turkic Language Day” by UNESCO; call upon the Member States to intensify consultations on the subject; and appreciate the organization of International Forum on “Revival of Identity and Cultural Heritage: Turkic language from past to future” by the Turkic Academy at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on 30 April 2018.

Welcome the recommendations taken at the 10th and 11th meetings of the Council of Elders held in 2015 in Istanbul and 2016 in Astana; and encourage the continuation of Council of Elders meetings as a valuable consultative mechanism.

Commend the activities of the Turkic Academy, which has successfully completed the “Atalar mirasi” project collecting rich heritage on the writing, folklore and other material and spiritual cultural elements of Turkic peoples.

Express satisfaction with the participation of the Secretariat of the Turkic Council at the Fifth and Sixth Kurultay-Meeting of the Hun and Turkic Rooted Nations organised by the Magyar-Turan Foundation in 2016 and 2018 in Bugac, Hungary.

Cooperation in Education and Science

62. Emphasize the essential role of educational cooperation in raising awareness on the common identity among the younger generation; call on the finalization of the Common Turkic History Textbook covering the period until the 15th century prepared by the Turkic Academy; praise the decision of the Republic of Turkey to include the Common Turkic History course in the school curricula; as well as the Republic of Kazakhstan for its decision to use the Textbook as a supplementary book; underline the importance of taking necessary steps by the Member States to include the textbook in their respective school curricula; and encourage the Turkic Academy to intensify the preparation for the common geography and literature textbooks.

63. Welcome the decision of the Republic of Kazakhstan to use the Latin alphabet contributing to the development of intercommunication among the Turkic languages and their empowerment in the global communicative and educational space.

64. Welcome the First and Second Student Exchange Program among secondary/high schools of the Member States hosted by the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2016 and 2018 providing the students with the opportunity to familiarize with each other's traditions, culture and history, as well as to develop a strong bond of brotherhood and friendship.

65. Encourage the initiatives regarding the launch of exchange programs for teachers and experts and the establishment of sister school relations among the secondary/high schools of the Member States.

66. Commend the Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University for its successful chairmanship of the Turkic University Union, express satisfaction with the organization of the Third General Assembly of the Turkic University Union in 2018 in Bishkek and congratulate Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University on its election as the new Chair University.

67. Express satisfaction with the implementation of the first phase of the Orkhun Exchange Programme for Students and Lecturers; and call the relevant authorities of the Member States to take requisite steps for the enlargement of the Programme in accordance with national legislations of the Member States and international agreements.

68. Take note of the activities of the Turkish Maarif Foundation which was established to conduct educational activities abroad such as establishment of schools, educational and cultural centres in Turkic Speaking States.

Institutional Cooperation in the Turkic World

69. Welcome the activities of TURKSOY, TurkPA, the Turkic Academy and Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation; and commend the Coordination Meetings among them and the Turkic Council to ensure efficient coordination in order to strengthen cooperation in the Turkic world.

70. Underline the importance of further development of Turkic integration carried out by the institutions and bodies of Turkic cooperation on the basis of a new architecture taking into account integration levels with the aim of increasing efficiency of the Turkic Council's activities.

71. Congratulate 25th anniversary of TURKSOY as the first international organisation established among the Turkic Speaking States; welcome the organization of the meeting of the UNESCO National Commissions and Committees of TURKSOY Member States since 2010; and recommend the revitalization of the meeting.

72. Call upon the revival of official active participation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as one of the founding members of TURKSOY and a country representing significant cultural values with a rich spiritual heritage, in the activities of TURKSOY.

73. Praise, within the framework of “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” initiative started by TURKSOY, the declaration of Mary, Turkmenistan, in 2015; in Sheki, Azerbaijan, in 2016; in Turkistan, Kazakhstan, in 2017; and in Kastamonu, Turkey, in 2018 as the Cultural Capitals of the Turkic World, as well as the activities organized in those cities.

74. Welcome the chairmanship of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic in the TurkPA for the period of 2017-2018; support the activities of the Jogorku Kenesh to further strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation among the Turkic Speaking States; commend the outcomes of the Seventh Plenary Session of TurkPA held in December 2017 in Bishkek, and congratulate it on the occasion of its 10th anniversary; welcome the participation of delegation of Uzbekistan in the said Plenary Meeting of TurkPA; and call upon the fraternal Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to fully participate in the activities of the Turkic cooperation bodies.

75. Appreciate the activities of the Turkic Council and TurkPA on observation of elections in the Member States, as well as their efforts to develop common principles and standards for joint election observation in the Member States.

76. Praise the signature of Memorandum of Cooperation between the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan and the Turkic Academy; encourage to further develop cooperation with the relevant authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan; welcome Hungary’s obtention of an observer status at the Turkic Academy; and congratulate the Turkic Academy for becoming an observer member to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

77. Appreciate the successful organization of the International symposium “Synergy along the Silk Road for Agenda 2030” by the Turkic Academy held at the Headquarters of the United Nations in 2016 in New York; and welcome the “Great Steppe” annual Humanitarian Forum and “Turkbarometer” project organized by the Turkic Academy, as well as its strengthening cooperation with relevant authorities of Mongolia relating to international expeditions conducted in the Otuken region of Mongolia in 2016-2018.

78. Express gratitude to the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation for its efforts to protect and preserve cultural heritage sites of the Turkic world and to create a directory of endangered cultural objects of national and international importance for Turkic speaking nations in consultation with the relevant State authorities, including effective research work carried out by the Foundation on enlisting the damaged and lost historical and cultural monuments.

79. Welcome the organisation of the roundtable on the topic of “Turkic Heritage at the Crossroads of Cultures and Civilizations” on 6 May 2017 by the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation within the framework of the Fourth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held in Baku and the conference and the exhibition entitled “Latin America and the Turkic world at the Crossroads of Cultures” organized in Latin America in October 2017.

80. Appreciate the establishment of “Dede Gorgud” chamber orchestra under the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, composed of well-known musicians from the Member States of the Foundation, with an aim to promote rich Turkic culture on the international stage.

81. Praise the continuous financial support of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Republic of Turkey Promotion Fund, and Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) to various projects of the Turkic Council; and call on the relevant authorities of the other Member States to assist the Turkic Council projects in a similar manner.

Other issues

82. Highly appreciate the valuable participation of H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan, H.E. Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary at the Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council.

83. Welcome the progress of the activities of the Turkic Council since the last Summit as presented by Secretary General Ramil Hasan in his reports; thank him for his contributions to the work of the Secretariat in 2014-2018; and express their wishes of success for the next Secretary General Baghdad Amreyev.

84. Express appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for allocating separate Secretariat buildings to TurkPA and Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation in Baku.

85. Adopt the Concept of Integration of Turkic Speaking States; and instruct the relevant authorities of the Member States for its implementation to be coordinated by the Turkic Council Secretariat.

86. Adopt the Joint Statements on “the 90th anniversary of Chyngyz Aitmatov” and “the development of cooperation in the field of national sports and youth”.

87. Welcome the participation of delegates of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Hungary in several meetings of the Turkic Council and official Turkic cooperation organizations held since the last Summit; and express their wish for increased involvement of those countries in the activities of the Turkic Council.

88. Congratulate Hungary for its obtention of an observer status at the Turkic Council.

89. Welcome the decision of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the establishment of the Turkestan region with the administrative center in the Turkistan city, one of the most popular historical and spiritual centers of the Turkic world.

90. Having received the report of the Republic of Kazakhstan as the outgoing Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council in 2015-2018, congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan for the successful Chairmanship.

91. Congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of 100th anniversary of establishment of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first democratic and secular state in the Turkic world.

92. Decide to hold the Seventh Summit of the Turkic Council in 2019 in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Heads of States express profound thanks to H.E. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, for steering the deliberations of the Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council to a successful

conclusion and appreciate the warm hospitality of the Government and people of Kyrgyzstan. Finally, they welcome the assumption of the Chairmanship of the Turkic Council by the Kyrgyz Republic until the next regular Summit.

Signed on 3 September 2018 in Cholpon-Ata in Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

**President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev**

**President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nursultan Nazarbayev**

**President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Sooronbai Zheenbekov**

**President of the Republic of Turkey
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**

Declaration of the Seventh Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

15 October 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan



The Council of Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 15 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan on the theme of “Supporting the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)”. The meeting presided over by H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and was attended by H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan-Elbasy and Honorary Chairman of

the Turkic Council, H.E. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and H.E. Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary. H.E. Purli Agamyradov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan also attended the meeting upon the invitation of H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Heads of State of the Turkic Council,

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Turkic Council, reaffirm their adherence to the purposes and principles of Nakhchivan Agreement on the establishment of the Turkic Council; and highlighting their resolve to further deepen and widen cooperation within the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council;

Reiterating their strong will to further strengthen and consolidate the solidarity based on common history, language, culture and traditions of the Turkic speaking peoples;

Reaffirming their intention to promote interests of Turkic World in international arena;

Expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved in realizing the goals specified in the Declarations of the Turkic Council Summits;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the Member States in accordance with the generally recognized norms and principles of international law, in particular the respect of and support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders, non-interference in internal affairs;

Highlighting the remarkable political and socio-economic progress that the Turkic Speaking States achieved since their independence, and underlining their wish for further cooperation under the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council;

Praising the historic decision of the Republic of Uzbekistan to become full member of the Turkic Council on the 10th anniversary of Nakhchivan Agreement and expressing their confidence that with this decision solidarity within the Turkic Speaking States will be further strengthened and the joint cooperation for the common good and prosperity of Turkic peoples will be further developed;

Declared that they:

Cooperation in Economy

Remain committed to the purpose of creating favorable conditions among the Member States by taking necessary measures to facilitate mutual trade and investment, as well as enhancing cooperation and exchanges among the private sectors; and instruct the relevant authorities to follow-up of the decisions taken at the Eighth and Ninth Meetings of the Ministers in Charge of Economy respectively held on 17 October 2018 in Bishkek and on 3 July 2019 in Nur-Sultan.

Highly value the establishment of Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) as a new and robust mechanism to enhance trade and investment cooperation among the Member States as well as the First and Second General Assembly Meetings of the TCCI held on 31 July 2019 in Istanbul and 14 October 2019 in Baku:

- Appreciate Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) for hosting the permanent Secretariat of TCCI in Istanbul;
- Instruct TCCI member organizations to elaborate sustainable business programs and projects beneficial for intra-trade and socio-economic development of the Member States;
- Support the process of TCCI for assuming a legal status as an international entity in accordance with the relevant legislation of the Republic of Turkey.

Underline the importance of new Turkic Business Web Portal (www.turkicbusiness.com) for strengthening relations among private sectors of Turkic Speaking States and instruct the relevant authorities of the Member States to provide the necessary information for the operationalization of this web portal.

Welcome the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Information and Experience Sharing Among Various Types of Economic Zones” aiming at a sustainable multilateral cooperation among the Member States through holding regular consultations and engaging in multilateral activities.

Appreciate the efforts of the relevant bodies of the Member States and the Secretariat for establishing the Joint Investment Fund and instruct them to finalize the concept paper and other relevant documents for the functioning of the Fund.

Encourage Member States to enhance technical cooperation regarding technical regulations, standardization, certification, conformity assessment and accreditation among each other.

Call on the national agencies in charge of trade registry to work on a potential cooperation in order to facilitate the cross-border affairs, movements and cooperation of entrepreneurs in Member States for boosting mutual cooperation and international trade among them.

Note the importance of the “Research Paper on Investment Climate and International Trade Complementarities of the Turkic Council Member States” prepared by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) which help the relevant authorities of the Member States to make assessment on the current trade and investment patterns, gaps and complementarities in the region while preparing alternative policy measures to enhance intra-trade and mutual investment; and urge the Member States to finalize the Trade Facilitation Strategy Paper initiated by Turkey, which would boost overall trade among the Member States.

Praise awarding the national companies of the Member States by the Secretariat of the Turkic Council with the “Turkic Business Prize” for their contributions to mutual trade and investment; and instruct the Secretariat to continue such practices in encouraging the business communities to further develop economic relations in the Turkic World.

Support the cooperation among the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBIA), DAMU Entrepreneurship Development Fund of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic, Medium Enterprises Development Organization of Turkey (KOSGEB), Small Enterprises and Entrepreneurs Development Agency of Uzbekistan and the Turkic Council; encourage furthering the successful exchange of experience and information among them.

Commend the successful organization of Investment and Business Forums on 5 October 2019 in Tashkent and the Business Forum to take place on the margins of the 7th Summit on 14 October 2019 in Baku; and instruct the Secretariat to lend necessary support to the organization of the Business Forum to be convened in Kyrgyz Republic in 2020.

Praise the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey for its intention to organize training on export promotion program for the Member States in 2019; and commend the TOBB for carrying out a training program for the representatives of National Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Member States on 29 July 2019 in Istanbul.

Emphasize the significant potential for establishing and improving cooperation among members in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy; and in this context note the organization of 11. Energy Efficiency Forum and Fair in Istanbul in 2020.

Encourage Member States to cooperate and exchange know-how and expertise regarding security of supply, liberalization of the energy sector, establishment and/or operation of markets.

Underline the importance of strengthening cooperation among the Member States in the field of transport.

Support the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Ministers of Transport held on 17 April 2019 in Bishkek; and instruct the relevant institutions of the Member States to create favorable conditions and simplify administrative procedures to render the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor an efficient, sustainable and seamless route between East and West.

Support the decision to convene the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Transport in 2020 in Budapest; and encourage the Member States to explore with Hungary the perspectives of using its trade-logistics potential in the larger European context to use it in the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor.

Commend the decision to conduct a road demonstration tour (Road Trade Caravan) across the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor starting from Khorgos Logistic Centre (Republic of Kazakhstan) and checkpoint «Irkeshtam» (Kyrgyz Republic) to Istanbul to demonstrate the efficiency of the corridor to the world; and instruct the relevant institutions of the Member States to give requisite support to the implementation of the tour.

Note the importance of the inclusion of Port Kuryk in the Turkic Council Sister Ports process as well as the outcomes of the Third Meeting of the Sister Ports of the Turkic Council organized on 13 May 2019 in Aktau; and encourage deeper cooperation among the Turkic Council Sister Seaports, as well as the dry and sea ports of the other Turkic Speaking States.

Commend the organization of the Turkic Council Logistic Forum on the margins of the 1st Caspian Ports and Shipping Forum organized by the Government of Kazakhstan on 13-15 May 2019 in Aktau; and highlight the importance of promoting the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor by organizing such high-level international forums and conferences in the Member States.

Underline the importance of concluding the Agreement on the International Combined Transport of Goods, prepared by the Turkic Council, and instruct the related institutions to intensify negotiations on its finalization.

Support further intensification of customs cooperation among the Member States to revitalize historic Silk Road; instruct the relevant authorities of the Member States to complete the field visits to the designated border crossing points within the Caravanserai Project and ensure joint efforts of the Member States for the involvement of China in the mentioned project.

Commend the outcomes of the Seventh Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Turkic Council convened on 11 March 2019 in Nur-Sultan, highlighting the importance of close collaboration with private sector of the Member States; and appreciate the signing of “Memorandum of Understanding Among the Customs Administrations of the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on Cooperation in the field of Customs Enforcement”.

Praise the successful organization of the International Workshops on “Authorized Economic Operators (AEO)” and “Customs Transit Facilitation” held on 5-6 November 2018 and 28 January 2019 respectively in Nur-Sultan and Baku; and encourage the use of modern customs mechanisms and advanced information exchange system for the simplification of export and import procedures.

Support the decisions taken at the Third Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) held on 31 January 2019 in Almaty; and underline the importance of collaboration among Turkish e-government gateway, ASAN Service, Astana Hub and other partner institutions with a view to promote cooperation and exchange of experience in the fields of state services, e-government and e-services among the Member States.

Appreciate the signing of the Declaration of Intent on the Delivery of Public Services and e-Government Cooperation between the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Turkey and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency on the sidelines of the UN Public Service Forum held on 24 June 2019 in Baku and support the initiatives between the Member States in the area of digitalization of state services.

Emphasizing the importance of conducting exchange of experience in the field of developing start-up ecosystem and innovations among the Member States, promote the establishment of bilateral and multilateral cooperation platforms in this field.

Welcome the readiness of Turkey to draft Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the sphere of e-government and e-signature, upon the completion of the project between Azerbaijan and Turkey on mutual recognition of e-signature certificates.

Support the decision to have a joint satellite operation, serving to regional and global broadcasting needs of the Member States and in this context welcome the initiative of Turkey to allocate a space segment for a definite period for the national TV channels of the Member States in TURKSAT satellites; and support holding the workshops, seminars and joint projects on satellite and space technologies.

Endorse the efforts of the Member States on Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway (TASIM) project and instruct the relevant institutions to complete the finalization of feasibility study on TASIM project; and to take practical measures for the realization of the Project; in this regard welcoming the agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the joint construction and operation of the Trans-Caspian fiber optic communication line on the Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan route as a contribution for promoting the TASIM project.

Encourage Member States to continue organizing cyber-security exercises and training programs for national software developers and promoting startups in cyber-security domain.

Reaffirm the importance of capitalizing on the natural and geographic advantages of the Member States located on the Silk Road for joint economic benefit; and encourage the relevant authorities of the Member States to jointly promote the “Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package” as an important tourism project to reveal the common cultural and historical heritage of the Member States along the Silk Road in all necessary means including the national and international tourism exhibitions.

Call on the national and/or commercial airline companies of the Member States to lend necessary support to the Secretariat for rendering the Joint Tour Package attractive and competitive in financial terms at the initial stage; and urge the allocation of necessary financial support by each Member States to ensure the promotion of the Joint Tour Package.

Underpin the launch of a joint project “Silk Road Tourism Capitals Initiative (TCI)” by the Turkic Council and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which aims to deepen tourism partnership and create networking opportunities among the Silk Road Cities in order to attract tourists to the region.

Instruct the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers for the preparation of Geo-economic Atlas of the Turkic World in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Turkic Council.

Cooperation in Foreign Policy/Security Issues and Relations with International Organizations

Emphasize the need to continue close coordination and cooperation on foreign policy/security issues of common interest through regular consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers.

Appreciate the active cooperation of the Member States at international fora and express support for the candidacies of each other within international organizations, where possible.



Express satisfaction with the increasing cooperation of the Turkic Council with regional and international organizations. In this regard:

support the continuation of the coordinated efforts of the Member States and the Secretariat in line with the “Road Map” for obtaining observer status in the UN General Assembly; and urge the continuation of the cooperation among the Member States to this end;

praise the implementation of the “Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between the Turkic Council and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)”; commend the contribution of the Turkic Council to UNOSSC Report “South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Peace and Development” published in 2019; praise the Secretariat’s active role at the Global South-South Development EXPO 2018 in New-York in cooperation with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA); and instruct the Secretariat to carry out projects contributing to the enhancement of South-South and triangular cooperation in the region;

highly value the strengthened cooperation between the Turkic Council and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC); and praise the representation of the Turkic Council at the Group of Friends Ministerial meeting dedicated to the theme of "Building Bridges: Using Soft Power to Promote a Culture of Peace" on 28 September 2018 in New York at UN Headquarters, and encourage the continuation of joint initiatives between the two organizations;

urge the continuation of enhanced cooperation between the Turkic Council and the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), and call on the Member States and the Secretariat to intensify their joint efforts with UNWTO to promote tourism in the Member States through the “UNWTO Silk Road Program”;

praise the Secretariat for its efforts in obtaining observer status for Turkic Council at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and commend endeavors of the Member States for a special reference to the Turkic Council in the Final Communiqué of the 14th Islamic Summit held on 31 May 2019 in Makkah, which will finalize the obtention of observer status by the Turkic Council at OIC;

approve the joint work program prepared by the Secretariats of the Turkic Council and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) on 7-8 April 2019 at ECO Secretariat in Tehran based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed between two organizations for future cooperation;

appreciate the common position of the Member States on strengthening the visibility of the Turkic Council in Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); note the importance of participation of the Secretary General of the Turkic Council in the OSCE 25th Ministerial Council meeting on 6-7 December 2018 in Milan; and urge the continuation of such common efforts for upcoming OSCE meetings;

commend the Secretariat for maintaining close cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) through tangible initiatives such as organization of the Turkic Council Regional Workshop on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) on 16-17 November 2018 in Nur-Sultan.

Express satisfaction with the increasing cooperation of the Turkic Council with regional and international organizations, including the UN and its agencies, WCO, OIC, OSCE and ECO, and the role of the Member States in extending development and humanitarian assistance to the third countries across the world that contributes to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Appreciate the initiative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to organize conference on humanitarian aid and development assistance within the Seventh Summit of the Turkic Council with a view of facilitating the integration of donor institutions of Member States into the global humanitarian system and strengthening cooperation among them on supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals; and recall the workshop hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and the United Nations on 28 March 2019 in Ankara on Engagement with the Multilateral Humanitarian System, to the same effect.

Call on the Member States to increase their efforts in fighting against all kinds and forms of terrorism, separatism, extremism, discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia; and in this context urge the relevant authorities of the Member States to coordinate their endeavors in international fora.

Express their hope and belief that Turkey's operation Peace Spring will contribute to fighting terrorism, ensuring the territorial integrity of Syria, liberating local Syrians from the oppression of terrorists and creating conditions for the safe and voluntary return of displaced Syrians to their homeland, Kazakhstan calls for the continuation of the dialogue in the framework of the "Astana Process" for the lasting political settlement in Syria.

Reiterate the strongest support for the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Emphasize the need to reach a negotiated and mutually agreed political settlement in Cyprus based on existing realities, political equality of the two peoples and their co-ownership of the Island; express their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people; in their aspirations for peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

Appreciate the successful organization of the Sixth Turkic Council Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program in Azerbaijan on 12-26 May 2019 with the participation of junior diplomats from Hungary, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

Welcome the outcomes of the Fifth Meeting of the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member States on 3 October 2019; and praise the special publication dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement.

Cooperation in Social and Cultural Affairs

Reiterate the importance of developing cultural, linguistic and social ties among the Turkic Speaking States and communities living across the world; welcome the decisions of the Third Meeting of the

Ministers and Heads of Institutions in Charge of Diaspora Affairs of the Turkic Council convened on 8 November 2018 in Ankara; and urge the relevant institutions of the Member States to further their cooperation in the light of the approved “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy of the Turkic Council” and the “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Action Plan of the Turkic Council for 2018-2019”.

Value the organization of the First Program for the Exchange of Experience among the Diaspora Institutions of the Member States and the Fifth Meeting of the Diaspora Contact Group on 7-9 February 2019 in Baku; and underscore the importance of the adoption of the best practices of the Member States in diaspora policy and implementation through regular programs for exchange of experience.

Praise the organization of the First and Second Capacity Building Training Programs for the Turkic Speaking Diasporas in Germany and USA held on 26 March 2019 in Berlin and 28 September 2019 in New York; express satisfaction with the concert activity staged by the TURKSOY orchestra in honor of the Nowruz feast at the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Berlin on 26 March 2019 with a large participation from the Turkic Speaking Diasporas and the corps diplomatique; welcome the cultural program organized in New York on 28 September 2019 for the celebration of the 650th anniversary of Imadeddin Nasimi’s birthday; and encourage the Turkic Council Secretariat and TURKSOY to continue such cooperation in the future.

Support the decision to organize the Turkic Council Second Diaspora Forum to be hosted by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of Turkey (YTB) in 2020; and urge coordination among the relevant institutions of the Member States and the Turkic Speaking Diaspora organizations across the world to encourage broader participation.

Appreciating the successful organization of the 21st Painters’ Gathering of TURKSOY, the Poets’ Gathering of the Turkic World and Wonderful Opening Ceremony for Osh, Cultural Capital of the Turkic World 2019, welcome the cooperation and partnership of TIKa with TURKSOY on developing cultural, linguistic and social ties in the Turkic World.

Urge the Member States to prepare programs and news in their TV channels, showing the significance of creation of the Turkic Council, on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of Nakhchivan Agreement.

Endorse the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Information and Media of the Turkic Council held on 7 May 2019 in Baku; and emphasize the importance of developing media and information cooperation to enhance political, cultural, economic and social awareness about events in Turkic Speaking States at the local and international levels.

Reiterate the importance of cooperation between national TV channels and news agencies; and welcome the creation of a Joint FTP Pool among National TV Channels for the exchange programs and video materials on agreed categories such as news, short movies, cultural, historical and sport programs including traditional sports.

Appreciate TRT Avaz for producing 13 documentary films on prominent figures of the Turkic history; and call on the national TV Channels of the Member States to work closely in producing similar programs and projects; and to cooperate with Secretariat and Turkic Academy on the project proposal by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev on “100 Prominent Personalities of the Turkic World” and “Sacred Places of the Turkic World” at the Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council.

Welcome the signing of “Cooperation Protocol among the Public Broadcasting Institutions of the Member States of the Turkic Council” on 7 May 2019 in Baku; and the first technical meeting held on 25-26 September 2019 in Ankara on determining the format and technical requirements for the exchange and production of joint programs, movies, serials etc.

Recognizing its valuable contribution to the Turkic World, support the cooperation and partnership of TRT Avaz with the broadcasters of the Member States, encourage the projects carried out with the Member States, which strengthen common cultural awareness. Further support the projects agreed upon by the Member States which aim at promoting economic, political and cultural potentials of the Member States; and the decision to organize an International Forum dedicated to the Turkic World on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement by TRT Avaz.

Encourage the Member States to coordinate their efforts to protect the common elements of the Turkic epics and rich history, as well as the diverse gastronomy of the Turkic peoples by jointly submitting nominations for inscription to the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO; and call on the relevant institutions of the Member States to coordinate and cooperate among them as well as with TURKSOY, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and Turkic Academy in this process.

Support the dedication of the year 2019 to the commemoration of the 650th anniversary of the birthday of the Azerbaijani poet Imadeddin Nasimi and the 125th anniversary of the birthday of the famous minstrel Aşık Veysel, within the framework of TURKSOY “Commemorative Year Program”; and praise the series of activities held to commemorate such prominent personalities in the Turkic World.

Support the dedication of the year 2020 to the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the birthday of the Kazakh poet Abai Kunanbaev and the 1150th anniversary of the birthday of scientist and philosopher Abu Nasr al-Farabi, within the framework of TURKSOY “Commemorative Year Program”; and praise the series of activities held to commemorate such prominent personalities in the Turkic World.

Commend the successful organization and contributions of the events held under the auspices of UNESCO – “International Maqom Art Festival” in 2018, International Music Festival “Sharq Taronalari” (Melodies of the Orient), “International Handcrafters Festival” in 2019, World Nomad Games in 2018 for strengthening of the cultural and humanitarian relations among Turkic peoples.

Commend the organization of events by the Turkic Academy in 2019 in honor of significant dates of the Turkic World, such as the 950th anniversary of Yusuf Balasaguni’s “Kutadgu Bilig”, 750th anniversary of the Golden Horde and Talas Kurultai, 650th anniversary of the famous poet Imadeddin Nasimi, 75th anniversary of Istvan Kongur Mandoki, 100th anniversary of the Turkish National Movement, and the 10th anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement; support the organization of events in honor of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ahmad Bey Ağaoğlu and 80th anniversary of the death of Ali Bey Huseynzade.

Support celebrations of the 125th anniversary of the Great Kyrgyz Manaschi Sayakbai Karalaev, the 100th anniversary of the state and public figure of the Kyrgyz Republic Turdakhun Usubaliev and the 80th anniversary of the state and public figure of the Kyrgyz Republic Batyrali Sydykov, the 1500th anniversary of the Orkhon-Yenisei written language.

Encourage the finalization of the work on the “Atlas of Sacred Places of the Turkic World” by the Turkic Academy and support its activities concerning the “Outstanding Personalities of the Turkic World”.

Commend the efforts of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation to promote the celebration of Nowruz holiday in March 2019 in the cities of Bulgaria with large Turkic population such as Sofia and Kardzhali (Kircaali), with the participation of high-ranking officials.

Highlight the importance of enhancing the coordination among the Turkic Cooperation Organizations to promote comprehensive cooperation for safeguarding the common cultural values of the Turkic world; and call for the attention of the international community to the malign attempts of damaging or repurposing the historical and cultural artefacts of the Turkic world in a vast geography.

Instruct the Secretariat to coordinate the efforts with UNESCO National Commissions of the Member States and relevant Turkic Cooperation Organizations for the proclamation of the “International Turkic Language Day” by UNESCO.

Value the recommendations of the Council of Elders to the activities of the Turkic Cooperation Organizations; and encourage the continuation of Council of Elders meetings as a valuable consultative mechanism.

Praise the programs and projects in the field of youth and sports realized by the Secretariat since Fifth Summit in 2015; and urge the relevant institutions of the Member States to take necessary steps for the continuation of the successful organizations under the youth and sports agenda of the Turkic Council.

Express satisfaction with the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Member States held on 5 December 2018 in Nur-Sultan and the momentum for the Fourth Meeting to be held in November 2019 in Osh respectively; and praise operationalization of the Turkic Council Youth Platform and the successful organization of First and Second Turkic Council Young Leaders Forums in Nakhchivan in 2018 and Turkistan in 2019; as well as the National Meadow Festival in July 2019 in Gadabay District of Azerbaijan and invite the Member States to organize similar events.

Praise the Kyrgyz Republic for successfully hosting the first three World Nomad Games (WNG), underline the importance of organizing the Fourth WNG to be staged in 2020 in Turkey; call on the relevant authorities of the Republic of Turkey and the Member States, as well as the Secretariat of the Turkic Council, for effective coordination and cooperation on the organization of the Fourth WNG; and urge the Member States to actively participate in the Games.

Commend the strengthened cooperation and the MoUs signed with the World Ethnosport Confederation and Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) in 2019; and support emboldening the youth and sports agenda of the Turkic Council with such international partnerships.

Praise the Republic of Kazakhstan for the successful organization of the international wrestling tournament “Alem Barysy” on 2 December 2018 in Almaty, Second International Ethnosport Forum on the Revival of the Traditional Sports on 20-21 April 2019 in Almaty, as well as the “Koshpendiler Alemi” on 28-30 June 2019 in Nur-Sultan, the National Nomad Games held on 16-21 September 2019 in Talas, Kyrgyz Republic; and underline the importance of organizing such activities to contribute to the improvement of the image of the Turkic national games in international arena.

Congratulate the Member States for the successes achieved in International Sports Tournaments in 2019; call for continuation of the major international sports events in Turkic Speaking States; and in this context congratulate the Republic of Azerbaijan for the successful organization of the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2019; UEFA Europe League Final 2019; and the Republic of Turkey for the successful organization of the UEFA Super Cup 2019 in Istanbul.

Congratulate the Republic of Kazakhstan for the successful organization of the 2019 World Wrestling Championship and 2019 FIDE World Team Championship in Nur-Sultan.

Cooperation in Education and Science

Emphasize the essential role of educational cooperation in raising awareness on the common identity among the younger generation; and welcome the outcomes of the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the Turkic Council convened on 15 March 2019 in Bishkek.

Instruct the Turkic Academy and the relevant Ministries of the Member States of the Turkic Academy to accelerate the finalization of the “Common Turkic History from Ancient Times till 15th Century” textbook, as well as the preparation of the common geography and literature textbooks.

Take note of the endorsement of Educational Exchange Program for education professionals of the Member States at the Fifth Meeting of the Ministers of Education of the Turkic Council and the initiative of Turkey to launch the first Educational Exchange Program in 2020.

Support the Third Student Exchange Program among secondary/high schools of the Member States that will be hosted by Kazakhstan in October 2019 providing the students with the opportunity to familiarize with each other’s traditions, culture and history, as well as to develop a strong bond of brotherhood and friendship; and welcome the signing of the Regulation of the Turkic Council Sister Schools Partnership Program.

Commend Khoja Ahmed Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University for successfully hosting the Fourth General Assembly of Turkic Council Turkic University Union (TURKUNIB) and the First Culture and Art Festival of the Turkic World of the TURKUNIB on 24 April 2019 in Turkistan.

Express satisfaction with the inclusion of new universities from Turkey and Hungary in TURKUNIB; and call on Member States to enhance cooperation with the universities from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan under TURKUNIB.

Support the enlargement of the Orkhun Exchange Program with new programs and departments, as well as increasing number of students and academics involved in the process; and instruct the relevant authorities of the Member States to lend the necessary assistance to the successful implementation of the Orkhun Exchange Program.

Appreciate the Hungarian Government for the “Stipendium Hungaricum” scholarship opportunities allocated to the university students of the Turkic Speaking States; and encourage the Member States to strengthen their partnership with Hungary in the field of education.

Call on the establishment of the exchange program in Turkic Council Secretariat, TURKPA, TURKSOY, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and Turkic Academy with a view to promoting Turkic Council and Turkic Cooperation Organizations among university students.

Appreciate the activities of the Turkish Maarif Foundation which was established to conduct educational activities abroad such as establishment of schools, educational and cultural centres in Turkic Speaking States.

Institutional Cooperation in the Turkic World

Take note of the Concept Paper prepared by the Secretary General in consultation with the Member States and the Turkic Cooperation Organizations upon the CHS decision taken at the 6th Turkic Council Summit in Cholpon-Ata; and welcome the establishment of the Coordination Committee.

Praise the valuable role of TURKPA for furthering inter-parliamentary cooperation and coordination among the Member States; commend the activities of TURKSOY, Turkic Academy and Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation.

Are pleased with the declaration of Osh, Kyrgyz Republic as the “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” in 2019 within the initiative started by TURKSOY, as well as the activities organized in this city; and support the proposal of H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to declare Khiva, Uzbekistan the “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” for the year 2020.

Appreciate the Turkic Council and TURKPA on observing elections in the Member States; and call on them to develop election observation standards in line with the internationally accepted norms and criteria.

Welcome the outcomes of the Eighth Plenary Session of TURKPA, dedicated to its 10th anniversary held on 20-21 November 2018 in Izmir; welcome the Chairmanship of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in TURKPA for the period of 2018-2019; and commend the participation of the delegation of Uzbekistan in the said Plenary Session.

Praise inter-parliamentary cooperation in addressing the issues highlighted in the 2030 Global Agenda of Sustainable Development; and appreciate undertakings of TURKPA, including the International Conference on the “Role of Turkic World Women in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals” organized jointly with Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 14-15 June 2019 in Baku; and commend the efforts on setting up a systematic mechanism of dialogue in the field of gender equality and women empowerment under the auspices of TURKPA.

Express satisfaction with the official opening of the new premises of Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation in Baku allocated by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Appreciate the successful organization of the roundtable discussion on the “The role of the Great Silk Road in the formation of dialogue between Turkic Speaking States” on 3 May 2019 in Baku and staging of “Iblis” performance by the great writer of the Turkic World, Huseyin Javid, at the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality theatre under the patronage of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation.

Appreciate the organization of Turkic World Week by the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement on the establishment of the Turkic Council.

Commend the successful organization of the International Forum on “The Great Steppe: Cultural Heritage and Role in the World History” at the Headquarters of UNESCO on 24 May 2019 in Paris; and the 4th Humanities Forum on “The Great Steppe: Turkic Civilization from the Origins to the Present” in Nur-Sultan on 24 June 2019 by the Turkic Academy.

Note the importance of the First Meeting of the Terminological and Onomastic Commission of the Turkic World organized by the Turkic Academy on 25 June 2019 in Nur-Sultan with the participation of the heads of the relevant authorities of the Member States; and support the establishment of the Standing Committee on Language and Terminology as a permanent consultative body aiming at advising on scientific research in the field of language.

Instruct the Secretariat to coordinate the establishment of the Union of Ombudsman of the Member States in order to develop communication, cooperation, coordination, information and experience sharing among the Ombudsman or the relevant institutions of the Member States.

Organizational Issues

Highly value the indispensable role of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev in building the statehood and transforming Kazakhstan into a respected country in the international arena, as well as for his historic contribution to the establishment of Turkic Cooperation Organizations and the unity of the Turkic World, and congratulate him on holding the status of Honorary Chairman of the Turkic Council and receiving the Supreme Order of the Turkic World.

Adopt the Joint Statement on accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States.

Highly appreciate Hungary for its active involvement in the work of the Turkic Council as the Observer State and for its contribution to the agenda of the Turkic Council; and further encourage the intensification of cooperation with Hungary.

Commend the opening of the Representation Office of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States in Hungary on 19 September 2019; express gratitude to the Government of Hungary for hosting the Office; and call on the Member States to extend necessary support for its successful functioning.

Appreciate the participation of Turkmenistan at the Seventh Summit of the Turkic Council.

Congratulate the Kyrgyz Republic for the successful Chairmanship of the Turkic Council in 2018-2019; and highly value its great contribution to the activities of the Turkic Council.

Value the significant achievements in the activities of the Secretariat of the Turkic Council since the last Summit.

Decide to hold the Eight Summit of the Turkic Council in 2020 in the Republic of Turkey.

The Heads of States express profound thanks to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for steering the deliberations of the Seventh Summit of the Turkic Council to a successful conclusion and appreciate the warm hospitality of the Government and people of Azerbaijan. They welcome the assumption of the Chairmanship of the Turkic Council by the Republic of Azerbaijan until the next Summit.

Signed on 15 October 2019 in Baku in Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish and Uzbek languages.

**President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ilham Aliyev**

**First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan-Elbasy
Nursultan Nazarbayev**

**President of the Kyrgyz Republic
Sooronbai Zheenbekov**

**President of the Republic of Turkey
Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**

**President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
Shavkat Mirziyoyev**

**Joint Statement
of the Heads of State on Accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States**

15 October 2019, Baku, Azerbaijan



We, the Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the “Turkic Council”), announce with pride and pleasure the accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Turkic Council as a Member State.

This historic decision, which coincides with the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of Turkic Council, will add a greater momentum to our cooperation and further reinforce solidarity among the Turkic Speaking States and peoples. The accession of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Turkic Council will also open a new chapter for the development of the Turkic world.

On the occasion of the accession of Uzbekistan to the Turkic Council, we hereby reiterate our firm confidence that the brotherly relations among our countries, which have been based upon centuries-old strong fraternal roots, will gain further dimensions and bright prospects under the uniting flag of the Turkic Council.

Baku Declaration of the Extraordinary Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States



The Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the “Turkic Council”) was held through videoconference on 10 April 2020 on the theme of “Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic”.

The Summit was initiated and presided over by H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and was attended by H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary and H.E. Baghdad Amreyev, Secretary General of the Turkic Council.

Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus also participated at the video conference.

The Heads of State of the Turkic Council,

Concerned with the serious global threat posed by the “COVID-19” pandemic (hereinafter referred to as the “pandemic”),

Cognizant of the growing impact of the pandemic on the Member States and their populations in a multitude of ways, and the need for overcoming its consequences, including in the framework of the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals,

Emphasizing the necessity of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fight against the pandemic without discrimination,

Emphasizing the significant role of the United Nations in the fight against the pandemic, welcoming the Resolution entitled “Global Solidarity in the fight against the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19)” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 2 April 2020, co-authored by the vast majority of the UN Member States, including the Turkic Council States,

Expressing their commitment to the implementation of the requirements and recommendations of the World Health Organization and other international organizations to fight the pandemic,

Welcoming the voluntary financial assistance provided by several countries to the World Health Organization in order to contribute to the efforts of the international community directed at preventing the further spread of the pandemic,

Emphasizing their determination for the implementation and expansion of cooperation within the framework of the Turkic Council in the fight against the pandemic and overcoming its consequences on the basis of strong will that shall further strengthen the solidarity among the Turkic Speaking peoples,

Reaffirming their commitment to be guided, in international relations, by the generally accepted principles and norms of international law including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of states,

Declared that they:

Emphasize their determination to expand the cooperation within the framework of the Turkic Council in the fight against the pandemic;

Remain ready to cooperate with the international community, and call on all states for global solidarity and expanded cooperation with a view to taking urgent joint measures to reduce the spread of and eliminate the pandemic;

Strongly believe that all states shall perform solidarity for the sake of common well-being, encourage the exchange of experience and unite their efforts by fully mobilizing their scientific, innovative, technological and medical potential in the fight against this global catastrophe;

Emphasize that the saving of the lives of millions of people, as well as social, economic, moral and psychological condition of future generations require all states to perform a sincere and transparent global solidarity and joint actions;

Support all efforts and mechanisms within the United Nations which are directed at addressing the globally harsh consequences of the pandemic;

Emphasize the importance of reflecting the issues related to medical sphere, including sanitary-epidemiological services and medical science, at the "Turkic Future - 2040" initiative announced by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev during the 7th Summit in Baku in 2019;

Agree to establish a consultation and cooperation mechanism among their respective national crisis centers, which includes the close interaction among the ministries of health of the Member States, with the aim of sharing best practices, assisting each other on substantive subjects regarding the pandemic;

Highly appreciate the dedicated work of doctors and other health personnel who are at the forefront in the fight against the pandemic;

Emphasize the importance of sharing experience, epidemiological and clinical data, and joining efforts to develop treatment methods and vaccines;

Support the role of the World Health Organization in increasing the effectiveness of the fight against the pandemic, coordinating and strengthening the international efforts in this direction;

Highly appreciate the consistent and decisive measures taken at the national level by the Member States, including the steps in the social-economic field, and emphasize the necessity to conduct exchange of experience in this field;

Reaffirm the importance of taking necessary measures to ensure the sustainability of trade and economic relations and transportation between the Member States during the pandemic, including through facilitated passage of the freight vehicles on the borders and exchange of information on emerging problems in this field;

Note the need for concerted and coordinated efforts to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic on the economies of the Member States;

Recognize the increased importance of digital technologies in ensuring public and social life, as well as the need for broad cooperation in this area;

Emphasize the importance of providing support and assistance to the citizens who remained in the territories of the Member States and could not cross the border due to the travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic, including on the visa facilitation without any sanction;

Note the important role and responsibility of mass media in raising awareness of the people on the fight against the pandemic, as well as in countering the spread of false information;

Emphasize the importance of active participation and cooperation of whole of government and the population in the fight against the pandemic and its consequences;

Express their confidence that the unprecedented crisis caused by the pandemic can be successfully reversed through sustained cooperation and global solidarity.

The Heads of States express profound thanks to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the successful organization of the Extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council.

The Secretary General of the Turkic Council is tasked to coordinate the mutual action and joint efforts stipulated in this Declaration.

Adopted on 10 April 2020 at the videoconference in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish and Uzbek languages.

SECTORIAL COOPERATION

POLITICAL COOPERATION

The activities of the Turkic Council cover a wide range of cooperation between member states and according to the Nakhchivan Agreement, political cooperation is among the main goals and objectives of the organization.

In political sphere: strengthening mutual trust between the parties; maintaining peace in the region and abroad; promotion of common positions on foreign policy issues; coordination of actions to combat international terrorism, separatism, extremism and cross-border crimes; promotion of effective regional and bilateral cooperation in all areas of common interest.

The principal mechanism of the political cooperation among the Turkic Speaking States is the annual summits of Council of Heads of State (CHS). Foreign Ministers of Member States meet on a regular basis on the sidelines of the Summit at the meetings of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM). Furthermore, Foreign Ministers hold additional meetings to discuss the topics of mutual concern. In this regard, informal meetings of Foreign Ministers as customary are held annually on the sidelines of General Assemblies of the UN since 2011.

While CHS and the CFM constitute the backbone of political motivation among the Member States, the Member States deepen political cooperation through other means as well, such as Senior Officials Committee meetings, Regular Security Consultations, Junior Diplomats Joint Training Programs, meetings of Official Foreign Policy Research Centers, and Election Observer Missions. Coordinating the activities of Turkic Speaking Diasporas is another issue on the agenda of the Turkic Council.

Moreover, Turkic Council Foreign Ministers, when necessary, issue a common view of the Turkic Council with respect to the developments taking place in the world. Expression of common views by the Turkic Council Foreign Ministers is a testament to the intense political cooperation that the Member States have endured within the framework of the Turkic Council.

Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM)

Foreign Ministers of Member States meet on a regular basis on the sidelines of the Summit at the meetings of Council of Foreign Ministers.

The Council of Foreign Ministers holds additional meetings to discuss the topics of mutual concern. In this regard, informal meetings of Foreign Ministers as customary are held annually on the sidelines of General Assemblies of the UN since 2011. The CFM convened 16 times, including the informal gatherings customarily held on other occasions such as in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Expression of the common view by the Turkic Council Foreign Ministers on the issues of common interests during the relevant international meetings is a concrete example of political cooperation developed in the frame of the Turkic Council.

Based on the “Cooperation Protocol among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs”, signed in in 2013, parties identified different mechanism and areas of political cooperation and agreed to work in these fields.

Senior Officials Committee (SOC)

The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) of the Turkic Council is consisted of senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and related government institutions of the Member States. SOC meets regularly and especially before the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs meetings. Its main responsibilities include; coordination of all activities of the Council, drafting of official documents to be submitted for signature and conducting similar work on issues related to internal affairs.

Until now, SOC has convened 25 times and came together at ad hoc 7 times with the special occasions and agenda.

Security Consultations

Taking into account the indivisibility of security, Member States regularly hold security consultations to discuss the issues of common concern in the field of security.

Until now Three Rounds of Security Consultations were held. The last one was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on 9 February 2016 in Ankara. In addition to the senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States, for the first time, Uzbekistan was represented in the meeting at the level of Ambassador. The regional developments on the security issues, the fight against terrorism, the problems in the Middle East, the situation in Afghanistan and the ways to prevent and counter the phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) were the prevailing subjects discussed at the meeting. One of the outcomes of the meeting was that the FTFs phenomenon should be handled in a wider security perspective with an enhanced approach and the participants were committed to join their efforts to this end.

Junior Diplomats Training Program

Junior Diplomats Joint Training Programs have been implemented annually in accordance with the Cooperation Protocol among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs signed at the 3rd Summit of the Turkic Council.

The Junior Diplomats "Joint Training Program" has been developed and implemented by the Turkic Council Secretariat, in accordance with the Cooperation Protocol signed during the 3rd Summit of the Turkic Council between our member states' Foreign Ministries, held in Gebele. The first program was organized in Turkey in 2014, the second in 2015 in Azerbaijan, third in Kazakhstan in 2016, fourth in Kyrgyzstan in 2017, fifth was held in Turkey in 2018 and last year sixth was organized in Azerbaijan.

The main purpose of this program is to get acquainted young diplomats with the foreign policies and the commonalities of history, culture and language of the Member States, as well as to establish friendly ties with one another. Throughout the programs, junior diplomats attend two-week training in one of the Member States, which consists of lectures by academicians, top government officials and high-ranking diplomats and cultural tours to historical places and official visits.

This Training program is also included as a case study under the title of "South-South Cooperation and Diplomacy: Junior Diplomats Training Programme (JDTP) to United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation Publication "South-South in Action on Peace and Development", which was presented at BAPA+40 Side Event: South-South Cooperation on Peace and Development at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos-Aires, Argentina on 19 March 2019. It is noted in the Publication that the effective engagement of diplomats is also essential for

the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Turkic Council has devised a tailored training initiative in order to support the evolution of cooperation among young diplomats.

Since the inception of the Program in 2014, 138 junior diplomats have benefitted from the training program, 65 of them were women, therefore contributing to SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). In addition, the junior diplomats from Hungary, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan also took part in these training programs.

The latest Joint Training Program was successfully implemented with the close collaboration of ADA University on 12-26 May in Azerbaijan. 25 junior diplomats from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Observer State Hungary, as well as brotherly States Uzbekistan and for the first time, two junior diplomats from Turkmenistan also took part in the Program.

Cooperation among Foreign Policy Research Centers

Cooperation process among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member States was initiated by the Secretariat.

The first meeting among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers was hosted by the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SAM Azerbaijan) in Baku on 8 May 2015. Heads of the Centers from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Hungary participated in the meeting. The meeting was followed by the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member States of the Turkic Council.

As the implementation of the decision taken at the first meeting among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers, SAM Turkey prepared a special publication 'Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council: A Raising Actor in Regional Cooperation in Eurasia' devoted to the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council and it was presented to the Heads of State during the 5th Summit.

The Second Meeting among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers was held on 21-22 December 2015 in Istanbul with the theme of 'Opportunities and Challenges in Developing Regional States and in Eurasia'. The heads of SAMs put forward their recommendations in the sessions "Realizing the potential in developing regional cooperation among the Turkic Speaking States with a focus on political, social, economic and cultural dimensions", "Economic and political developments in Eurasia and their effects in regional cooperation among the Turkic States and in the region" and "Developing a common agenda for increased cooperation among the Turkic States and in the region (2016-2020)".

Within the framework of this cooperation process, SAM Azerbaijan launched the internship for the researchers from other Research Centers. As a result of this internship, "Turkic Council Countries: Infrastructure, Trade, Logistics, and Transportation" Report has been released in English as the special publication series of the SAM of Azerbaijan in November 2017. It was co-authored by SAM's Research Fellow at the Economic Analysis and Global Affairs Department as well as PhD candidate at SOAS University of London Mahir Humbatov and Associate Professor of Beykent University Kazim Sari. This report aims to investigate logistics and transportation potential of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. It also sheds light on trade and economic relations of the mentioned countries, available infrastructure projects and the promising infrastructure development programs planned to be implemented in the near future.

As the implementation of the decision taken at the Third and Fourth meetings among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers, Turkic Council and SAM Turkey published a special academic edition dedicated

to the 25th anniversary of the Independence of the Member States of the Turkic Council on the occasion of the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council.

The 5th Meeting was hosted on 3 October 2019 in Baku by Center for Analysis of the International Relations (AIR Centre) of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On the same day, AIR Centre also organized an international conference “Turkic Council: the 10th Anniversary of the Nakhichevan Agreement”. During the meeting and the conference, the Parties have discussed the perspectives of further cooperation among themselves, as well as had a panel discussion on problems and prospects of institutionalization and development of the Turkic Council and future perspectives for cooperation among the Member States.

In the framework of this cooperation mechanism a Special Publication dedicated to the 10th Anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement was issued by the Secretariat and AIR Centre with the contribution of the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Parties and Turkic Cooperation Organizations.

The 6th meeting was hosted by the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic in a video conference format on 19 November 2020.

During the meeting the growing role of Turkic Speaking Countries and the Turkic Council as an organization, particularly important position of Turkey in international affairs, the liberation of Azerbaijani lands, rapid development of Uzbekistan, traditionally positive role of Kazakhstan in regional and international matters and importance of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia region as well as Hungary’s rising influence in Eastern Europe were emphasized.

The delegations of the Research Centers of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Hungary made presentations on cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic in the framework of the Turkic Council and the Member States’s contribution to the international cooperation, development of the economic cooperation, role of the Turkic Council in the reconstruction of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan, cooperation in the field of education in the new realities and prospects for cooperation in the field of healthcare and sanitary- epidemiological welfare.

The experts also had productive discussions on the next steps to further develop cooperation, in particular, defining the topics of joint researches, issuing a series of special publications dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the independence of the Turkic-speaking states, as well as existing scholarship opportunities for researchers, and exchanging works and publications related to the activities and projects of the Turkic Council.

International Election Observer Missions

The purpose of Turkic Council Election Observation Missions (TC EOMs) is to assist the Member States in holding elections of a high standard.

Election observation primarily aims to assess the conduct of an election process on the basis of national legislation and international election standards. The purpose of Turkic Council Election Observation Missions is to assist the Member States in holding elections of a high standard.

Since 2011 fourteen TC EOMs have been deployed to the Member States, following a short-term observation methodology to assess election processes according to international standards, national legislation and best practices for genuine democratic elections. In the last four years, TC EOMs were deployed to monitor elections in all Member States.

Upon the invitation of the member states, the Election Observation Missions formed by the Turkic Council monitors the elections in the member states.

Turkic Council's missions monitored the Presidential Election in Kyrgyzstan's Osh city in October 2011, Parliamentary Elections in Kazakhstan's South Kazakhstan Province in January 2012, Presidential Election in Azerbaijan's Aghdam district of Karabakh in October 2013, Presidential Election in Turkey's Istanbul city in August 2014.

In 2015, Turkic Council observed Early Presidential Elections in Kazakhstan, Parliamentary Elections in Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. Elections were observed in the cities of Baku and Ganja of Azerbaijan, the cities of Almaty and Taraz of Kazakhstan, the cities of Bishkek and Osh of Kyrgyzstan and the cities of Istanbul, Izmir, Trabzon, and Van of Turkey.

Furthermore, the Turkic Council observation missions followed the early Parliamentary Elections of Kazakhstan in March 2016 and the Constitutional Referendum in the Kyrgyz Republic in December 2016. This was followed by the elections of the Deputies to the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Presidential Elections of Kyrgyz Republic in June and October 2017.

In April 2018, the Election Observation Mission of the Turkic Council monitored the Presidential Elections of Azerbaijan in the cities of Baku, Sheki, and Guba. The Mission continued its activities in December 2019 by monitoring the Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Tashkent and Samarkand.

In 2020, the Mission followed the early Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku and Mingachevir and the Elections of Deputies of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Nur-Sultan.

Lately in January 2021 the Mission followed the Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as the Early-Presidential Elections in the Kyrgyz Republic.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The "Economic Cooperation" identified as the main theme of the First Summit of the Turkic Council has a priority in the framework of the partnership between our member countries. In this context, the very foundation of the actual cooperation mechanisms of the Turkic Council was originally laid at the first Meeting of Ministers in charge of Economy.

New mechanisms for transportation, tourism, education and business were established within the framework of the decisions taken at the meeting, which evidently demonstrates that the Economic Ministers' Meetings are the "driving force" of the continued cooperation in the Turkic Council.

Since Astana Summit in 2015, the cooperation of brotherly Turkic countries has risen to a new level. The trade turnover among the Member States of the Turkic Council has increased by 22% reaching almost 9 billion USD. When Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are added to this equation, the total trade turnover will reach approximately 16 billion USD among all Turkic Speaking States. Uzbekistan's trade turnover with the Turkic Council member states has also increased by 40% since 2016.

These are indeed successes in a world passing through geopolitical and geo-economic turbulences. Together, the Turkic Speaking States have a greater capacity to contribute to regional stability. 6 Turkic States account for a population of around 150 million, cover an area of over 4.5 million square kilometres, and have a total GDP of around 1.5 trillion USD, ranking the 13th as a whole in the world. Their untapped collective potential is too valuable to overlook.

Today, increasing trade volume between the East and West, namely China and Europe offers new advantages that our countries can benefit. According to statistics, the value of the freight volume between China and Europe is over 1 billion USD daily. We believe that historical Silk Road provides enough substance for the integration of the Turkic world as it did in history.

The trade volume of the Member States in the world economy represents 536 billion USD that is owed to significant progresses made for increasing investment, lowering customs taxes, harmonizing customs procedures, building transport infrastructure, implementing effective economic policies. Supported by projects developed in different fields, and with the resources it offers, cooperation in the field of economy becomes a more attractive partnership area.

In this respect, a total of 9 ministerial and 11 working group meetings on economic cooperation were hitherto organized under the umbrella of the Turkic Council since its establishment.

Close cooperation in this field resulted in the signing of 3 Memorandums of Understanding:

“Memorandum of Understanding among the Turkic Council Member States for Exploring the Possibilities Regarding Experience Sharing on Investment Climate”;

“Memorandum of Understanding amongst the Member Countries of the Turkic Council on Cooperation in the Field of Investment Statistics”;

“Among Government Bodies for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of the Turkic Council Member States”.

At 7th Turkic Council Summit on the theme “Developing Small and Medium sized Enterprises” (SMEs) held in Baku on 15 October 2019, the Heads of States reiterated their commitment to the purpose of facilitating mutual trade and investment, as well as enhancing cooperation and exchanges among the private sectors; called on the national agencies in charge of trade registry to work on a potential cooperation in order to facilitate the cross-border affairs, movements and cooperation of entrepreneurs in Member States for boosting mutual cooperation and international trade among them. They also instructed Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) member organizations to for increasing business programs and projects to increase intra-trade and ensure socio-economic development of the Member States

The Secretariat is currently working to further elaborate vibrant projects in the field of economy such as establishing a Joint Investment Fund, preparing a comprehensive research paper on investment climate and international trade complementarities of the Member States in cooperation with Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and finally founding a more institutionalized structure and a joint secretariat of the chambers of trade and industry of the Member States.

The Secretariat in close cooperation with the Ministries in charge of Economy and other relevant institutions of the Member States regularly organizes training and experience sharing programs on various subjects. Most recently, the Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Turkey together with Small

and Medium Size Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB) held an investment statistics and investment climate training program combined with the information and experience sharing program in the field of development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for the experts of the Member States in April 2018 in Ankara.

The Turkic Council regularly brings together members of the private sector of the Member States by organizing technical visits for investors/businessmen, holding Business Forums and meetings of Turkic Business Council, Round Tables for the Businessmen with the aim of further strengthening economic ties among its members.

Turkic Business Council/Business Forum Meetings

Upon the instruction given by the Heads of States of Turkic Council at the 1st Summit, the institutions representing business communities of the Member States signed on 20 October 2011 in Almaty, the agreement that established the Joint Business Council in order to initiate and oversee multilateral actions of cooperation based on the principle of mutual assistance and support in line with the priorities described in the agreement.

Under the umbrella of the Turkic Council, 6 Business Council meetings and 4 Business Forum gathering around more than 500 businessmen were held so far. Moreover, one technical visit for investors was organized alongside 3 round-table meetings for entrepreneurs of the Member States. Various experience sharing programs among national trade and industry chambers.

On the sidelines of the 25th Executive Committee meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Secretariat convened the Turkic Business Council on 14 December 2018 in Tashkent with the participation of the Chairmen and Senior Officials of the National Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) of the Turkic Council Member States as well as those of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Stressing the significance of cooperation with other partners interested in investing in the region, the Parties exchanged views on the upcoming Turkic Business Forum and Turkic Business Council meeting in the course of 2019 and discussed the further steps to be taken for the institutionalization of the existing cooperation mechanisms in the field of mutual investment and trade.

Turkic Business Portal

The latest initiative of the Turkic Council aims to create an online platform that will practically eliminate physical, bureaucratic and linguistic barriers in front of the trade among the Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) of our Member States.

This platform will enable instant communication between SMEs without any intermediaries and collecting information, the trade potential and activities that are currently dispersed among various other fora under a single web portal. While easing communication and centralizing the relevant information, the Turkic Council will greatly facilitate the increase of speed and volume of commercial interactions.

In this respect, to ensure that the Business Portal can be transformed into a comprehensive and effective platform, regular and timely provision of the information and data flow required from the related public economic institutions to the Secretariat as well as the private sector umbrella organizations will contribute to the successful implementation of the project.

In line with the decisions of previous working group and ministerial meetings on economic cooperation the organization conducts its activities with the aim of creating better conditions for doing business, harmonization of legislations and facilitation of trade and economic relations among the member countries through close coordination with relevant governmental bodies and other institutions in charge of economic issues as transport, customs and tourism etc.

Turkic Investment Fund

Turkic Council is planning to increase mutual investment opportunities and intra-trade between the member countries as well as contribute to the development of entrepreneurship especially in Small and Medium sized businesses (SMEs) in creating new jobs and strengthening innovation and ultimately to give impetus to the economic and social development in the Member States.

Therefore, the creation of Joint Investment Fund will endow the Turkic Council with a powerful financial instrument capable of mobilizing the economic potential of our Member States. The Secretariat is meticulously carrying out the establishment procedure of the Turkic Investment Fund.

Currently Secretariat in a partnership with consulting company “Ernst & Young” working on the preparation of the feasibility study, which will contain an extensive analysis on the market-competition and demand assessment, investment strategy design, administration and organization, financial model and economic impact of the Fund.

Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) with headquarter in Istanbul was officially established in 2019 and composed of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and business communities of the Member and Observer States.

TCCI is an essential mechanism of economic cooperation carried out under the umbrella of the Turkic Council and assigned by the Council of Heads of State to develop sustainable business programs and projects to increase intra-trade figures among the Member States.

In a short period, TCCI managed to organize a large-scale Business Forums on 5 October 2019 in Tashkent and on 15 October 2019 in Baku with the participation government officials as well as more than 500 businessmen. Chamber is also planning to organize Business Forums in Hungary and Kyrgyzstan in the upcoming period.

Currently Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kyrgyz CCI) and the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) agreed on cooperation in technical assistance on strengthening the Kyrgyz CCI. They also work for the organization of a large-scale Business Forum in Issyk-Kul in the coming months.

Turkic Trade Houses

The Concept Paper on establishing “Turkic Trade Houses” was prepared by the Secretariat of the Turkic Council that describes briefly the economic potential of Turkic Council member states and raises the issue of a trade as a key element for future economic cooperation in the region. The concept also identifies the goals of Turkic trade houses, their main activities and functions.

The establishment of the “Turkic Trade Houses” will play a significant role in helping the Member States to expand their trade volume, facilitate the export process and strengthen its position in each other markets.

Taking into account that the above-mentioned concept of the Turkic Trade Houses was prepared based on the Azerbaijani practice and model, the Secretariat with close collaboration of the Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation (AZPROMO) currently working on establishing the first “Turkic Trade House” pilot project in Baku.

Research Paper – SESRIC

Turkic Council has partnered with SESRIC for the preparation of the Research Paper on “Enhancing Economic Cooperation among Turkic Council Member Countries: Trade and Investment Complementarities and Opportunities”. The figures as well as findings in this Research Paper regarding complementarities of the Turkic Council’s members’ economies and current obstacles in trade and investment in the region will be instrumental in terms of defining a road map for economic integration in the Turkic Council region and in this sense constitute an integral part of the “Turkic Future -2040” program that the Heads of States tasked the Secretariat at the Baku Summit to finalize in the possible shortest period.

ENERGY COOPERATION

Energy, as one of the key areas for strategic cooperation among the Turkic Council Member States has been included to the Turkic Council “Strategy for 2025” and “Vision for 2040” documents.

During the 7th Summit of the Turkic Council held on 15 October 2019 in Baku, the Heads of the Turkic Council Member States underlined the importance of establishing cooperation in the energy sector and encouraged the Member countries to cooperate and exchange know-how and expertise regarding security of supply, liberalization of the energy sector, establishment and/or operation of markets. They also emphasized the significant potential for establishing and improving cooperation in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Upon instructions of the Heads of States, the first meetings of the Working Group on Energy Cooperation and Ministers of Energy of the Turkic Council Member and Observer States were organized on 23-24 February 2021 via virtual format.

This working platform established within the Turkic Council will ensure regional cooperation by strengthening coordination of the policies and efficient management of energy resources of our Member states, as well as explore opportunities for enhancing collaboration on applying advanced technologies in energy efficiency and renewable energy within the region.

Furthermore, exchange of experiences and best practices among the Member States, particularly in the exploration and petroleum engineering, design of the modern electrical power systems, green energy, electric vehicles and renewable energy resources will be considered an essential part for collaboration.

EDUCATION

Common culture, language and history of the Turkic Speaking States are the main pillars that underpin the cooperation under Turkic Council, making this regional cooperation unique in comparison to others. It was symbolic that the Second Summit of the Turkic Council was held under the theme of “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”.

Turkic Council stresses the importance of the role of Education and Science. The area is one of the best tools for social change, economic development, and prosperity in our countries. Turkic Council holds Ministerial Meetings on educational issues, develops and implement special programs that help young Turkic generations to join the existing educational system.

Five meetings of Ministers of Education were held so far, the last meeting was convened on 15 March 2019 in Bishkek, while Senior Officials of the Ministries of Education (SOM) gathered seven times with the last meeting taking place on 14 March 2019 in Bishkek. Activities carried out within the Turkic University Union and Turkic Academy, projects such as Common Turkic History, Literature and Geography Textbooks, the student exchange program among educational professionals and students of secondary/high schools and the other programs taken within the Turkic Council will take the relations in the field of education among the Member States to a new stage.

Cooperation among the Schools

The cooperation among the schools includes three main focus areas: the exchange program for students, the exchange program for educational professionals, and the Sister School Project. With the assistance of the respective Ministries of Education, Turkic Council organized two exchange programs for the students of the secondary/high schools in Turkey (2016) and in Azerbaijan (2018). The next exchange program is planned to take place in Kazakhstan at the first half of 2019.

The projects proved to be useful instruments for the students to understand similar cultural values and perspectives. They also enhance familiarization of students with other Turkic languages and increases awareness and general knowledge of the students towards the brotherly Turkic states.

At the Seventh Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Ministries of Education of the Turkic Council held on 14 March 2019 in Bishkek, the Parties welcomed and approved the setting to start the exchange for educational professional and launch Sister School Project as well. They approved the concept papers of the said initiatives and will deliver the presentation of the efforts at the next ministerial meeting. If accepted, the Turkish side indicated their readiness to undertake the first responsibilities regarding the exchange program for educational professionals. The future projects promise to be a meaningful, reciprocal and sustainable long-term partnership among the schools of the Turkic states.

Regarding the Educational Exchange Program for educational professionals of the Member States prepared by the Kyrgyz side, Parties agreed to endorse the Educational Exchange Program and welcomed the initiative of the Turkish side to launch the first Educational Exchange Program in 2020.

Common Turkic Textbooks

During the Fifth Meeting of Ministers of Education on 15 March 2019 in Bishkek, parties stressed the importance of completing the preparation of the text of Common Turkic History Textbook covering the period till the 15th century by the next Summit of the Turkic Council to be held 2020 in Turkey. The Turkic Academy also had instructions to initiate the writing of textbooks on common Turkic geography and Turkic Literature Textbook. On the Fifth Meeting of Ministers on Education on 15 March 2019 in Bishkek, it was praised the endeavors of the Turkic Academy and the Member States to prepare the Common Geography Textbook and called for continuing those efforts.

Cooperation among Universities

Established after the Ministers signed the Directive in 2013 in Eskişehir, Turkic University Union (Union) promotes different modes of cooperation among the universities of the Member States. Since 2014, the number of member universities grew from 14 to 22. During the last the Fourth General Assembly of the Turkic University Union (TURKUNIB), hosted by the Khoja Akhmed Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University (Akhmed Yassawi University) on 24 April 2019 in Turkistan, Turkey's Gazi University, Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University, Cappadocia University and Hungary's Szeged University was accepted as new members of the TURKUNIB. The inclusion of new members will generate enthusiasm and contribute to the promotion of the activities within the TURKUNIB, such as Orkhun Exchange Program, especially among students. Since its initiation, the Turkic University Union owns and operates large and successful record labels such as Orkhun Exchange Program or Student Council. Besides these, the direct coordination of the former Chair-in-Office Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University helped accomplish prominent endeavors such as Tourism Guide of the Turkic World, the report briefing the relations among the Member States over the last 25 years and the document on the universal citizenship education among the Turkic peoples.

The Union has many lines of action such as the Orkhun Exchange Program, Sports Games of the Union and Student Council. To get ahead in the said programs, since 2014, the Secretariat organized

five meetings at the level of Rectors and Vice-rectors and four General Assemblies. The former helps coordinate the activities within the Union while the latter adopts necessary decisions relating to the organizations of the Union.

The Secretariat advanced dramatically on the way to making the Orkhun process a fully-fledged exchange program. Over the past four years, the Turkic Council convened a variety of different thematic meetings aiming at integrating diverse educational modalities of the member universities such as the Bologna Process, Erasmus Plus, and European Credit Transfer System. These meetings included different sectoral and technical gatherings, field studies on the spot, and extraordinary conventions. As a result, during the 5th Union meeting, the parties adopted the draft regulation of the program, which was a massive step in its realization. The sides started the pilot phase of the project in the academic year 2017-2018. 43 students of member universities from the departments of International Relations and Political Science benefited from the program. The Parties agreed at the last Assembly in Turkistan, to include all relevant Departments depending on the capacity, which initially started for the Departments of the International Relations and Political Science, and Department of Turkology, and make the necessary amendments in the Transitional Article 1 of the “Regulation on the Orkhun Exchange Pilot Program of the Turkic Council Turkic University Union”.

Started in 2018, the Sports Games, held within the Union, is another platform that served the purposes of establishing a tradition of sports events/competitions within the structure and promoting solidarity and ties of friendship among the university students in the Turkic states. The former Chair-in-Office Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University organized the first games. The sports games proved a significant success by bringing together more than 300 athletes from member universities. The current Chair-in-Office of the Union Khoja Akhmet Yassawi University will host the next sports games after pandemic.

Another recent initiative within the Union, the Student Council, convened three meetings since its inception. Organization of cultural nights, friendship tournaments, and other social events that foster the sense of belongingness and inclusion among the participants are standing on the shoulders of the Student Council members.

TRANSPORT

Turkic Council has placed a special emphasis on bolstering transport linkages among the Member States across the Trans-Caspian International East West Middle Transport Corridor (Trans-Caspian Corridor).

Motivated by the target of promoting comprehensive cooperation among its members, Turkic Council has from the outset placed a special emphasis on bolstering transport linkages among the Member States across the Trans-Caspian International East West Middle Transporta Corridor (Trans-Caspian Corridor). Eradicating the existing obstacles to efficient, stable and seamless transport and establishing new mechanisms to streamline transport operations in all modes have constituted the basics of the cooperation in this area.

In light of this, three meetings of the Ministers of Transport, two meetings of the Coordination Council on Transport at deputy minister-level, seven working group meetings with senior experts of the relevant

ministries of the Member States, an international workshop on Trans-Caspian Corridor, and two Sister Ports meeting among Baku, Aktau, Samsun and Kuryk ports with larger participation of representatives from all transport modes and customs authorities have been organized so far. In order to raise awareness on the national projects of the Member States along the Trans-Caspian Corridor, Turkic Council increased its cooperation and partnership with international organizations specialized on transport such as; the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Euro-Asian Transport Links (EATL), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR) and Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) and attended various international conferences.

In this process, Ministers of Transport of the Member States signed the Turkic Council Joint Cooperation Protocol on the Development of Transport at the First meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council held in 2013. They also established a Coordination Council at deputy minister-level to address problems faced by the freight forwarders on the spot with practical solutions. Turkic Council Secretariat has steered the negotiations among the Member States on the draft Agreement between the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey on the International Combined Transport of Goods.

Member States signed a MoU on the Sister Ports Relation and Cooperation among the Ports of Baku, Samsun and Aktau in 2013 to enhance cooperation. Kuryk Port of Kazakhstan joined the Sister Ports cooperation at the Fourth meeting of Ministers of Transport held in Bishkek on 17 April 2019. Turkmenbashi port was also invited to the Turkic Council Sister Ports process. The relationship set by the MoU has streamlined exchange of technical visits and trade ties among the Ports as well as enhanced attempts for the creation of an integrated software system for the shipment of goods among the Ports. The Fourth meeting of the Sister Ports will be held in Samsun in 2020 and the Sister Ports process is intended to be enlarged with the inclusion of other sea and land ports of the Member and Observer States.

Turkic Council Secretariat in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport of Turkey organized a Workshop on Trans-Caspian Intermodal Route in 2016 in Istanbul with the participation of high level bureaucrats and experts as well as representatives of the private companies from the Member States. In the Outcome Paper of the workshop, which was submitted to the Ministers of Transport of the Member States on the following day in their third meeting, experts highlighted the importance of the corridor for the economic gains of our countries and stressed the corridor's efficiency for East-West transport. Ministers also expressed their will to continue to work to render the corridor stable, competitive and sustainable, and underlined that Member States should exploit the true potential of the Turkic Council in order to activate the untapped capacity zipped in our geography.

Turkic Council has placed emphasis on its relations with the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR), an international association aimed at coordinating interaction among the countries along the Silk Road on transportation of goods and containers between Asia and Europe. Secretariat assisted the TITR in developing relations with relevant organizations of the Member States. With the efforts of the Secretariat, Turkey (TCDD) acceded to the TITR agreement in 2014. A transport delegation from Kazakhstan comprising officials from the International Association TITR, the Khorgos Gateway/Logistics Center, and the Kuryk Port met with the Turkish transport delegation composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of Turkey as well as the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) in November 2017 in Istanbul at the Secretariat of the Turkic Council. During the meeting, organized with the assistance of the Secretariat, Parties made evaluations on the prospective rail transportation across the Trans-Caspian Corridor and agreed that cooperation in the framework of the

TITR, which also includes the Member States of the Turkic Council, should be enhanced in the light of the recent developments.

Two separate Memoranda of Understanding were signed between the Khorgos Gateway/Logistics Center located on the Kazakhstan-China border along with the Kuryk Port located on the Caspian Sea and the International Freight Forwarders Association (UNF) of Turkey in Istanbul at the Secretariat. Moreover, Turkic Council and TITR have joined hands to promote Trans-Caspian route at the Logitrans International Transport Logistics Exhibition annually organized in Istanbul.

In the light of the above-stated efforts as well as other regional developments that have increased the strategic importance of the Trans-Caspian Corridor, the last couple of years saw significant changes along the corridor. Logistical expenses, which have been the main impediments to the lucrative trade and enhanced economic relations among the Member States, went down due to decrease in the costs of transit passages and Caspian crossings. Institutional arrangements in some Member States for the coordination of transit freight were instrumental. Customs procedures in Caspian ports of the Member States have been streamlined due to Single Window system and port charges were reduced, making the transport operations faster and cheaper.

Three years back, ferries operating between Baku and Aktau Ports were carrying around 500 trucks annually. This number increased by %1300 reaching approximately to 8000 trucks in 2016. Looked at overall, the shipment from Baku port to the ports of Aktau and Turkmenbashi has increased 3 fold with 23.500 TIR trucks as compared with pre-2016 period. Such figures clearly show that Trans-Caspian Corridor has become a true complementary route in Asia-Europe axis. The finalization of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway (BTK) and operationalization of the Road Transportation Agreement between Turkey and China further facilitated the cargo flow passing through the Trans-Caspian Corridor. Recently, the MoU aligning the Middle Corridor to the One Belt One Road (OBOR) Initiative was ratified by the Parliament of Turkey and became operational. The intensification of the preparations for China's OBOR initiative and concomitant bilateral transport agreements inked with the enroot countries has added a great value to the efficiency of the corridor.

As in the previous Summits, at the 7th Turkic Council Summit held on 15 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Presidents encouraged deeper cooperation among the relevant authorities of the Member States to render the Trans-Caspian Corridor an efficient, sustainable and seamless route between East and West. With this motivation, Turkic Council Secretariat will continue its efforts to enhance cooperation among the Member States in 2020. The Fifth meeting of the Ministers of Transport and the Ninth meeting of the Working Group on Transport will be convened in Budapest, Hungary. In addition, the Fourth Sister Ports meeting will be held in Samsun. Secretariat will also continue to boost its cooperation with other international actors in the field of transport in the year 2020.

Despite the difficulties posed by the Covid-19 pandemic that gripped the entire world in 2020, Turkic Council strived to continue its efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination among its Member States in the field of transport in the year 2020. As in the previous years, the main emphasis was centered on promotion of the Trans-Caspian Corridor and phasing out the existing obstacles in the way of efficient, stable and seamless transport across the corridor.

The Heads of States and Prime Minister of the Member and Observer States held the Extraordinary Video-conference Summit of the Turkic Council on 10 April 2020 dedicated to the theme of "Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic" to discussed the coordination of the national

efforts among our countries in the fight against the pandemic. In their discussions, they placed a special emphasis on transport cooperation to ensure food security and unhindered movement of essential goods (such as; humanitarian goods, basic consumer goods, medicines and medical equipment etc.) among the member and observer states during the pandemic and in the post-pandemic period. At the Summit, they made specific references to the facilitation of transport operations across the Trans-Caspian Corridor to address the negative effects of the global pandemic on our economies.

The Heads of States gave the following instructions in the field of transport:

- Facilitate transport operations across the Trans-Caspian Corridor to address the negative effects of the global pandemic on Member States economies;
- Provide practical assistance to one another to facilitate the passage of freight vehicles through borders/checkpoints for the delivery of humanitarian goods, basic consumer goods, medicines and medical equipment, and exchanging information on emerging problems in this field;
- Create a Task Force among the Ministries of Transport of the Parties to quickly resolve emerging issues and effectively coordinate transport and logistics during the pandemic;
- Assist one another with the quotas, transit-pass fees, driver visas;
- Provide discount on the prices of the Ro-Ro lines across the Caspian Sea, provide necessary additional (bilateral/transit) permits; and lift the fees of the transit passes on the basis of reciprocity;
- Adopt a harmonious tariff policy and remove administrative barriers to reduce the time of cargo transportation;
- Develop non-contact foreign trade and multimodal transport systems among the Parties across the Trans-Caspian Corridor.

In order to follow-up to the decisions of the Heads of State and Prime Minister taken at the Extraordinary Video-conference Summit held 10 April 2020, the video-conference meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the Member and Observer States of the Turkic Council was convened on 30 April 2020.

Ministers discussed their national efforts in the fight against global pandemic, exchanged information and experience on the measures currently taken by each country in the field of transport during the crisis period, and elaborated on the practical ways to address the difficulties the countries are currently facing in transporting goods.

They also touched upon the future steps that they would need to take in transport field for the early recovery of the economic repercussions of the pandemic. Parties underlined the vital importance of taking necessary measures to ensure sustainable transport operations for food security and unhindered passage of essential, humanitarian and basic consumer goods, as well as medicines and medical equipment among the countries. Ministers also highlighted the need for the facilitation of transport operations across the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor to help overcome the negative effects of the global pandemic on the economies of our countries in the post-pandemic period.

To meet the above-stated needs and the instructions of the Heads of States, Ministers decided to activate the “Transport Coordination Committee” of the Turkic Council at the level of Deputy Ministers as the

“Task Force”, which was proposed by the Presidents to quickly resolve emerging issues and effectively coordinate transport and logistics during the pandemic. They also consented with the inclusion of Customs and Trade (as well as other relevant bodies) authorities of the Member States in the Coordination Committee since some of the issues such as establishing a green corridor, preparation of the list of essential goods, remote advance notification systems, or multimodal transportation also relate directly to the responsibility areas of other institutions.

The Transport Coordination Committee and the Task Force will work on developing multimodal transport among the Member States through the Trans-Caspian Corridor. For that matter, draft “Agreement on the International Combined Freight Transport Among the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” will be brought in the agenda of both bodies for its finalization. Similarly, issues concerning the facilitation of transport operations in Trans-Caspian corridor (like Ro-Ro prices, transit-pass fees) and eliminating administrative barriers (like quotas, additional permits, irregular Ro-Ro operations, visa issues, etc.) as raised by the Heads of State at the video-conference Summit, will be tabled at the Transport Coordination Committee and Task Force meetings.

Upon the instructions of the Heads of States at the 7th Summit of the Turkic Council convened on 15 October 2019 in Baku, in the year 2020, Secretariat has steered coordination among the Member States for the finalization of the draft “Agreement on the International Combined Freight Transport Among the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”. Secretariat collected the views and proposals of the Parties for further negotiations on the draft Agreement. The draft text was revised and updated for another round of deliberations by the Parties via an online meeting.

In order to discuss the projects on the agenda of the Turkic Council and follow up to the issues raised at the Video-conference Summit and the Online meeting of the Ministers of Transport, Secretary General and the Secretariat officers have met with their counterparts in the Member States. Secretary General met with the Minister of Transport and Roads of Kyrgyzstan H.E. Zhanat Beyshenov on 28 November 2019; Minister of Transport, Communication and High Technologies of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ramin Guluzade on 8/9 September 2020 in Baku; and Minister of Industry and Infrastructural Development of Kazakhstan, H.E. Beibut Atamkulov on 24 November 2020 in Nur-Sultan. Turkic Council delegation paid visits to Kazakhstan, Turkey and Uzbekistan to discuss the details for the implementation of the Road Demonstration Tour (Road Trade Caravan), among other issues, which was planned to be realized in order to showcase the viability of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor to the world and help spot the bottlenecks that are hampering transport operations across the line. On 6 November 2019 Turkic Council delegation attended the welcoming ceremony of Xi’an-Ankara train that has reached Turkey through Trans-Caspian route with the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway (BTK) within the scope of China’s “One Belt One Road” initiative. Turkic Council delegation also participated in the International Conference dedicated to the 20th anniversary of signing the Basic Multilateral Agreement on International Transport for Development of the Europe-Caucasus-Asia corridor and 14th meeting of the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission on 5-6 December 2019 in Baku and delivered speeches on the transport projects and activities of the Turkic Council.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Turkic Council and the International Road Transport Union (IRU) was finalized and readied for signature. The draft MoU is planned to be signed at the 5th meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council. The ceremony of launching the eTIR pilot project between Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan within the framework of the Turkic Council took place in Uzbekistan on 17 November 2020 with the partnership of Customs Authorities of both countries and the IRU.

Upon the proposals of the Member and Observer States, the 5th meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council planned to be convened in Budapest in 2020, the Road Demonstration Tour (Road Trade Caravan), as well as the 4th Sister Ports meeting planned to be held in Samsun had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

CUSTOMS

A total of 7 meetings of Heads of Customs Administrations, 11 Working Group Meetings on Customs Cooperation, various workshops, field visits and training seminars have been organized up to this date. Today customs has become the hub around which the wheel of globalization turns, and that hub must be both strong and flexible in order to global trade operate efficiently.

Turkic Council attributes great importance to cooperation in areas of customs. With the aim to discuss customs cooperation and to promote facilitation of customs procedures among the Member States the Meetings of Heads of the Customs Administrations and Working Group on Customs Cooperation are held regularly.

The Heads of Customs Administrations have held 7 meetings and the Working Group on customs has gathered 11 times so far. Moreover, the “Memorandum of Understanding between Turkic Council and World Customs Organization (WCO)” was signed by Secretaries General of these organizations in February 2015 in Brussels. Secretary General of the WCO attended the 4th Meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations in July 2015 in Bishkek.

During the last 6th meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations held on 12 May 2017 in Antalya, the delegations approved the “Memorandum of Understanding among Member States of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on Cooperation in the Field of Customs Enforcement” and also welcomed the initialization of the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Trade Caravan Demonstration Tour aimed at promoting Central Transport Corridor passing through the territories of the Member States.

In order to promote joint actions and projects strengthening customs cooperation among the Silk Road countries through concrete steps, the field visits of the delegations consisted from Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan experts and Turkic Council Secretariat were organized to certain Border Crossing Points (BCP) of the Member States, including Azerbaijan-Georgia, “Red Bridge” BCP and Baku International Trade Sea Port, in Kyrgyzstan: Kyrgyz-Chinese “Torugart” and “Irkeshtam” BCP’s, in Kazakhstan: Kazakh-Chinese “Altynkol”, “Nur-Zholy” BCP’s and “Khorgoz” Free Trade Zone, in Turkey “Kapikule” BCP.

The aim of the visit was to get familiarized with the Built-Operate-Transfer system of building and modernizing BCPs around Turkey that were realized within the public-private partnership framework.

Moreover, the Secretariat participated in the 7th and 8th International Forum on the Role of Customs Administrations in Promoting and Facilitating Trade among the Silk Road Countries held respectively in Aktau (2017) and in Bishkek (2018). Furthermore, aiming to deepen the cooperation within “One Belt, One Road” initiative, Member States decided to intensify their efforts for the official inclusion of China to the Caravanserai Project. This will allow creating a win-win situation for all the stakeholders concerned along the Middle Corridor, passing through the Member States of the Turkic Council.

Along with other activities in this field, the Secretariat of Turkic Council is also support for capacity building in the course of promoting customs facilitation through organizing a series of regional workshops. So far several regional and international workshops on “Post Clearance and Risk management”, “Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) System” and “Customs Transit Facilitation”, “Electronic TIR System” were organized in Ankara, Astana, Baku, Bishkek and Izmir by support of the relevant authorities from Member States and close collaboration of international organizations such as World Customs Organization (WCO), USAID, GTZ, IRU, EU and etc.

In addition, at the 6th and 7th Summits of the Turkic Council that was held in in Cholpan-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, (2018) and Baku, Azerbaijan (2019) the Heads of States of the Turkic Council Member States encouraged the use of mechanisms for the simplification of export and import procedures and introduction of advanced information exchange system, as well as modern and IT based transit procedures among customs authorities of the Member States, underscored the significance of the modernization of border gates; and called on the Member States the facilitation of border crossings in a more effective and faster manner. They also highlighted the importance of streamlining customs and administrative procedures of the Member States to exploit the full potential of the Trans-Caspian International East-West Transport Corridor; revitalizing Silk Road through customs cooperation within the framework of Caravanserai Project.

During the 7th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Turkic Council held on 11 March 2019 in Nur-Sultan, tahe Member States of the Turkic Council signed “Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among the Customs Administrations of the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on Cooperation in the field of Customs Enforcement”, that aims to strengthen cooperation in customs enforcement by exchange of information, experience, and promotion of training seminars.

In line with the instructions of the Heads of States given during the Extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council on the theme of “Cooperation and Solidarity in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic” held on 10 April 2020, Secretariat in close collaboration of the relevant authorities of the Member States working on facilitation of administrative and customs procedures among the member countries through developing a single registered list of essential goods (basic consumer goods, humanitarian goods, medicines and medical equipment); on adoption joint mechanisms to reduce border barriers for the delivery of the abovementioned essential goods; on exploration the possibility of establishing a “green corridor” among Member States and/or making use of “green lane” at the their border crossing points and remote advance notification systems for the simplification of transit and transport procedures of the preliminary goods.

HEALTH

Cooperation in the field of health takes its commencement from the Extraordinary Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Turkic Council held on 10 April 2020 on the theme of “Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic”.

As stipulated in the adopted Baku Declaration of the Extraordinary Video Summit of the Turkic Council, the Parties have agreed to establish close interaction among the Ministries of Health of the Member States, with the aim of sharing best practices, assisting each other on substantive subjects regarding the pandemic.

Based on this instruction, the Secretariat and Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan representing the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council have organized the 1st Video-Conference Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the Member and Observer States of the Turkic Council on 28 April 2020.

Ministers of Health discussed the ways of implementation of the decisions made during the Extraordinary Summit and emphasized the significance of cooperation among the Member and Observer States in the fight against the COVID-19 and in the post-pandemic period within the framework of the Turkic Council.

During this meeting it was decided to set up Health Coordination Committee and Health Scientific Group in order to exchange of information and experience and best practices in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment of dangerous infections, monitoring, epidemiological studies and scientific researches among the Member and Observer States.

As a result of the Ministerial Meeting, the Parties have established the Health Coordination Committee responsible for coordinating all health cooperation issues among the Parties. Within the Coordination Committee there are also “Health Scientific Group” consisting of leading scientists, specialists and experts to expand coordination in fight against COVID-19 and other dangerous infections and “Supply Chain Group” to provide each other with needed pharmaceutical products and medical equipment.

Under this cooperation framework, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey organized the first face-to-face Vaccine Workshop of the Health Scientific Group on 24-27 August 2020 in İzmir, where Turkey shared its experience in the vaccine development and combatting against the pandemic.

The Ministers of Health of the Member and Observer States came together in Istanbul on 30 October 2020 for the 4th Meeting of the Health Scientific Group and adopted the Joint Declaration in which the importance of international cooperation in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and concerted actions to prevent its further transmission were underlined. They also praised the coordination and cooperation efforts of the Turkic Council as an example of institutionalized sub-regional collaboration focusing on the ways to foster solidarity in the interest of people.

The Ministers underscored the importance of maintaining the achieved level of cooperation, carrying it further with new concrete projects, as well as preparing the Turkic Council’s Pandemic Action Plan.

YOUTH & SPORTS

Emphasizing the importance of policies in the field of youth and sports and considering their educational, cultural and economic role, the Heads of States dedicated the Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council to the theme of “Youth and National Sports”.

In today’s world youth policies and sport have become important instruments of our lives. They have the power to change the lives of people, especially the youth if true mechanisms are to be generated. Effective youth policies and sport have the power to successfully integrate the youth from all walks of life into society and bring hope to communities with their huge transformative and constructive capacity and their ability to heal some problems that our society faces today.

With this understanding, Turkic Council Member States, having sizable young population in their respective countries, have emphasized the importance of policies on Youth and Sport considering their educational, cultural and economic role and initiated a cooperation process in the field of Youth and Sport in 2015. In addition, at the Fifth Summit meeting in Astana, Heads of States decided to dedicate the Sixth Summit to the theme of “Youth and National Sports”. In this respect, Turkic Council Secretariat have placed much emphasis on Youth and Sport activities and tried to realize various projects in the very field. So far, four meetings of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports and three Working Group meetings comprising the experts of the relevant Ministries were held. Ministers took decisions on the below-going topics to further the ongoing cooperation among the Member States.

Given the emphasis put on youth, which constitutes more than 40% of the population of the Member States, Turkic Council strived to realize its planned activities in the field of youth and sports despite the challenges brought by the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020.

In the last quarter of 2019, Turkic Council realized two important events that were high on its agenda. On 29 November 2019, Turkic Council convened its 4th meeting of Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports in Bishkek. Ministers underscored in their speeches the importance of policies developed for youth and sports considering the educational, cultural and economic values that youth carry. They emphasized that the ongoing programs and projects for youth under the Turkic Council has proved to be a valuable mechanism to enhance ties among the Turkic speaking youth and expand their knowledge about their commonalities as well as prevent them from being affected by radical ideologies. They determined the dates and places of the ongoing youth and sports activities being realized within the framework of the Turkic Council such as international youth camps, youth festivals, young leaders’ forums, young entrepreneur forums, General Assembly of the Turkic Council Youth Platform, and Turkic University Sport Games (Turkic Universiade). Furthermore, in order to increase the ties of the Turkic-speaking youth and benefit from each other’s experiences, they agreed to organize the First Youth Exchange Program among the Member and Observer States in Turkey in 2020. They also took the decision of organizing a Training Program on Voluntarism in 2020 in Turkey and establish a pool of volunteers of the Turkic Council, which will be benefitted in international sports event held in the Member States.

On the occasion of the 4th meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Between the State Agency for Youth, Physical Culture and Sports under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the field of Physical Culture and Sports was signed by the Ministers of the respective countries. Prior to the ministerial meeting, experts of the Ministries of Youth and Sports of the Member States held the 3rd Working Group meeting on 28 November 2019 for discussing the Youth and Sports programs and projects of the Turkic Council and preparing the agenda of the Ministerial Meeting.

Turkic Council organized its 3rd International Youth Festival on 3-6 December 2019 in Istanbul with the participation of around 150 young people from the Member and Observer States. The opening ceremony was attended by the Secretary General Baghdad Amreyev, President of World Ethnosport Confederation Bilal Erdogan, Officials from the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey, President of OIC Youth Forum (ICYF) Taha Ayhan the participating youth and representatives from the member, observer and brotherly countries.

Aimed at enhancing effective cooperation of the members of the Turkic Council in the field of youth, sharing experience on youth policies, providing cultural cohesion among Turkic-speaking countries and

promoting the common values of the Turkic Council countries, the Festival included workshops on youth empowerment projects and voluntarism, sessions devoted to the presentation of National Delegations on their national policies and their activities in the field of youth, thematic workshops where the youngsters discussed their problems and expectations, visits to youth centers, and visits to the historical and cultural sites of Istanbul.

Turkic Council convened its 4th Working Group Meeting on the Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports on 12 November 2020 on a virtual format due to the pandemic with the participation of the representatives of the Member and Observer States.

Parties held discussions on the youth and sports activities that were planned for the year 2020 at the 4th meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council in Bishkek on 29 November 2019, yet couldn't be realized due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Parties reiterated their commitment to the realization of the youth and sports activities in 2021 in their respective countries. Accordingly; Azerbaijani side stated that the 5th International Youth Camp is planned to be held in August 2021; Kazakh side noted that 2nd General Assembly of the Youth Platform and the 4th International Youth Festival are planned to be organized simultaneously in the first half of 2021; Kyrgyz side expressed that 3rd Young Leaders Forum is planned to be held in the last quarter of 2021; Turkish side stated that they plan to organize the Youth Exchange Program in 2021 and the Youth Voluntarism Training Program in July or August 2021 in Istanbul with the participation of 100 volunteers from the Member and Observer States in total; Uzbek side informed that they plan to stage the 1st Young Entrepreneurs Forum in September 2021 in Tashkent.

Upon the decisions of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports taken at their 4th meeting in Bishkek on 29 November 2019, Turkish side prepared the draft "Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation under the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on Multilateral and Bilateral Youth and Youth Workers Exchange Programs". After receiving the written responses of the Parties and preparing the consolidated draft text, Secretariat steered the negotiations on the draft MoU among the Parties at the 4th Online Working Group meeting on 12 November 2020, where the majority of the draft MoU was agreed by the Member and Observer States. The draft MoU is planned to be signed by the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council at the 5th Ministerial meeting in 2021.

As is known, at the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council convened in Cholpon-Ata in 2018 simultaneously with the 3rd World Nomad Games (WNG), the Heads of State of the Turkic Council decided that the 4th edition of the Games will be staged in Turkey in 2020. However, despite the ongoing preparations by Turkey, along with other Member States and the Secretariat of the Turkic Council, for the excellent organization of the Games in Turkey, the 4th WNG had to be postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. On 14 May 2020 Secretary General of the Turkic Council issued an announcement to declare the decision of Turkey to postpone the 4th WNG to 2021. Despite the postponement, relevant authorities of Turkey and the Secretariat have continued their coordination and joint work for the preparation of the Games. Secretary General, together with Deputies Secretary General Ömer Kocaman and Sultan Raev, attended the Press Launch of the 4th WNG in Iznik, Bursa on 12 August 2020, the place where the Games will take place in 2021. Minister of Youth and Sports of Turkey H.E. Mehmet Muharrem Kasapoğlu, President of the World Ethnosport Confederation Necmeddin Bilal Erdoğan, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism Serdar Çam, Mayor of Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Alınur Aktaş, officials of the Traditional Sports Federation and local administrative authorities also took part in the event. During the launch program, authorities of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Traditional Sports Federation presented the concept of the Games, the physical infrastructure of the facilities, accommodation set-up for athletes and visitors, and the ongoing preparations for the 4th WNG where approximately 3 thousand athletes from 100 countries and 150 thousand visitors are expected to participate.

The First Coordination Committee Meeting for the preparations of the 4th WNG was held in hybrid format on 19 November 2020 in İstanbul, with the participation of delegations from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Hungary, as well as the representatives of the Turkic Council and the World Ethnosport Confederation. Delegations from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting online due to the pandemic conditions. At the meeting, the Regulation of the 4th WNG, which determines the organizational procedures and principles, as well as the types and rules of the Games, was discussed. Fruitful consultations and negotiations were held with the contributions of the representatives of the Member and Observer States to render the WNG a more institutional and sustainable sports organization.

Other than actively involving in the organization of the 4th WNG, Turkic Council continued supporting traditional sports with other initiatives in the year 2020. Secretary General participated in the 3rd International Ethnosport Forum organized by the World Ethnosport Confederation on 22-23 February 2020 in Antalya, Turkey as one of the keynote speakers of the event. The Forum that gathered around more than 200 participants from 55 different countries including the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Sports of the Member States, focused on the current situation and problems of the traditional sports, as well as the methods to be adopted to preserve and promote such sports in today's world.

Delegation of the Turkic Council headed by the Deputy Secretary General Dr. Ömer Kocaman paid a working visit to Nur-Sultan on 3-5 March 2020, where they met with the Vice-Minister of Culture and Sport Orken Bisaqayev, Vice-Minister of Information and Social Development Marat Azilkhanov, Vice-Minister of Ministry of Education and Science Sholpan Karinova, and the Chairman of Sport Issue and Physical Culture Committee of the Ministry of Culture and Sport Serik Sapiyev. In those meetings, Parties made an overview of the projects and activities planned to be realized in 2020 based on the decisions taken at the 4th meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports held in 2019 in Bishkek, with a specific reference to the organization of the 2nd General Assembly of the Youth Platform, 4th International Youth Festival of the Turkic Council, and 2nd Turkic University Sports Games (Turkic Universiade) to be hosted by the Kazakh side in 2020. All three foregoing activities that were decided to be organized in Kazakhstan in 2020, yet couldn't be held due to pandemic, will be realized in 2021 in Kazakhstan.

The Executive Board of the Turkic Council Youth Platform held a virtual meeting on 19 October 2020 to discuss the current developments taking place in the region. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Intigam Babayev, Deputy Secretary General of the Turkic Council Gismat Gozalov, and the Youth Platform Board members from all Member States.

In the meeting where the latest military attacks of Armenia against Azerbaijan constituted the main topic of discussion, the Youth Platform Board condemned the flagrant violation of international humanitarian law by Armenia through indiscriminate and arbitrary attacks on civilian targets in Azerbaijani territory and called on the international community to take necessary steps to stop the attacks on civilians by the Armenian armed forces.

At the 4th Working Group Meeting on the Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports on 12 November 2020 on a virtual format, Parties agreed that the 5th meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council will be convened in Tashkent in September 2021 on the occasion of the 1st Young Entrepreneurs Forum.

International Youth Camps

Member States give a special emphasis on the youth activities with the aim of contributing to the personal development of the future young leaders, promoting socialization among the youth sharing the same

history, culture and language, as well as creating a future generation with increased sense of awareness towards the social problems. To serve that purpose, so far four “Turkic Council International Youth Camps” were organized in various cities of Turkey and Kazakhstan. Over 1500 youngsters from not only the Member States but also regional countries have attended the camps. Camp activities included local trips, cultural and sports activities, as well as thematic debates on issues relating to the problems of today’s youth and possible ways of solutions.

Moreover, in order to analyze the planning, organization and functioning of the Turkic Council youth camps held in Turkey as well as their effects on youth a Turkic Council Youth Camp Workshop was organized in July-August 2018 in Ankara with the participation of the experts of the Member States and Turkmenistan. The outcomes of the Workshop were adopted by the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports in their 3rd meeting in Nur-Sultan on 5 December 2018.

International Youth Festivals

Three Turkic Council International Youth Festivals were staged in Ganja, the European Youth Capital-2016, in September 2016, Bishkek in July 2018, and Istanbul in December 2019 respectively with the participation of some 500 people including from non-member states to the Turkic Council. Festivals served as an opportunity for the youth coming from different countries to get socialized and familiarize with one another. They also provided an opportunity with round table meetings and debates for discussions on the expectations and problems of the youth in our region.

Youth Platform

Youth Platform was established under the Turkic Council with the purpose of strengthening the relationship among the youth organizations and National Youth Councils of the Member States by bringing them under one roof and providing them a unified representative capacity in the world. The Regulation of the Youth Platform was adopted by the Ministers of the Turkic Council in charge of Youth and Sports in their second meeting in Baku in May 2017.

The Platform is expected to increase the cooperation and coordination among the Youth of the Member States as well as that of regional countries with various projects and activities. The Youth Platform has representative and elected bodies such as a Board and holds regular General Assemblies. Its Board convenes regularly in advance of the meetings of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council to reflect their problems and expectations. The Annual Reports adopted by the General assembly will be submitted to the Council of Heads of States at Turkic Council Summits. Moreover, as a token of emphasis placed on the Turkic Speaking youth, the President of the Board will attend the meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) and the Council of Heads of States (CHS) at the Turkic Council Summits.

Turkic Council Youth Platform currently has more than 60 Youth NGOs as members from the Member States. Its 1st General Assembly was convened in Baku on 13 October 2019 on the occasion of the 7th Summit of the Turkic Council. The Board of the Platform was elected at the General Assembly and started to work. Representatives of youth organizations from the Member States discussed the future course of action of the Youth Platform and determined the main areas of attention at the General Assembly.

At the Sixth and Seventh Summits, Presidents instructed the Secretariat to work to protect the youth from radical ideologies. Presidents also urged the Secretariat to develop measures to expand the youth’s knowledge about the cultural peculiarities of our Member States so that they can represent the culture and

language they belong to. Youth Platform will be an effective instrument to serve to the purpose of meeting the instructions of the Presidents.

The 2nd General Assembly of the Youth Platform will be convened in Kazakhstan.

Young Leaders Forum

Two Young Leaders Forums were organized with the participation of over 300 youngsters from the member states.

Upon the instructions of the Presidents at the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council in Cholpon-Ata to organize Young Leaders Forums on a regular basis, 1st and 2nd Turkic Council Young Leaders Forum were organized on 25-29 November 2018 in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan and 22-26 April 2019 in Turkistan, Kazakhstan with the participation of over 300 youngsters from the member states. The purpose of the Forums is to contribute to the personal development of the future of the Turkic Speaking youth, promote socialization among the youngsters sharing the same history, culture and language, and prepare a future generation of leaders with an increased sense of awareness towards social problems.

In line with the instruction of the First President of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, to organize scientific conferences, seminars, and expeditions to unique historical places of the Turkic world to foster cooperation among the young people and expand their knowledge about the cultural peculiarities of Member States, participating youngsters were taken to the historical and cultural places of Nakhchivan and Turkistan during the programs of both Forums.

In both Forums, the representatives of the relevant governmental institutions, national youth councils and youth organizations from the Member States, as well as the members of the Student Council of the Turkic University Union engaged in interactive discussions in the format of round-table sessions chaired by the Secretariat. The sessions and the presentations mainly focused on the ways to strengthen youth cooperation under the Turkic Council, expectations of youth living in the Member States, suggestions regarding the current and future activities of the Turkic Council and their development perspectives, as well as the operationalization of the Turkic Council Youth Platform established under the Turkic Council with the aim of strengthening the relationship among the youth institutions of the Member States.

A “Cultural and Arts Festival of the Youth of the Turkic World” was staged in Turkistan on the occasion of the 2nd Young Leaders Forum. Within the framework of the opening ceremony, a parade of the Turkic Speaking youth and folklore performances of various Turkic speaking peoples took place. Upon the instruction of the Presidents of the Member States at the Baku Summit on 15 October 2019 to continue the practice, the 3rd Turkic Young Leaders Forum will be held in Osh, Kyrgyzstan.

World Nomad Games

The idea of organizing World Nomad Games to rehabilitate national sport disciplines and reviving the spiritual consciousness and historical memory not only of the Turks, but also of all once-nomadic peoples of the world came to life at the Council of Heads of States (CHS) meeting of the Second Summit of the Turkic Council in Bishkek in 2012.

Based on the decisions of the CHS of the Turkic Council, the first and second World Nomad Games were organized in 2014 and 2016 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. Turkic Council Secretariat and the relevant

authorities of the Member States have formed the Organizing Committee of the Games. Several working group meetings were held with the support of the Secretariat to determine the Regulation and the types of the Games. The Regulation was adopted by the Ministers of Youth and Sport of the Turkic Council in their first meeting in Istanbul in 2016.

The First World Nomad Games, organized in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Turkic Council and the Kyrgyz Government in 2014, brought together more than 400 athletes from 19 countries gathered on the shores of prominent Lake Issyk-Kul. The Second Games were staged in 2016 attended by 62 countries and over 1400 athletes. Overall participants are estimated to have been over 20.000 including the spectators as well as high level state officials from all over the world. The Games that were staged in 23 different traditional disciplines were an incredible celebration of diversity and inter-cultural dialogue that highlighted the unique power of sport to bring different communities together under one banner. It also was very instrumental in introducing to the world the ancient culture and traditions of the Turkic Speaking peoples.

Third World Nomad Games were organized by the Kyrgyz Government in 2018 in Issyk-Kul. Around 2000 athletes from 82 countries competed in 37 sports branches.

Upon the decision of the Heads of States taken at the Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council convened in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan on 11 September 2018, the Fourth World Nomad Games will be organized in Turkey.

International Cooperation

As part of its intensified relations with relevant international organizations, Turkic Council enhanced its cooperation with UNAOC on youth policies. In order to raise awareness on the role that youth can play in addressing violent extremism and radicalization, Turkic Council and UNAOC co-organized an international conference titled the “Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism” in October 2016 in Istanbul with a larger participation across the world. It gathered more than 300 young people and experts from 40 countries from Africa to Asia.

Secretaries General of the Turkic Council have met with the High Representative of the UNAOC, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, in New York in September 2017, 2018 and 2019. Based on the decisions taken at the previous meeting, the youth affiliated to the UNAOC and the Turkic Council were brought together in a Youth Dialogue meeting in December 2017 in Istanbul to exchange views and experiences on the projects and activities they are conducting, as well as to discuss issues relating to youth empowerment.

Moreover, Secretary General and the Secretariat officers have met with the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), Wilfried Lemke, and the UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, in New York in 2016 and 2017. During the visits, the Special Adviser and the Envoy was informed on the activities of Turkic Council on youth especially concerning youth camps, youth festivals, the establishment of youth platform within the Council, as well as the outcomes of the international conference co-hosted by the Turkic Council and the UNAOC on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in October 2016 in Istanbul.

Turkic Council was among the keynote speakers of the Second UNESCO Youth Forum on “Establishment of Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation among the Youth in the Prevention of Violent Extremism” organized by UNESCO in September 2017 in Almaty with the participation of about 100 youth leaders

coming from the countries of the region including the Turkic Council member states.

Turkic Council signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the ICYF (Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum) and World Ethnosport Confederation in 2019 to enhance bilateral cooperation.

International Cooperation with ICSS and SIGA

Turkic Council and the ICSS (International Centre for Sports Security), a not-for-profit organization striving to develop stronger international policies, strategic reforms and solutions to safeguard sport, signed an MoU in August 2015 in Istanbul. ICSS and its youth-related branch, Save the Dream, participated at the Second World Nomad Games and produced a promotional film of the Games. The film broadcasted in major sport platforms, social media and TV channels, along with articles published in reputable magazines, has been instrumental in introducing our culture and traditions to the world. Similarly, Turkic Council and the ICSS co-organized a panel on the theme of “Sports as a Means to Prevent Violent Extremism” at the international conference on the “Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)” co-hosted by the Turkic Council and UNAOC on in October 2016 in Istanbul.

Furthermore, Turkic Council has become a part of the Sports Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) in April 2016, a global initiative rallied in defense of the purity and integrity of sport, as a founding member. Turkic Council Secretary General was elected as the Vice Chairman of SIGA Council in the 8th SIGA General Assembly in 2018. The Chairman of the SIGA Council is the internationally-recognized politician, Franco Frattini, who served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Vice-President of the European Commission.

Secretary General paid two official visits to the headquarter of the ICSS in Doha to discuss future course of cooperation between the two organizations as well as met with influential Qatari officials such as the Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and Sports, Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

TOURISM

Turkic Council attaches utmost importance to cooperation in the field of tourism among the Member States. To this end, 5 Ministerial and 14 Working Group Meetings were held since the establishment of the Secretariat. The 5th Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Tourism of the Turkic Council convened on 23 June 2020 virtually. The 6th Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Tourism Development in June, 2021.

As a sign of given significance to the collaboration in the field of tourism, theme of the 4th Turkic Council Summit which was held in Bodrum in 2014 dedicated to the “Tourism Cooperation”. Following the Bodrum Summit, the efforts to increase cooperation in this field gained momentum.

These efforts mainly focused on the transformation of the historical Silk Road into an attractive tourism destination. In this regard, upon the instruction of the Presidents of the Member States given at the Bodrum Summit, the Secretariat developed the Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package.

The Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project and its materialization as a unique tour package offering an unprecedented opportunity to the tourists for jointly visiting the Member States constitute the cornerstone of the activities carried out under this cooperation item. The promising role of the Joint Tour Package in increasing the flow of tourists among the Turkic Speaking States and its eventual support for

boosting touristic visits from the third parties to these countries present a significant dimension of this project.

The Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package's destination is designed to follow the landmarks of the cultural and historical heritage of the Silk Road in the Member States. Through the 15 day-trip, tourists would have a unique and adventurous experience. It aims to bring tourists together with the unique cultural, spiritual, historical and gastronomic life of the traditional Silk Road. This joint package will pave the way to increase the flow of tourists among the Turkic Speaking States, also boost the touristic visits from the third parties to these countries.

The Secretariat keeps on promoting the Joint Tour Package. In that regard, Turkic Council delegations are participating world-wide known prominent tourism fairs.

The joint tour package that is considered as a best practice to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to boost South-South cooperation is ready to be experienced by the tourist from the Turkic Speaking States and all over the world. The Secretariat prepared the website of the package (www.modernsilkroadtour.com).

Eventually, 5th Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Tourism of the Turkic Council convened on 23 June 2020.

At the meeting, Tourism Ministers exchanged information, experiences and applied procedures on the precautions taken by the Member States for the safe travel of the tourists; current state of tourism relations under the strictures posed by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as discussed the ways to strengthen the latest developments in tourism sector.

Ministers also proposed to diversify the tourism sector in the region by developing new tours for the route of “scientists” and “holy places” in the region, and promoting the rich heritage of the Turkic world by conducting common cultural and traditional festivals.

Ministries further agreed to organize “Silk Road Tourism Capitals Initiative” in order to promote tourism in the region, in which one of the cities from the Member States will be designated as “Silk Road Tourism Capital” annually and set of events will be organized with the participation of travel agencies and media representatives of the Member States.

In line with the decisions taken at the 5th Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Tourism of the Turkic Council, the Turkic Council organized the Online Training Program on 22 September 2020 about the precautions taken against COVID-19 pandemic with the participation of more than 200 attendees from the Member and Observer States.

Carrying out joint vocational trainings presents the cornerstone of cooperation among the Member States in the field of tourism. With the facilitation of the Secretariat, until now more than 1,000 experts received vocational training on service sector for tourism employees of the Member States in coordination with relevant Ministries and tourism associations. This capacity building initiative became subject to the several UN reports with its consideration as a best practice for the achievement of SDGs.

In the upcoming period, the Secretariat will continue to focus on improving relations among Member States in the field of tourism and generate new projects in this area.

DIASPORA

The critical role of diasporas in promoting the image of the Member States as well as raising awareness abroad on issues of common concern to the Turkic Speaking people is crucial.

The importance of establishing coordination and cooperation among the Turkic Speaking Diasporas as well as the relevant institutions of the Member States is a high priority for the Turkic Council. The critical role of diasporas in promoting the image of the Member States as well as raising awareness abroad on issues of common concern to the Turkic Speaking people is crucial. This general will has been highlighted by our Heads of States in the Summit meetings from the outset and reflected in the Summit Declarations of the Turkic Council.

With this understanding, Turkic Council so far convened three meetings of the Ministers and Heads of the Institutions in charge of diaspora Affairs of the Turkic Council and four Contact Group meetings comprising the experts of the relevant institutions of the Member States to discuss further actions and cooperation among the Member States. The Ministers and Heads of Institutions approved the “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy” of the Turkic Council in May 2013 in Ankara. The Strategy document set the purposes and main priorities of the Turkic Speaking Diasporas as well as the basic assessments about the future course of action. Member States started also to produce “Joint Action Plans” for the Turkic Speaking Diasporas in order to generate awareness on collective behavior towards the developments taking place in their environments.

Furthermore, the “First Turkic Council Diaspora Forum” was held in Baku in June 2013. More than 600 representatives from over 50 countries including heads of relevant state agencies and diaspora organizations participated in the event. The Forum was the first of its kind for gathering together the Turkic Speaking Diaspora organizations across the world and the diaspora institutions of the Member States in one activity.

Upon the decisions taken at the ministerial meetings, the First Turkic Council Regional Diaspora Center was opened in December 2014 in Kiev, at the premises of Joint Azerbaijan diaspora in Ukraine. Three other Regional Diaspora Centers were decided to be opened in Berlin, Paris and Washington. In order to support Turkey's fight against terrorism, a "No to Terrorism" march was held in September 2015 in Kiev with the initiative of the Turkic Council Kiev Regional Diaspora Center. More than 200 representatives from diasporas of Azerbaijan and Turkey in Kiev participated in the march. A panel titled “The Role of the Turkic Council in Deepening Cooperation among the Turkic Speaking Diaspora” was convened in October 2016 in the Center with the participation of 60 delegates from the various diaspora organizations in Ukraine. Participants discussed the ways to promote the culture and values of the Turkic Speaking States and people in Ukraine. Furthermore, the Meeting of the Executive Body of the Kiev diaspora Regional Center was convened in December 2016 in Kiev where the ways how to create more effective diaspora organization to adapt the Turkic Speaking Diaspora to the changing conditions in Ukraine and the plan of activities for 2017 were discussed.

Secretary General of the Turkic Council met with the Turkic Speaking Diaspora representatives based in the USA at the Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey in New York. He participated in the Annual Turkish & US Flag-raising Ceremony at Wall Street's historic Bowling Green Park in New York City that marks the Turkish Day Festival. Secretary General and Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in New York City raised the flags of Republic of Turkey and Turkic Council at the Ceremony. Secretary General also attended the "Traditional Turkish Day Parade" where all Turkic Speaking States and communities were represented.

Moreover, based on the decision taken at the Third Meeting of the Turkic Council Diaspora Contact Group, 15 youngsters from the diasporas of the Member States living in foreign countries attended the Third Turkic Council International Youth Camp held in Antalya, Turkey in August 2017.

Third Meeting of Ministers and Heads of Institutions in Charge of diaspora Affairs of the Turkic Council was held on 8 November 2018 in Ankara. Updated by the relevant institutions of the Member States upon the recent developments in the world and the region, the “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy of the Turkic Council” was signed by the participating Ministers and Heads of Institutions in Charge of diaspora Affairs and entered into force. On the other hand, within the scope of the cooperation among the Turkic Speaking Diasporas, the Joint Action Plan that contains the concrete steps to be implemented in 2019 was approved by the Parties.

With the aim of strengthening the spirit of unity among the institutions responsible for diaspora issues and the Turkic Speaking Diasporas, consolidating the ties of our citizens living abroad and creating awareness through our common values, Member States decided to organize the Turkic Council Second Diaspora Forum in Turkey in 2020 with a large participation of the diaspora representatives of the Member States from across the world.

Upon the decision taken at the 3rd meeting of Ministers and Heads of Institutions in Charge of Diaspora Affairs, the 1st Exchange of Experience Program among the Diaspora Institutions of the Member States was held on 8 February 2019 in Baku. The representatives of the State Committee on Work with Diaspora (SCWD) of Azerbaijan and the Presidency of the Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Republic of Turkey (YTB) of Turkey made presentations about the legal bases of their institutions, their institutional structures, their activities within their respective countries and abroad to bring together their diasporas and exchanged their experiences with Kazakh and Kyrgyz counterparts. Parties discussed their institutional experiences in detail and agreed to trade information and documents about their institutional set up.

The “1st Capacity Building Training Program for the Turkic Speaking Diasporas in Germany” was organized in Berlin on 26 March 2019 with the participation of diaspora NGO representatives from across Western Europe. The Capacity Building Training Program was the first event where the Turkic Speaking Diaspora NGOs based in Germany and Western Europe came together, made presentations on their respective activity areas and discussed ways to enhance sustainable cooperation and coordination among themselves. They exchange views on the future course of action among the Turkic Speaking Diaspora NGOs and agreed to organize joint cultural, educational and sportive activities to deepen their ties. The officials attending from the central diaspora institutions of the Member States also made presentations on their policies and programs developed towards their respective diaspora groups living in Germany. Parties agreed to deepen the cooperation among their central diaspora institutions to ensure a more coordinated, integrated and sustainable action at the level of diasporas. Central Diaspora institutions of the Member States further agreed to organize joint cultural, educational and sportive activities for the Turkic Speaking Diaspora youth to raise awareness on their commonalities and shared identities.

On the night of 26 March, the Turkic Council Nowruz concert was staged at the Embassy of Turkey with the participation of the Ambassadors of the Turkic Council Member States, members of the corps diplomatic in Berlin, German government authorities, as well as the Turkic Speaking Diasporas living in Germany. The concert which was performed by TURKSOY orchestra, provided an atmosphere to celebrate the Nowruz as a common heritage of all Turkic Speaking peoples with the participation of around 300 audience mostly from the Turkic Speaking Diasporas.

The 2nd Capacity Building Training Program for the Turkic Speaking Diasporas was organized in New York on 26-27 August 2019 with the participation of Turkic Speaking Diaspora NGOs from across USA. The Training Program was followed by a cultural program for the celebration of the 650th anniversary of Imadeddin Nesimi's birthday, considering that 2019 was declared as the "Year of Nesimi" in Azerbaijan by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Secretariat of the Turkic Council will continue its efforts to bring closer the Turkic Speaking Diasporas with activities that will comprise exchange of institutional experience among the diaspora institutions of the Member States as well as capacity building trainings for the Turkic Speaking Diaspora organizations abroad. Moreover, the youth from the diaspora will continue to be invited to the Turkic Council International Youth Camps to enhance their ties with their motherlands and the youth living in the Member States.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

The Member States emphasize the importance of policies on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) considering their economic and social role.

For the past twenty years, the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) has fundamentally changed the practices and procedures of nearly all aspects of business life and governance.

ICT is one of the important cooperation areas of the Turkic Council. Close cooperation in the field of ICT within the Turkic Council facilitates the deployment of regional and national broadband infrastructure, providing the opportunity to create a single information space and conditions for the development of the information society as one of the directions to build a "digital economy".

Recognizing the social and economic benefits offered by ICT sector the Turkic Council Member States develop their national ICT policies and strategies. Recently the most rapid developments in the field of ICT in the region occur in the banking, transportation, education, tourism and e-government sectors, making the need for trusted solutions in these areas most acute. Access to mobile devices and networks and big data processing are the strongest enablers of economic opportunity in the region.

The cooperation in the field of ICT is exercised through the Working Group and Meeting of Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) which was established by the decision of the 5th Summit of the Turkic Council held on 11 September 2015 in Astana.

Turkic Council has so far convened 3 meetings among the Ministers in charge of ICT and 4 Working Group meetings comprising the experts of the Member States. The Ministerial Meetings on ICT is the highest decision making body in the area of regional cooperation in ICT:

1st Meeting of Ministers in charge of ICT held on November 29, 2016 in Baku;

2nd meeting of the Ministers in charge of ICT were convened on 9 November 2017 in Istanbul;

3rd meeting of the Ministers in charge of ICT were held on 31 January 2019 in Almaty.

During these meetings the Parties discuss important issues regarding the enhancing and strengthening

cooperation in ICT sector among the Member States. The Working Group covers the cooperation on the 4 sub-working groups namely: Cyber Security, TASIM project and fiber infrastructure, E-Government and Satellite Services.

The overall ICT policies and strategic priority areas in the Turkic Council region are the following:

- sharing existing experiences and knowledge (developing start-up ecosystem, innovations, cyber-security domains and etc.);
- developing a common secure software and hardware as well as technology transfer;
- increasing the role of digital local content by strengthening "e-government" services;
- facilitation access to wireless broadband networks and services;
- developing a platform for exchanging the information consolidate investment efforts to implement large scale projects.

At the 6th Summit of Turkic Council held in 3 September 2018 in Cholpon-Ata, Presidents urged the Member States to continue their efforts to enhance their cooperation and coordination in the field of ICT.

In addition, during the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of the Turkic Council convened on 10 April 2020, the Heads of the States emphasized that pandemic has shown the necessity of the uninterrupted operation of this field once again and invited the Turkic Council to take active role in the enhancement and implementation of the cyber security phenomenon.

In this context, online ad-hoc meeting of the Turkic Council Sub-Working Group on Cyber Security was organized on 21 September 2020 to discuss the measures taken by the Member States in the cyber security area, exchange information and best practices to better respond to the current regional security challenges and security threats expected as a consequence of COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to develop an appropriate mechanism for establishing regional cyber-security platform within the Turkic Council.

Through these mechanisms, the Member States of the Turkic Council are discussing policy approaches critical to cooperation among themselves concerning the issues like innovation, the free flow of data, emerging digital technologies and challenges like cyber-threats.

MIGRATION COOPERATION

Migration cooperation takes its commencement from the Extraordinary Summit of the Council of Heads of State of the Turkic Council held on 10 April 2020 on the theme of “Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic”.

As stipulated in the adopted Baku Declaration of the Extraordinary Video Summit of the Turkic Council, the Parties have emphasized the importance of providing support and assistance to the citizens who remained in the territories of the Member States and could not cross the border due to the travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic, including on the visa facilitation without any sanction.

Based on this instruction, the Secretariat and State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan representing the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council have organized 1st Video-Conference Meeting among the Heads of the Migration Services and Related Authorities of the Member and Observer States

of the Turkic Council on 7 May 2020 to discuss the negative impact of the pandemic on the citizens of the Parties who are staying in each other's territory and to take joint actions to settle their permit, visa and other migration related issues.

Heads of the Migration Services and Related Authorities of the Member and Observer States exchanged information on taken measures, applied procedures, and statistics related to settling the visa and residence/work permit of the citizens of the Parties and discussed the ways to support and assist the citizens of the Member and Observer States who are temporarily staying for several purposes such as studying and working in each other's territories.

Parties agreed on not taking administrative/punitive actions against each other's citizens who violated visa and residence permit during this process.

They underlined the importance of providing comprehensive assistance and migration benefits to the citizens in each other's territories including waiting zones at airports and border crossing points and temporarily relax immigration requirements, allowing migrants to remain in the destination country beyond the usual time limit.

Taking into account the considerable amount of citizens living in each other's territories, the Parties agreed to create Migration Coordination Group in order to inform each other timely and coordinate the necessary measures to solve visa and migration issues of the citizens as well as implementation of the agreed decisions and further expansion of cooperation during as well as after pandemic.

1st Meeting of the Migration Coordination Group was held on 7 August 2020 in a video-conference format with the participation of the Heads of relevant Departments of the Migration Services of the Member States to discuss legalization of the activities of labour migrants from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan in the territories of the Member States of the Turkic Council.

The Parties also shared requirements of legislation on labour migration, as well as statistical data on citizens residing or currently staying in the territory of the Member or Observer States, including those who are unable to leave their destination countries due to the pandemic and agreed to create a single database in the framework of the Turkic Council.

INFORMATION AND MEDIA COOPERATION

Taking into account the role of media and information in the nowadays world and stressing the importance of developing cooperation in this field among the Member States the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council held on 11 September 2015 in Astana was devoted to the "Cooperation in Media and Information sphere".

The First Meeting of the Ministers and High Officials in Charge of Information and Media was held on 18 August 2015 in Astana. In the framework of the said Ministerial meeting the following documents:

"Turkic Council Joint Cooperation Protocol on Information and Media", "Protocol of Cooperation among the National TV Channels of the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States", and "Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation among official News Agencies of the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States" were signed. Many meetings of the Working Group on cooperation in media and information sphere were held, where details of the multilateral cooperation were discussed.

Contact Group was established on the basis of the national TV channels, consisting of technical, financial, news programs specialists which concentrate on education, culture, sport and news themes in order to accelerate the process of exchanging of information and creating joint projects.

The official News Agencies of the Member States also continued cooperation within the framework of the Turkic Council and publish in their official websites, on a permanent basis, the news about the international activities of the Turkic Council and its affiliated institutions.

2nd Meeting of the Ministers and High Officials in Charge of Information and Media and 6th Working Group Meeting were held on 6 May 2019 in Baku. The Parties agreed to set up a Joint FTP Pool to which they can download programs (in the formats like MP4, HD, M2P, AVI, and similar ones) and video materials on agreed categories such as news, short movies, cultural, historical and sports programs including traditional sports.

The Parties also agreed to work closely to produce documentaries, short films and videos on the project proposal given by the first President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev on “100 People of the Turkic world” and “Sacred Places of the Turkic world” at Cholpon-Ata Summit.

TV Channels of the Member States will also cooperate in preparation of a joint documentary film which will be in the framework of the article “Seven Facets of the Great Steppe” by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev.

During the meeting, the Parties also extensively discussed the establishment of an International Turkic News Channel (ITNC) and signed the Cooperation Protocol among the Public Broadcasting Institutions of the Member States to regulate technical issues for effective cooperation among the public TV Channels.

The Republic of Azerbaijan second time hosted 8th Meeting of the Working Group and the 3rd Meeting of the Ministers and High Officials in charge of Information and Media of the Turkic Council on 9-10 April 2021 in Baku. As a result of these meetings, the Parties approved the “Action Plan for 2021-2022” to strengthen cooperation with concrete programs and projects and agreed to establish a Media Coordination Committee consisting of the high-level representatives of the Member States to coordinate and supervise the implementation of the relevant instructions of the Heads of States, decisions of the Ministers and Action Plan for 2021-2022.

They also agreed to maximize the potential of the established Joint FTP Pool, increasing joint production of video films, serials, video materials on the common history and culture of the Member States, as well as organizing the exchange programs and training courses for media experts.

Considering that most Member State will celebrate their 30th anniversary of the Independence, Turkish side initiated to organize an International Forum in the fall of 2021 and Kazakh side invited all the Member States to actively participate in the Astana Media Week planned to be held in September 2021.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



With the joint commitment to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in our region, the Turkic Council and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) enhanced their relations on the basis of the MoU signed in 2016.

Indeed, the said cooperation dated back to 2015. In this regard, Former Secretary General Ramil Hasan participated in the UN Summit for the Adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda held on 25-27 September 2015 in New York where countries as well as international organizations came together at the highest level to show their commitment to implement the new development agenda. From 2014 until 2018, he also had several bilateral meetings in New York and Istanbul with Cihan Sultanoğlu, Former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations; and Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC) of the UNDP.

The Turkic Council co-hosted the international conference on ICT for Development with the UNDP RBEC on 27-28 October 2015 in Istanbul. Speakers at the level of Vice-Minister from the Turkic Council Member States as well as other regional states including Moldova and Afghanistan took the floor at the conference. Furthermore, governmental officials and senior representatives of private sector also addressed the audience at the panels on the topics of e-governance, open data, ICT's role in transforming rural development and agriculture and private sector in putting ICT to work for development.

The conference was attended by 150 guests from various sectors related to the ICT and sustainable development from 15 countries. The panels were followed by brainstorming sessions. The Conference enabled knowledge and expertise sharing in order to promote e-transformation and open data in the Member States and around the region. In that sense, it was instrumental to discuss how countries in the region should advance their development priorities using modern technology.

As a concrete outcome of the partnership between the two organizations, the UNDP became one of the partners of the International Conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) co-organized by the Turkic Council and the UNOAC on 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul. Cihan Sultanoğlu was one of the keynote speakers of the said conference. The Fifth Panel of the conference titled Framing Development Solutions and Urging South-South Cooperation for the Empowerment of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism co-organized by the UNDP in cooperation with the UNOSSC. Furthermore, the Secretariat and the UNDP RBEC participated in each other's meetings during the year.

In 2017, the Turkic Council and the UNDP continued to materialize joint events. In this regard, during the GSSD EXPO 2017, the Turkic Council organized in partnership with UNDP the Solution Forum entitled "Good Practices of South-South Cooperation for Implementation of SDGs: Development Through Transformation" on 28 November 2017 in Antalya. The Forum showcased successful South-South cooperation examples from the Eurasian region making a transformative impact on the achievement of SDGs.

The Turkic Council furthered its ongoing cooperation with UN Office for South-South Cooperation by a MoU signed on 4 April 2016 in Istanbul.



The Heads of both institutions had bilateral meetings in New York and Istanbul in the course of 2016 and 2017 to discuss the ways and means to empower collaboration within the Global South.

The Secretariat participated in the training on "UN Catalytic Support to South-South & Triangular Cooperation in Implementing the Agenda 2030", organized by the United Nations System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development in cooperation with the UNOSSSC in December 2016 and in October 2018 in Bonn. The Secretariat attended the UNOSSSC Capacity Building Workshop on 30-31 March 2016 in New York where a presentation on the activities of the Turkic Council for the benefit of the Global South was made.

As a result of this mutually beneficial partnership, the UNOSSSC became one of the partners of the International Conference on the Role of Youth in P/CVE co-organized by the Turkic Council and the UNOAC on 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul. Furthermore, one of the brainstorming sessions in the conference was dedicated to the question of "How the South-South Cooperation could be improved in P/CVE".

Secretariat also attended the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo 2016 on 31 October-3 November 2016 in Dubai.

The Secretariat contributed to the preparation of the UNOSSSC Report on "South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States" where the Turkic Council is referred to as one of the key regional actors contributing to the expansion of the South-South and triangular cooperation. Furthermore, upon the proposal of the UNOSSSC, the Turkic Council-UNOSSSC Joint Report entitled "South-South in Action: How the Turkic Council Uses South-South Cooperation to Promote Regional and Global Development" was prepared by an independent author. The report was launched on 25 September 2017 in New York on the margins of 72nd Session of UNGA with the attendance of Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative of UN Alliance of Civilizations, Cihan Sultanoğlu, Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Assistant Administrator, Deputy Permanent Representatives and Representatives of the Turkic Council Member States to the UN, Consul General of Turkey as well as representatives of other countries' missions to UN and officials of the UN entities. The report presented a true summary of the efforts that the Council carries out through the lenses of South-South cooperation and constituted a nutshell of the Turkic Council's efforts for the achievement of the SDGs putting a special emphasis on SDGs number 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17.

The Secretariat was among the implementing partners of the Global South-South Development (GSSD) EXPO 2017 organized by the UNOSSSC and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Turkey on 27-30 November 2017 in Antalya. The Secretariat actively participated in the preparation and realization process of the said EXPO that was attended by more than 800 participants from over 120 UN Member States. Secretary General Hasan delivered a speech on 27 November 2017 in Antalya at the high level opening ceremony of the EXPO. At his speech, he expressed that the Turkic Council is privileged to take one of the implementing partners of this global event while underlining the firm commitment of the Council to work with UNOSSSC in promoting and implementing South-South Cooperation in the region. In their keynote speeches, both Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Foreign Minister of Turkey and Director of UNOSSSC and Envoy of UN Secretary General on South-South Cooperation Jorge Chediek expressed their appreciation to the Turkic Council for its valuable support in the realization of the EXPO 2017.

Following the opening ceremony, the speakers opened the exhibition and made a tour in the exhibition area where the Turkic Council took place with its booth, and the photo exhibition on the Silk Road heritage of its Member States.

In the framework of the GSSD EXPO 2017, the Secretariat co-organized the High Level Round Table entitled “City Experiences on South-South Cooperation in Tourism for Sustainable Development” with UNOSSC, Silk Road Cities Alliance and China International for Economic and Technical Exchanges on 30 November 2017 in Antalya. Meanwhile it also organized the Solution Forum entitled “Good Practices of South-South Cooperation for Implementation of SDGs: Development Through Transformation” on 28 November 2017 in Antalya, in partnership with the UNDP. It was also represented at the Directors General Forum within the GSSD EXPO 2017. At the end of the Forum, the UNOSSC presented the GSSD 2017 Appreciation Award to the Turkic Council for its contribution to the successful realization of this global event. Former Secretary General Hasanov also participated in the opening ceremony of the UNOSSC 3rd Regional Networking Forum dedicated to the theme “Scaling up Southern Development Solutions through Advanced Youth Leadership” organized on 26 November 2017 in Antalya prior to the GSSD EXPO 2017.

Upon the invitation of the UNOSSC, the Secretariat participated in the training on "UN Catalytic Support to South-South & Triangular Cooperation in Implementing the Agenda 2030, organized by the United Nations System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable in 17-19 October 2018 in Bonn, Germany.

The Secretary General Baghdad Amreyev delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Silk Road Mayor’s Meeting on South-South Cooperation in Smart Green Cities and Tourism held during the World Green Economy Summit 2018 which organized jointly by UNOSSC, the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) and the Maritime Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance (MCSR-CA) on 25 October 2018 in Dubai, UAE.

On 30 November 2018, Turkic Council Secretariat took part at the 4th session of the UNOSSC High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation towards BAPA+40: The Role of Practitioners in Scaling Up the Impact of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It was underlined that the Turkic Council has built a platform for South-South Cooperation that facilitates the fostering of knowledge and experience sharing among its members. The Turkic Council is taking an active role in raising awareness on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the region as well as globally. It serves as a matchmaker and supporter in the development of its Member States.

Turkic Council Secretariat also contributed to the UNOSSC Publication “South-South in Action on Peace and Development”, which is presented at BAPA+40 Side Event: South-South Cooperation on Peace and Development at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos-Aires, Argentina on 19 March 2019.

The Turkic Council is listed as a partner organization to this publication and one of the case studies is about the Turkic Council’s Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program entitled as “South-South Cooperation and Diplomacy: Junior Diplomats Training Program (JDTP) in Chapter II.



Official relations between the Turkic Council and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) started with the signing of the MoU on 20 October 2016 in Istanbul on the occasion of the international conference titled the “Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE): Holistic Approaches From Education to De-radicalization” in 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul with a larger participation across the world. The Conference, co-organized by the Turkic Council and the UNAOC, aimed at raising awareness on the role that youth can play in addressing violent extremism and radicalization and gathered more than 300 young people and experts from 40 countries from Africa to Asia as well as credible international organizations.

Upon further contacts between the Secretary General of the Turkic Council and the High Representative for the UNAOC and based on the decisions taken at the international conference jointly organized in Istanbul in 2016, a Youth Dialogue Exchange Program was conducted in Istanbul in December 2017 where the youth affiliated to the UNAOC and the Turkic Council were brought together to exchange views and experiences on the projects and activities they are conducting, as well as to discuss issues relating to youth empowerment.

Within the framework of the official visit to New York on the occasion of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Turkic Council Secretary General held a meeting with the High Representative for the UNAOC on 27 September 2019 where both sides reassured their readiness for the continuation of the official relations between the two organizations based on the MoU signed in 2016. The Secretariat reaffirmed the continuation of its ongoing close cooperation with the UNAOC on youth empowerment projects.

Upon the invitation of the Secretary General Al-Nasser, Secretary General Amreyev addressed at the UNAOC Group of Friends Ministerial meeting dedicated to the title “Building Bridges: Using Soft Power to Promote a Culture of Peace” held on 28 September 2019 in the UN General Assembly. In his speech, he touched upon the general process of global dialogue among civilizations, the role of UNAOC in intercultural and inter-faith dialogue, as well as Turkic Council’s ongoing cooperation with the UNAOC and its potential to promote the culture of peace in its region. The Ministerial meeting, which was attended by 31 countries and 5 international organizations, has served as the first occasion where the Secretary General of the Turkic Council has addressed at the UN Headquarters. Mr. Al-Nasser also praised the ongoing cooperation between the two organizations.

Secretary General was invited to the 8th Global Forum of the UNAOC held in New York on 19-20 November 2018 dedicated to theme of Commit2Dialogue: Partnerships for Prevention and Sustaining Peace.



UNWTO and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 26 June 2015 in Madrid. The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration in advancing tourism as a key driver of socio-economic growth and inclusive development.

The MoU enhanced the cooperation between UNWTO and the Turkic Council in areas such as cultural tourism, including the development of the Silk Road, as a means to increase the competitiveness and diversification of the sector in the Member States of both Organizations.

With the signing of the MoU between the two organizations, a joint and staunch step had taken to contribute to developing the tourism sector along the traditional Silk Road, and that the Turkic Council organizing joint events with the UNWTO to further this cooperation". The Turkic Council is working hard to finalize the Turkic Council-Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package which will provide a unique opportunity for curious travellers.



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Interaction between the Turkic Council and the OSCE that was started in 2011 continued in an intensive way from 2014 onwards. Through its growing institutional relations with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Turkic Council generating added value to the development and prosperity of Eurasia.

The Secretariat of the Turkic Council was represented at the OSCE Ministerial Council meetings in Belgrade in 2015, in Hamburg in 2016, in Vienna in 2017, in Milan in 2018 and in Bratislava in 2019. During these meetings, the common practice according to which the Member State assuming the Turkic Council Chairman-in-Office voices the joint expectations to further enhance the relations between the Council and the OSCE continued.

On the margins of his visit to Vienna to address the OSCE Permanent Council, upon the invitation of OSCE Serbian Chairmanship, Former Secretary General of Turkic Council met with Lamberto Zannier, then OSCE Secretary General on 21 July 2015 at the OSCE Headquarters. Moreover, the Secretary General of Turkic Council addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 23 July 2015. In his address, noting that 2015 marks the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, he underlined his firm belief that there is room to develop collaboration in all three dimensions of the OSCE between the two organizations and highlighted that such a development would be beneficial for the entire OSCE geography.

The Secretariat also attended the OSCE Asian Conference on the Changing Global Security Environment and Visions of Multilateral Security Co-operation in Asia held on 1-2 June 2015 in Seoul. The Secretariat also participated in "OSCE Security Days" focusing on migration and security held on 4 March 2016 at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

As a sign of solid cooperation between the two organizations, the youth representative and an expert of the OSCE participated in the international conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, co-organized by the Turkic Council and the UNAOC. The said event also contributed to "the OSCE United in Countering Extremism" campaign.

The Secretariat attended the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference on Strengthening Comprehensive Security on 6-7 June 2016 in Bangkok; the OSCE Security Days focusing on migration and security on 4 March 2016 in Rome; and the OSCE business conference Connectivity for Commerce and Investment on 18-19 May 2016 in Berlin. Furthermore, Anna-Katharina Deininger, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security participated in the GSSD EXPO 2017 held on 27-30 November 2017 in Antalya as the guest of the Turkic Council.



The Turkic Council has established close relations with the Economic Cooperation Organization since 2012.

At the ECO Summit held on 16th October 2012, in the Summit Declaration, the Heads of State “welcomed the endorsement by the Council the observer status to Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States.[...]”. Observer /Dialogue Partnership status was granted to the Turkic Council for an initial period of 3 years, which is renewed every 3-year periods.

The Turkic Council actively participates ever since in the Regional Planning Council (RPC) and relevant meetings at the level of Ministers upon invitation from the ECO Secretariat. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ECO and the Turkic Council was signed on 23rd September 2014 in New York enabling deeper relations between two organizations. Furthermore, the two organizations currently exchange views on a work plan for the materialization of the principles enshrined in the said MoU.

At the 23rd Council of Ministers Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization hosted by the Republic of Tajikistan on 16-17 April 2018 in Dushanbe, the Council of Ministers approved the renewal of the observer status of the Turkic Council for the second time to the Economic Cooperation Organization.

It should be noted that the ECO, where all Member States of the Turkic Council are also members, is the only organisation that the Turkic Council has observer status so far.

The two organizations individually work on areas such as economy, transportation, tourism, customs, and education yielding positive results for regional development. There is ample room to work on joint projects in boosting cooperation in the region. In this regard, the current observer status of the Turkic Council to the ECO provides both sides with the opportunity to exchange views on the issues of mutual interest and act together with the view to contributing in regional development.

On the other hand, continuing to participate in the ECO meetings will further enable the Turkic Council to interact with other players in the region, while being instrumental in informing at length the international community of its vision and mission as well as its projects and activities based on the principles of comprehensive and inclusive regional cooperation.

Most recently, Secretary General of the Turkic Council Baghdad Amreyev and President of ECO CCI Azarakhsh Hafizi signed the MoU on cooperation between the Turkic Business Council and ECO CCI on the margins of the 25th Executive Committee Meeting of the ECO CCI. The MoU aims at enhancing cooperation between both organizations and identifying areas of mutual interest with a view to promoting close cooperation, and consultation on matters of common concern in order to contribute to the economic and social development of the Turkic Council and ECO Member States, as well as establishing and maintaining effective, systematic consultation, cooperation, coordination and exchange of useful information between the Parties.

Establishing legal relationship with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has been one of the main focuses of the efforts undertaken by the Turkic Council in the field of international cooperation.



In the Final Communiqué of 13th Islamic Summit Conference, article 201 was devoted to the relationships between the two organizations in which the Conference “welcomed the establishment of cooperation between the Council and the OIC with a view to creating a legal relation in the future”.

The Turkic Council signed on 18 April 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), an affiliated organization of the OIC in Istanbul.

Furthermore, at the 43rd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers held on 18-19 October 2016 in Tashkent, a paragraph was added to the final resolution in which the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States “welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the OIC and the Council of Turkic Speaking States (CTSS) which will pave the way to obtain CTSS’ observer status in the OIC”.

Following the aforementioned OIC decisions, the MoU was finally signed by both Secretaries General on the margins of the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology held in Astana, on 10 September 2017. The stated MoU is a further step paving the way for strengthening the existing cooperation between the two organizations with concrete projects.

The Turkic Council has initiated to acquire observer status in the OIC and with the support of the Member States, which are concurrently the members of the OIC, expects to be granted with observer status in the upcoming period.

In addition, the Turkic Council is currently working on establishing a partnership with the Islamic Development Bank on specific regional projects of mutual interest.



World Customs Organization

The “Memorandum of Understanding between Turkic Council and World Customs Organization (WCO)” was signed by Secretaries General of these organizations on 17 February 2015 in Brussels. The signed MoU that targets to enhance regional cooperation in the field of customs affairs constitutes the legal basis to provide coordination and collaboration between the two organizations.

Secretary General of the WCO attended the 4th Meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations in July 2015 in Bishkek.

During the last 6th meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations held on 12 May 2017 in Antalya, the delegations approved the “Memorandum of Understanding among Member States of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on Cooperation in the Field of Customs Enforcement” and also welcomed the initialization of the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Trade Caravan Demonstration Tour aimed at promoting Central Transport Corridor passing through the territories of the Member States.

In accordance with MOU signed between Turkic Council and WCO, the experts from WCO were invited to the training programs on Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) as a lecturers organized in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic respectively in 2018 and 2019.



Turkic Council and the ICSS (International Centre for Sport Security), a not-for-profit organization striving to develop stronger international policies, strategic reforms and solutions to safeguard sport, signed a MoU in August 2015 in Istanbul.

ICSS and its youth-related branch, Save the Dream, participated at the Second World Nomad Games and produced a promotional film of the Games. The film broadcasted in major sport platforms, social media and TV channels, along with articles published in reputable magazines, has been instrumental in introducing our culture and traditions to the world. Similarly, Turkic Council and the ICSS co-organized a panel on the theme of “Sports as a Means to Prevent Violent Extremism” at the international conference on the “Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE)” co-hosted by the Turkic Council and UNAOC on in October 2016 in Istanbul.



Furthermore, Turkic Council has become a part of the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) in April 2016, a global initiative rallied in defense of the purity and integrity of sport, as a founding member. Turkic Council Secretary General was elected as the Vice Chairman of SIGA Council in the 8th SIGA General Assembly in 2018.

The Chairman of the SIGA Council is the internationally-recognized politician, Franco Frattini, who served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Vice-President of the European Commission.



The Turkic Council also has been in close contact with the World Health Organization (WHO) since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The Turkic Council is the first international organization to hold a Summit on COVID-19 pandemic at the level of Heads of States on the global scale. At the Summit, the Heads of States put a special emphasis on the need of a close cooperation between the Turkic Council and WHO.

Director General of WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus delivered a speech at the Extraordinary Video Summit of the Turkic Council held on 10 April 2020. WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr. Hans Kluge also delivered speeches at the Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the Turkic Council on 28 April 2020 and at 4th Meeting of the Health Scientific Group of the Turkic Council on 30 October 2020.

Turkic Council in its turn for the first time participated as a partner at the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on 14 September 2020 and the Secretary General delivered a statement emphasizing support to the proposal of WHO European Regional Office to unite efforts of regional multilateral institutions and mechanisms around health as one of the key objectives of the European Programme of Work (2020–2025) – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”.

The Secretary General and WHO Regional Director with the aim of putting the relations between the two organizations into an institutionalized framework and establishing the legal basis for future engagements signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 11 September 2020.

To discuss the cooperation opportunities, as well as to develop an Action Plan between the Turkic Council and WHO on the basis of the MOU signed between the two organizations, the Secretary General visited the Regional Office for Europe of WHO in Copenhagen on 30 November-1 December 2020.

The parties reaffirmed their determination and solidarity in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic as well as in implementation of the MOU and European Program of Work for 2020–2025.

They also agreed to organize online training programs for health professionals, to accelerate implementation of the International Health Regulation (2005), to improve high vaccination coverage, conduct capacity building for data and health information systems, strengthen digital health in primary health as well as together with the WHO Representatives in the Member and Observer States's capitals to start procedures of designating new WHO Collaboration Centers.

As a result of the close cooperation between the two organizations, Prof. Dr. Emine Alp Meşe, Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Turkey and the Chair of the Turkic Council Health Scientific Group also contributes to the work of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development as the representative of the Turkic Council.

The Parties currently working on finalizing the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the MOU and planning to start putting it into practice at the beginning of April of 2021.

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN AND THE TURKIC COUNCIL



Azerbaijan as being one of the 4 founding members of the CCTSS and active member closely cooperates with the organization.

In June 2013 the “First Turkic Council Diaspora Forum” was held in Baku. More than 600 representatives from over 50 countries including heads of relevant state agencies and diaspora organizations participated in the event. The Forum was the first of its kind for gathering together the Turkic Speaking Diaspora organizations across the world and the diaspora institutions of the Member

States in one activity. At the Forum Member States adopted “Common action strategy of diaspora organizations of Turkic States” and “Baku Declaration”.

Seen as key to effective and increased economic and trade cooperation among the Member States, transport and customs cooperation are given a special emphasis. The First meeting of Ministers of Transport of CCTSS Member States was held in Baku on July, 2013. Efforts center on phasing out the existing impediments before efficient transport operations and developing a stable, integrated and seamless transport along the Central Transport Corridor passing through the Member States. Boosting relations among the Sea Ports of Caspian and Black Sea, increasing multimodal transport potential in the region, and regularizing Caspian crossings are high on the agenda of transport and customs discussions among the Member States.

At Gabala Summit a decision to establish Working group on tourism was made and the First meeting of the group was held on 10 December 2013. Following the instructions of the Heads of State a joint photo exhibition was organized in the framework of 13th Azerbaijan International Travel & Tourism Fair on 3-5 April 2014 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

During the chairmanship of Azerbaijan and at the Second meeting of the Ministers of Education held on 22 November 2013 in Eskişehir, projects like Movlana Student Exchange Program, preparation of joint history books by the Turkic Academy, launching cooperation in the field of technical and professional education, teaching languages of Member States at the Universities and Education Institutions, establishment of Turkic University Union and etc. were discussed and relevant decisions were adopted.

In all Declarations adopted by Heads of States during the Summits of CCTSS reflects the following paragraph on Azerbaijan: “reiterate the importance of the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan”.

During the Baku Summit held in October 2019, the Republic of Azerbaijan took over the Chairmanship from the Kyrgyz Republic until the next Summit to be held in Turkey.

The Summit was dedicated to the theme of “Supporting the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)”. The Heads of State of Member States signed the Baku Declaration of the 7th Summit of the Turkic Council and several decisions, as well as adopted a Joint Statement on the accession of Uzbekistan to the Turkic Council as a full member.

The Baku Summit coincided with 10th Anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement founding the Turkic Council.

In spite of pandemic the Extraordinary Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Turkic Council convened on 6 February 2020 in Baku. The Ministers discussed the current agenda of the Turkic Council; particularly increasing cooperation opportunities among the Member States in various areas, developing relations with partner countries and international organizations, empowering the Organization, operationalization of its Representation Office in Budapest and reinforcing administrative capacity of the Secretariat.

On 9 February 2020 the Turkic Council Observation Mission monitored the elections at various polling stations in Baku and Mingachevir and submitted its report to the Member States and relevant International Organizations in the aftermath of the Parliamentary Elections.

On 10 April 2020 the Heads of State of the Turkic Council held an Extraordinary Summit through video-conference on the theme of “Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic”. The Summit was initiated by the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the Extraordinary Summit, the leaders emphasized their determination for the implementation and expansion of cooperation within the framework of the Turkic Council in the fight against the pandemic and for overcoming its consequences on the basis of the strong will that will further strengthen the solidarity among the Turkic Speaking peoples. They called upon making assessment on the need for further supply of essential laboratory equipment and life supporting medical equipment, as well as sharing best practices, assisting each other on substantive subjects regarding the pandemic. They reaffirmed the importance of taking necessary measures to ensure the sustainability of trade, economic relations and transport among the Member States during the pandemic, including through facilitated passage of the freight vehicles on the borders and exchange of information on emerging problems in this field. They also touched upon the importance of providing support and assistance to the citizens who remained in the territories of the Member States and could not cross the border due to the travel restrictions as a result of the pandemic, including upon the visa facilitation without any sanction.

Expressing their readiness to cooperate with the international community, the leaders supported all efforts and mechanisms within the United Nations which are directed at addressing the globally harsh consequences of the pandemic, highlighted the role of the World Health Organization in increasing the effectiveness of the fight against the pandemic, coordinating and strengthening the international efforts in this direction.

On 27 September 2020 the Secretary General of the Turkic Council Baghdad Amreyev expressed his deep concern on the military confrontation in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Secretary General visited the Azerbaijan city of Ganja on 20 October 2020, which came under artillery and rocket fire by Armenia during escalation of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

On 18-19 January 2021 the delegation of Turkic cooperation organizations visited Aghdam and Fuzuli regions of Azerbaijan.

During the Chairmanship of the Republic of Azerbaijan the Informal Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States was held via videoconference on the theme of “Turkistan – A Spiritual Capital of the Turkic World” on 31 March 2021. The Heads of States proclaimed the city of Turkistan as a Spiritual Capital of the Turkic World and agreed that other prominent ancient cities of the Turkic World might be accorded with similar statuses on a rotating basis in the future.

On 10 April 2021 the 3rd Meeting of the Ministers and High Officials in charge of Information and Media of the Turkic Council was held in Baku. As a result of the meeting the Parties approved the “Action Plan for 2021-2022” and agreed to establish a Media Coordination Committee of the Turkic Council consisting of the high-level representatives of the Member States to coordinate and supervise the implementation of the relevant instructions of the Heads of States, decisions of the Ministers and Action Plan for 2021-2022.

They also agreed to maximize the potential of the established Joint FTP Pool, increasing joint production of video films, serials, video materials on the common history and culture of the Member States, as well as organizing the exchange programs and training courses for media experts.

Azerbaijan also closely cooperates with related and affiliated organizations and institutions of the CCTSS - TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, Turkic Business Council - and plays an active role in enhancement of cooperation in the fields of science, education, culture and art, promotion of common values of Turkic world in international level.

The TURKPA Secretariat and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation are located in Baku and have the status of international organizations. On September 29, 2009, the 1st plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA) was held in Baku.

ARTICLES



Growing Influence of the Turkic Council during Azerbaijani Chairmanship

*Baghdad Amreyev**

The area once known as the Soviet Union became home to 15 sovereign states in 1991. Five distinguished Turkic countries - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - gained their independence and

started to develop and integrate at the regional level and beyond. Turkey became one of the main partners of post-Soviet Turkic countries and the first to recognise their independence. Cooperation between the Turkic speaking countries evolved slowly, but steadily and in 2009, upon the initiative of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, the Nakhchivan Agreement was signed by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey in the ancient Nakhchivan city of Azerbaijan, laying the foundation of the Turkic Council.

Adhering to the norms and principles of international law, the Agreement envisions deepening the cooperation among its member states, as well as contributing to peace and stability in the region and the world.

Beyond a doubt, the creation of the Turkic Council paved the way for discussing matters of concern for the Turkic-speaking States. Given their dynamic and complex environment, building confidence, establishing friendly neighborly relations, and developing common positions on foreign policy issues constitute the Member States' underlying principles; maintaining peace and security, fostering bilateral ties, and promoting common understanding on issues of common concern are vital for successful integration of Member States.

Seventh Summit

The 7th Summit of the Turkic Council graciously hosted by Azerbaijan on 15 October 2019 was exceptional because it celebrated not only a historical milestone, but also a decade of success for the Member States under the Turkic Council umbrella.

During the past 10 years, the Council has been relentlessly pursuing activities to benefit its Member States and transforming their long-standing cultural ties into strategic, systematic and sustainable cooperation in the political, economic, trade, customs, information and communication technology, transportation, tourism, education, youth, sports and other fields. To that avail, more than 70 ministerial and 170 expert-level meetings have been chaired, over 35 conferences, forums and vocational training programmes have been organized, and several regional youth camps and international festivals have been planned and hosted.

* Secretary General of the Turkic Council

Since its foundation, the Turkic Council has established a growing presence and influence in various areas; the Council is taking a firm stance on many issues affecting its members, boosting its international image by projecting the common voice of its Member States.

In the political field, the Turkic Council realized its first enlargement process with the accession of Uzbekistan as a Member State in 2019 at the 7th Summit in Azerbaijan. Uzbekistan's membership to the organization has been the logical result of regularly held constructive dialogue, which has become a tradition in recent years, giving new impetus to the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations among the Member States of the Turkic Council.

Turkic Council's cooperation with Hungary, which has enjoyed observer status since the 2018 Cholpon-Ata Summit, has been strengthened, and this year the European Office of the Turkic Council in Budapest became fully operational. The Office represents an institutional presence of the Turkic world in Europe aiming to develop strong ties with Hungary and other European countries and institutions, and to advance the interests of the Turkic Council countries in the field of economy, business, investments, education, tourism and culture, among others. The Council will as well establish beneficial relations with the EU, particularly with the Eastern Partnership; a special focus will be made on the collaboration with OSCE and the Visegrad Group.

Since 2019, considerable progress has been made in the Council's relations with Turkmenistan, a brotherly nation seeking an associated membership status in the Turkic Council. H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the President of Turkmenistan participated at the Extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council on 10 April 2020 on the topic of "Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic".

Additionally, a significant number of other countries have also expressed their interest in obtaining observer status, among them South Korea, Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Mongolia and Lebanon. As such, the geographic boundaries of the Turkic Council are expanding, while the potential for greater cooperation among the member and observer states is increasing, highlighting the role of the organization as a respected partner in regional cooperation.

On a larger scale, the Council aims to build stronger consensus in foreign policy among its Member States and to ensure a higher level of mutual support on the global political scene. In the Declaration of the Baku Summit, the Turkic Council supported Turkey's military Peace Spring operation and called for the continuation of the dialogue in the framework of the "Astana Process" for a lasting political settlement in Syria.

Heads of State also reiterated the strongest support for the soonest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as expressed solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people in their aspirations to a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

Expressing its common stance towards regional challenges affecting the interests of its members and beyond, the Council has also issued joint statements on matters concerning Egypt, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and has condemned the 'armenian genocide' allegations against Ankara,

Deepening economic cooperation among the Member States has been the *raison d'être* of the Turkic Council since its establishment. The 7th Summit was therefore dedicated to “Supporting Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) of the Member States”. Concurrently, the Council has organized a Business Forum on the margins of the Summit.

At the Summit, the Heads of State adopted decisions for deeper economic integration among the Turkic Speaking States. The Honorary Chairman of the Turkic Council, and the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev also proposed drafting of a strategic program called “Turkic World Vision- 2040” to highlight the long-term goals that will allow for deeper integration within the Turkic World. This strategic program will cover many areas, such as foreign policy and "soft power" policy, trade and transit, tourism and investments, energy and "green economy", small and medium business, culture and education, youth policy and healthcare, digitalization and artificial intelligence, among others, and outline ways to achieve those goals.

To implement the decisions of the Heads of State adopted at the 7th Summit, the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council hosted an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on 6 February 2020 in Baku, and instructed the Secretariat among others to prepare the “Turkic Council Strategy for 2020-2025” (Strategy 2025), a strategic document to lay the foundation for the long-term goals of the Turkic Council and its Member States. The Strategy 2025 will be reflected in the “Turkic World Vision - 2040” document, a vision to develop the political cohesion to act as one on a wide range of international issues, supporting a more dynamic cooperation under the umbrella of the Turkic Council, achieving trade integration, establishing a single Turkic investment space, realizing digital integration, upgrading transport and energy connectivity and enabling intra-regional mobility.

With Strategy 2025, the agenda of the Turkic Council is shifting towards a new level of cooperation that has clearer objectives and targets, is focused on areas that offer the greatest potential for joint action and has mechanisms to follow through on what has been agreed.

The Secretariat is committed to collaborate with the rotating Chairmanship of the Turkic Council and increase consultations with national authorities. The Secretariat will also continue to collaborate with all related and affiliated organizations – TurkPA, TURKSOY, International Turkic Academy and International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation to bring their activities in line with the Vision 2040 and to ensure the harmonization of their work plans making sure the existing resources and structures are used effectively.

Another significant initiative in the economic sphere is the establishment of the Turkic Investment Fund, which was initially suggested by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev during the 4th Turkic Council Summit in Bodrum with a view to enhance economic integration and support investment opportunities in Member States. The Secretariat has already organized a number of technical meetings. As such, a Concept paper defining the purpose, the scope of activities and the management structure, was concluded by the Parties.

In the Declaration of the 7th Summit, the Heads of State of the Turkic Council further supported this initiative, commended the efforts of the relevant bodies of the Member States and the Secretariat for establishing the Joint Investment Fund and instructed them to finalize the Concept Paper and other relevant documents for the operationalization of the Fund.

The Joint Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) was established by the Turkic Council last year, and currently, TCCI is an essential mechanism of economic cooperation carried out under the umbrella of the Turkic Council and assigned by the Council of Heads of State to develop sustainable business programs and projects to increase intra-trade figures among the Member States.

Within a short period, TCCI managed to organize large-scale Business Forums on 5 October 2019 in Tashkent and on 14 October 2019 in Baku with the participation of government officials as well as more than 1000 businessmen and organized b2b meetings in more than 30 sectors. Business Forums in Hungary and Kyrgyzstan are also planned for the upcoming period.

In respect to information and communication technologies (ICT) field, a large number of new programs and activities are in the works, mainly related to cyber security, the fortification of fiber optic infrastructure in the region, e-government and the implementation of satellite services.

In the field of tourism, the Turkic Council plays the role of facilitator and develops projects to support the Member States, such as the Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Project, the Training Programs, the Silk Road Visa, the Gastronomy Festival and the Tourism Capitals Initiative.

In the field of education, the Turkic Council develops and implements special programs and has ambitious projects, such as exchange programs for the secondary/high schools students, an Exchange Program for educational professionals, the Sister School Project, the Turkic University Union (TURKUNIB), the Turkic University Union Student Council, Orkhun Exchange Program, the Sports Games, the Cultural and Art Festival of the Turkic World, the Common Turkic History Textbook covering the period up to the 15th century, the Common Turkic Geography Textbook and the Common Turkic Literature Textbook.

In the field of youth and sports, the World Nomad Games (WNG) is planned to be popularized and developed with the support of the Turkic Speaking States in order to render the Games a world brand. To date, over 4,000 athletes from about 100 countries have participated in the WNG, for which there is a growing interest from all over the world.

1st Extraordinary Summit

At the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Turkic Council's 1st Extraordinary Summit, was held on 10 April 2020, on the theme of "Solidarity and Cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic".

The Summit was presided over by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the Chairman of the Turkic Council, and was attended by the H.E. Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Sooronbai Zheenbekov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Mr. Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary and Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The Heads of State adopted the Baku Declaration, which reflects the Member States' determination to expand the cooperation within the framework of the Turkic Council in the fight against the pandemic and mitigate its negative effect. Following the Summit, cooperation efforts have gained a new momentum in

the area of health, transport, economy, trade, customs, and migration under the auspices of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship and the Turkic Council Secretariat.

As stipulated in the adopted Baku Declaration, the Parties have agreed to establish a consultation and cooperation mechanism among their respective national crisis centres, which will include the close interaction among the Ministries of Health of the Member States, with the aim of sharing best practices and assisting each other on substantive subjects regarding the pandemic.

Based on these instructions, the Secretariat and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan have organized the 1st Video-Conference Meeting of the Ministers of Health of the Member and Observer States of the Turkic Council on 28 April 2020.

The Ministers of Health of the Members and Observer State Hungary discussed ways to implement the decisions made during the Extraordinary Summit and established a “Health Coordination Committee” headed by the Deputy Ministers of Health and, within it, a “Health Scientific Group” for the exchange of information and experience and best practices in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment of dangerous infections, monitoring, epidemiological studies and scientific researches and a “Supply Chain Group”, providing each other with needed pharmaceutical products and medical equipment.

In order to follow up the decisions of the Heads of State, the Council has been in close contact with the World Health Organization since the outbreak of the pandemic. For the first time the Turkic Council participated as a partner at the 70th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe. Before that event, on 11 September 2020, WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr. Kluge and I signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation with WHO, which establishes the legal basis for our future engagements.

Moreover, in collaboration with WHO, joint projects will be developed in the health field, such as providing training and technical assistance to the healthcare professionals, as well as introducing innovative technologies.

Most recently, the Ministers of Health of the Member and Observer States convened in Istanbul for the 4th Meeting of the Health Scientific Group, on 30 October 2020, and adopted the Joint Declaration, agreeing to upscale the health care capacities of the Turkic Council Member and Observer States to test, trace, quarantine and treat COVID-19 cases, while implementing comprehensive public health measures to save lives. They underscored the importance of maintaining the level of cooperation achieved, carrying it further with new concrete projects, as well as preparing the Turkic Council’s Pandemic Action Plan.

The Turkic Council is the first international organization on the global arena to hold a Summit on the COVID-19 pandemic at the level of Heads of State. The international community praised the coordination and engagement efforts of the Turkic Council, seeing it as an example of institutional collaboration that foster solidarity in the interest of all people.

In the fields of economy, trade and customs, ambitious goals have been identified for the post-pandemic period during the latest meeting of the Ministers of Economy and the Heads of Customs Administrations held on 6 May 2020, such as the preparation of an Action Plan to facilitate transit and customs procedures along the Middle Corridor, finalizing a common trade facilitation strategy paper among the Parties, ensuring food security, preparing a common list of essential goods traded between the member countries, establishing a green corridor for the uninterrupted flow of these essential goods, encouraging the use

of local currencies in trade, establishing cooperation among the Central Banks of the Member States, concluding trade agreements on services, investment and e-commerce among the Member States, concentrating on the digitalization of trade and contract farming. The Secretariat is entrusted to lead the coordination efforts among all relevant actors of the Member States, as well as the negotiation process and to develop feasible projects that will make these goals materialize.

The Secretariat also prepared the Concept Paper on establishing a “Turkic Trade House”. The first “Turkic Trade House” pilot project will take place in Baku. The establishing of the “Turkic Trade Houses” in our Member States will play a significant role in helping our countries to expand their trade volume, facilitates the export process and strengthen its position in each other’s markets. The expertise of Azerbaijan in this field will be of great benefit and it may very well be called the Azerbaijan Model in Trade Houses.

The Turkic Council has also partnered with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRI) for the preparation of a Research Paper called “Enhancing Economic Cooperation among Turkic Council Member Countries: Trade and Investment Complementarities and Opportunities”. The Research Paper is of significant importance because the figures, as well as the findings regarding complementarities of the Turkic Council’s members’ economies, and the current obstacles in trade and investment in the region, will be instrumental in terms of creating a road map for economic integration in the region and, in this sense, constitute an integral part of the “Turkic World Vision -2040”.

The Transport Ministers, at their meetings on 30 April 2020, also agreed to convene the “Transport Coordination Committee” of the Turkic Council at the level of Deputy Ministers as the “Task Force” to quickly resolve emerging issues and effectively coordinate the uninterrupted flow of food, medical products and humanitarian aid to maintain the supply chains, including the launch of a “green corridor” - an international fast-track transport line for essential goods. In this context, additional transit permits and driver visas will be issued while transit-pass fees will be reduced, in particular along the Trans-Caspian Corridor.

The Secretariat is also finalizing the draft “Agreement on the International Combined Freight Transport among the Member States of the Turkic Council”, as instructed by the Heads of State.

Furthermore, the Road Demonstration Tour is to be organized from China’s border to Istanbul or Europe, to demonstrate to the world the efficiency and viability of the Trans-Caspian Corridor. Unfortunately, this project is currently on hold due to the pandemic but will hopefully be organized in the coming year alongside the next Summit. It has the potential to draw wide media attention to the Corridor.

Facilitating transport operations on the Trans-Caspian corridor (like Ro-Ro prices, transit-pass fees) and eliminating administrative barriers (like quotas, additional permits, irregular Ro-Ro operations, visa issues, etc.) has been at the center of the transport cooperation efforts under the umbrella of the Turkic Council.

As a positive development in this respect, Ro-Ro prices between Baku and Aktau right after the video-conference meeting on 30 April decreased from 2100 USD to 1800 USD. Azerbaijan made a further reduction for the transit-pass fee required for certain types of goods relating to the ADR Convention (The European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road) of about 500 USD. Both bring down the logistic cost for the transport operation across the Trans-Caspian by 800 USD.

This is a key achievement in rendering the corridor as a viable option for the East-West trade movement. Last but not least, at the Video-conference Meeting of the Heads of the Migration Services and related authorities of the Member and Observer States, held on 7 May 2020, the Parties established a permanent Migration Coordination Group at the level of the Heads of Department, taking into account the considerable amount of citizens living in each other's territories. The Parties agreed to mutually facilitate the issuance of visas and residence permits for citizens who were strained in other Member States' territories and further expand the cooperation during, as well as after, the pandemic.

Turkic Council's position on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

The Turkic Council has always supported the position of Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in all the Summit Declarations signed by the Heads of State of the Member States.

As the Secretary-General of the Turkic Council, on behalf of the Turkic Council Member States, in my written Statements, I strongly condemned the artillery shelling by the Armenian Armed Forces of the densely populated territories of Tovuz region, along the state border between Azerbaijan and Armenia on 12-14 July 2020 and the latest acts of aggression of Armenia, which started on 27 September 2020.

In both statements, I reaffirmed the adherence of the Turkic Council to the norms and principles of international law, and reiterated the importance of the urgent settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Turkic Council has recalled the resolutions of the UN Security Council adopted in 1993, demanding an immediate, unconditional and full withdrawal of the armed forces of Armenia from all occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Upon the statement of the Turkic Council condemning the attacks of Armenia, in a letter addressed to me in the capacity of Secretary-General, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev expressed his contentment with the statement and the support offered by the Turkic Council. President Aliyev also sent letters to the Presidents of Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, expressing his gratitude for the solidarity and support given, and mentioning his appreciation for the role played by the Turkic Council in this process.

It is greatly appreciated that the unity in the decision-making process at the Turkic Council is highly regarded by President Ilham Aliyev as a great asset, as highlighted in one of his recent speeches.

During my visit to Hungary, on 28 September 2020, I also gave an interview to M1, the Hungarian National TV channel about the aggression of the Armenian Armed Forces and the need for the international community to condemn the heinous actions of Armenia.

In addition, on all our social networks accounts (Twitter and FB), we have condemned Armenia's arbitrary attacks by ballistic missiles on Ganja and Barda city and innocent civilians, which is against the international humanitarian law, and called on Armenia to stop attacking civilians and withdraw its occupying forces from the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On 19 October 2020, the Executive Board of the Turkic Council Youth Platform held a virtual meeting, where the latest military attacks of Armenia against Azerbaijan constituted the main topic of discussion. The Youth Platform Board condemned the flagrant violation of international humanitarian law by

Armenia through indiscriminate and arbitrary attacks on civilian targets in Azerbaijani territory and called on the international community to take necessary steps to stop the attacks on civilians by the Armenian Armed Forces.

I also travelled to the city of Ganja on 20 October of this year and made press statements on the issue, indicating that the Turkic Council, the Turkic Speaking States and the Turkic World, unconditionally support the legitimate right of Azerbaijan to liberate its occupied territories and underlined their position to stand by Azerbaijan in its battle for homeland. Moreover, I stressed that the Turkic Council strongly condemned the attacks targeting civilians in the city of Ganja and invited the international community to make efforts to stop the attacks of Armenia. The visit mentioned got wide coverage in the printed, online and social media and press of Azerbaijan.

Recently, on 2 November, the TCCI has organized an extraordinary meeting on the topic of “A new era of social and economic development of Azerbaijan”, aiming to provide members of TCCI countries with more complete and comprehensive information about the prospects for socio-economic development of Azerbaijani territories after liberation.

On the same day, President Ilham Aliyev received the delegation of TCCI headed by the Secretary General of the Turkic Council and said: “Given that Azerbaijan is currently waging a patriotic war, this meeting is of particular importance. We take this as a sign of support and solidarity, so thank you for that. This is an extraordinary meeting, and its main purpose is to provide moral support to our country. Since the first days of the war, we have felt the support of Turkey and other fraternal and friendly countries. As you know, the President of the Republic of Turkey, my dear brother provided us with first support and made very important statements. He said that Azerbaijan was not alone and that Turkey was with Azerbaijan. I am glad that the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States has supported us and made a very important statement. This is a manifestation of unity and solidarity among Turkic speaking countries”.

Later, President Aliyev tweeted in his official account: “Support by the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States is an embodiment of unity and solidarity among the Turkic speaking countries”.

As shown, the Turkic Council’s and the Member States’ response to both security and public health threats in 2020, demonstrate the Turkic World’s collaborative approach to global crises and its fast response to international calls. The increasing role of the united voice and regional solidarity to stand against the common threats strengthen the role of the Council as a major contributor to global peace and stability.

In conclusion, with the active Chairmanship-in-Office of our esteemed founding Member State, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the strong political will of the Heads of State of all our Member States and beyond, the work of building regional unity is becoming more forthright than ever before and the solidarity of our people is getting stronger day by day.

I will end with a thoughtful message a wise man once said: “If you want to go quickly go alone. If you want to go far, go together”.



Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States (TURKPA)

*Altynbek Mamaiusupov**

The Turkic world is an indispensable and significant part of the Eurasian region, as Turkic civilization has always been a center for the rapprochement of East and West, North and South. Despite various historical challenges, Turkic nations have always tried to maintain ties with each other aspired by common ethnic and cultural origin. Thus, the beginning of the 90-ies of the last century can be assessed as a new era for Turkic countries, when they started to develop mutual relations as independent and sovereign subjects of the international community. Back then, the Summits of the Presidents of Turkic Speaking States have been taking place on a regular basis and gave birth to the International Organization of Turkic Culture, TURKSOY in 1993 that became the very first institutional framework for Turkic cooperation platform.

In the course of time, the rapid development of the relations between Turkic Speaking States necessitated the establishment of full-fledged institutional mechanisms coordinating such growing multifaceted cooperation. Furthermore, the Turkic cooperation platform has moved forward robust concrete mechanisms followed by the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States, Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, International Turkic Academy and International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation. Thus, the Turkic cooperation platform featured an institutional complementarity by pursuing multilevel interaction amongst the countries. Meanwhile, the process of this institutionalization as a whole has systematically introduced the concept of “Turkic World” to the international political discourse amid other global conventional concepts.

The establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States, TURKPA, in 2008 was another milestone of the institutionalization of Turkic cooperation, as it brought together, for the first ever time, popularly elected representatives of Turkic states. Thus, on 21 November of the same year, Heads of the Parliaments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey signed the Istanbul Agreement that provided a basis for enhanced inter-parliamentary cooperation between Turkic Speaking States in various fields. After this landmark event, the member countries have been striving towards integration processes based on substantial and practical mechanisms of cooperation.

Over the last decade, the Parliamentary Assembly has become a successful format for parliamentary dialogue covering a wide range of areas. Cooperation under the TURKPA umbrella takes its shape within its four pillars – legal, economic, humanitarian and environmental. Moreover, engagement of heads of the parliaments in the Assembly’s activities facilitates a prompt decision-making process and a flexible approach to result-oriented collaboration.

As a young organization, the Assembly devoted its first decade to institutional improvements and, at the initial stage, parliamentarians have actively conducted rather an exchange of information and best practices in numerous fields of legal, economic, socio-cultural and environmental cooperation. This process enabled members of the Assembly to define precisely priority areas of cooperation in this

* Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States

framework and set forth initiatives to reinforce relationships in the areas of common interest. Moreover, the Assembly strives to use its potential in addressing common challenges, taking joint and more coordinated actions on the issues of mutual interest. Apart from common identity in terms of language, culture and values, the member countries have such commonalities as increasing economic capacities and dynamic population structure that provide a solid ground for enhanced cooperation based on concrete and lasting mechanisms.

In 2018 TURKPA celebrated its 10th anniversary that became a turning point in the Assembly's activities. The Eighth Plenary Session of TURKPA hosted by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in Izmir was marked by significant decisions that paved the way for a qualitatively new stage of inter-parliamentary cooperation under the TURKPA aegis. At this Plenary Session, parliamentarians of the member countries expressed their intention to further develop cooperation based on a long-term vision and new conceptual approach. In this regard, TURKPA adopted the Strategy Paper setting out main aspects related to the further institutional development of the organization and handling the aforementioned four pillars of its activities.

The Strategy Paper is focused on strengthening its institutional capacity to explore the potential of an integrated approach to the collaboration amongst the Turkic countries that implies the development of different tools and their application to various thematic areas. By its nature, TURKPA is urged to provide a legislative space for the initiatives and undertakings of Turkic cooperation that provides an unimpeded flow of capital, goods, services, people and ideas, as a part of integration processes. The fundamental parameter of such an approach is put in the elaboration of model legislation with the consolidation of efforts on the accumulation of expert potential. In this regard, the Assembly has initiated the elaboration of the first two model laws that were adopted by the Assembly at its last Ninth Plenary Session held in December 2019 in Baku.

The Strategy Paper identifies concrete directions of the four pillars of cooperation between the member countries. Thus, economic cooperation comprises intra- and inter-regional trade and investments, energy, transport, agriculture, information and communication technologies and e-governance. The social and humanitarian sphere includes such issues, as women and youth empowerment, science, education and migration. The environmental pillar is presented in the Paper within the context of addressing the issue of environmental sustainability reflected in the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and further Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Legal affairs cover the fields of local governance, rule of law and judicial cooperation.

In 2018 and 2019, the TURKPA Secretariat adopted action plans with the focus on the further development of practical and result-oriented cooperation. In this regard, the Assembly has started the work on improving its legal framework including also the adoption of the new Regulations on the TURKPA Election Observation that set out the rules and standards of election observation under the TURKPA aegis, as a constituent part of sui generis methodology of TURKPA on election observation.

2019 was marked by launching the initiatives on addressing the issues put on the Global Development Agenda and establishing relevant platforms. Thus, Milli Mejlis and TURKPA co-organized the International Conference of Women Parliamentarians titled "Role of Turkic World Women in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals". The participants held fruitful discussions and exchanged views on gender equality and women empowerment and adopted declaration. The second initiative set forth by

the Secretariat was the Meeting of Young Parliamentarians in Nur-Sultan organized jointly with the Parliament of Kazakhstan. The participants discussed the possibilities of forming a common concept of Turkic Speaking States on youth policy and adopted the outcome document.

Moreover, the Paper envisages the enhancement of interaction amongst the Turkic cooperation organizations also based on concrete framework mechanisms. In the context of international cooperation, the Paper emphasizes the visibility of the organization in the regional and global system of international relations. As mentioned in the Paper, the focus is given to the development of international cooperation on a multi-track basis and exploring opportunities to reach out to and constructively cooperate with leading international organizations. The second aspect of this process involves the interaction of the Turkic states within these international organizations that could imply the concept of “like-minded countries” established back then within the UN platform.

On account of the above mentioned, TURKPA has also actively developed its international cooperation that increased the visibility of the organization in the regional and global context. The significant development in this direction is the participation of TURKPA in the Meetings of Speakers of Eurasian Parliaments', as an inclusive platform of inter-parliamentary dialogue in the wider Eurasian region. Another priority for TURKPA's external cooperation is the development of efficient relationships with the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly and conducting deliberations on the possibilities of obtaining observer status in the OSCEPA.

The cooperation between the Turkic countries in many areas has yet to reach its actual potential stemming also from their increasing role at regional and global levels. At the background of ambiguous ongoing political and economic trends in the world, Turkic integration has the capability to contribute to sustainable peace and stability in the Eurasian region. Undoubtedly, shared values and principles of the member countries bolster a mutual confidence serving sincere and fruitful dialogue amongst the Turkic speaking states.

TURKPA, as the parliamentary dimension, is going through the conceptualisation and widening the scope of its activities. In general, Turkic cooperation institutions are currently entering a new stage in their development, when they seek to consolidate their efforts towards the formation of strategic vision in order to achieve greater efficiency in their cooperative measures. As it is seen, Turkic cooperation gives the assurances of the continued long-term viability both at regional and global levels. Despite the short period, Turkic countries have great achievements in developing close relationships in the organizational framework. Simultaneously, the countries are ready to offer a new outlook on cooperation mechanisms and make a substantial contribution to lasting international peace, security and sustainable development.



TURKSOY: the First Joint Organization of the Turkic World

*Prof. Dusen Kasseinov **

With the collapse of the USSR in 1991, the fate of Turkic peoples spread over a wide territory ranging from Altai mountains to the Balkans took a different turn. As they regained their independence and were released from the Soviet regime, Turkic republics became the symbol of the revival of their national identity as well as of the revelation of their rich cultural heritage which

was oppressed by the communist ideology for many years. Our peoples which gained their independence launched a movement of development in all fields of life to develop and strengthen their respective countries.

In this process of rapprochement of peoples and communities of the Turkic World, the maxim of Ismail Gaspyraly “Unity in Language, Ideas and Actions” played a pioneer role and they prepared themselves for the upcoming century by fostering their mutual cooperation and getting closer together. It is based on this aim that the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY) was established on July 12th, 1993 as the first organization of its kind gathering the Turkic World under its auspices in cultural terms and aiming at the “strengthening of ties of brotherhood and friendship among Turkic peoples sharing a common culture as well as at the worldwide promotion and transmission thereof to future generations”.

As such, TURKSOY was established in order to ensure cultural integration among Turkic peoples of Eurasia while fostering their mutual exchange of experiences in the fields of culture and art and strengthening their common cultural ties. Following political, economic and intersocietal contacts which started in 1992, the first presidential summit held in Ankara on October 31st, 1992 had paved the way towards a joint political will of Turkic republics regarding their mutual cooperation in all fields as well as their integration.

TURKSOY is a big organization established in order to foster the integration of the Turkic World based on common cultural values; hence, building solid bridges linking its past to its future, its Eastern part to its Western part. As such, it is an organization which aspires to explore and preserve the culture, art and literature produced by a great nation which since the Kokturks, has been flourishing with various branches of Turkic peoples spread on various territories of the Turkic World and referred to with various names.

Since its establishment in 1993 with its 6 founding member states and 8 member states with an observer status, TURKSOY has carried out countless events, academic meetings and congresses to pay tribute to the legacy of illustrious personalities of the Turkic World who left a great heritage behind them, consolidating this great nation’s soul with spiritual values and strengthening its mind with science and knowledge. With these events, TURKSOY has not only brought together artists of the Turkic World and introduced them to various peoples thereof but also published and broadcasted these events via printed and visual communication media”.

* Secretary General of TURKSOY

With the priority it set itself to put an end to the estrangement among Turkic peoples due to many years of isolation, TURKSOY introduced treasures of our rich cultural heritage such as Nevruz, Sabantoy, Manas, Farabi, Balasagun, Nevai, Nesimi, Fuzuli, Magtumguly, Tukay, Abay, Avezov, Kurmangazy, Aitmatov and many others to Turkic peoples and its young generations with various events it carried out and gave the opportunity to them to get acquainted with the legacy of illustrious personalities of Anatolia such as Yunus Emre, Mevlâna and Hacı Bektaş-ı Veli.

The situation of the Turkic World today clearly stands as a proof of the fact that decisions made in such a short period of time by an international organization established with such ambitious goals as those of TURKSOY were the right decisions leading towards the right direction. With the concrete realization of various valuable projects aiming at the future, this rapid evolution is the result of the trust in the International Organization of Turkic Culture and its ability to reach its goal as set in its mission statement. Of course, it goes without saying that the democratization process in the world and in Turkic republics which are member countries of TURKSOY as well as the growing welfare and the importance attached to national culture and steps taken towards its revival along with the increase in the number of Turkic international organizations established with similar goals have all been a strong contribution to the rapid rise of TURKSOY. As result of major steps it took towards its institutionalization, TURKSOY has become a diplomatic organization which carries out its activities in its own Headquarters in Ankara with an international staff entrusted by its member countries.

TURKSOY is the auspices of the cultural integration of Turkic peoples and functions as the UNESCO of the Turkic World, strengthening cultural ties and brotherhood among Turkic peoples and carrying out activities to introduce Turkic culture to the world. In line with a cooperation protocol signed by TURKSOY and UNESCO in 1996, TURKSOY is one of the most active supporters of initiatives such as the “sustaining of cultural diversity”, “the preservation of intangible cultural heritage” and the “rapprochement of cultures”.

Gathering 14 states and communities under its auspices and carrying out activities which reach beyond its member countries, TURKSOY has made it possible for Gagauz, Khakas, Tyva and Crimean Tatar peoples to introduce themselves on a global scale with Nevruz celebrations carried out by TURKSOY in UNESCO Headquarters in 2010 and in the United Nations General Assembly Hall in 2011. TURKSOY considers it as a humanitarian duty above all to preserve the culture of these rather small communities whose language and culture are threatened to disappear.

To carry out its activities, TURKSOY works in coordination with its kindred organizations such as the Turkic Council, the International Turkic Academy, TurkPa and the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and cooperates with international organizations and institutions which share the same principles and goals such as the United Nations (UN), UNESCO, the Council of Europe, ISESCO, IRCICA, and the International Foundation of CIS Countries for Humanitarian Cooperation. It would be appropriate to note that most of events and activities carried out worldwide regarding our common culture are being realized thanks to the efforts and with the contribution of TURKSOY.

Thriving to enlarge the network of its project partners on a global scale every day, TURKSOY signed a memorandum on behalf of six autonomous republics of the Russian Federation which are its member countries with an observer status and gather a population of nearly 20 million citizens of Turkic descent. Within this framework, TURKSOY regularly cooperates with these republics on the basis of a mutual agreement aiming at the development and strengthening of their cooperation in the fields of culture, art,

science and education. With this agreement, TURKSOY has played an important role in the development of cultural cooperation and mutual confidence between Turkey and the Russian Federation.

The Key Role of TURKSOY in Cultural Diplomacy

With its activities efficiently striving to strengthen cultural ties among its member countries and its efforts and determination to promote Turkic culture, TURKSOY is an organization of cultural cooperation which contributes to the process of the rapprochement of cultures. Thanks to its large-scale projects which gained particular impetus as of 2008, TURKSOY has made its cultural contribution to the entire Turkic World as well as to human civilization as a whole while further pursuing its activities to bring Turkic peoples together based on their very own cultural values. With these considerable efforts, TURKSOY has not only made an attempt to promote Turkic peoples' common cultural heritage but also introduced values of Turkic identity to representatives of all countries in the United Nations and succeeded in obtaining their standing ovations for our Turkic artists.

Up to now, TURKSOY has carried out manifold artistic events aiming at the worldwide promotion of Turkic culture in countries of Europe, the Balkans, the USA and islamic countries, thus, reaching beyond the borders of its member countries. The Koroglu Opera performed with the contribution of numerous artists from the Turkic World, Nevruz celebrations held in UNESCO Headquarters and the United Nations General Assembly Hall, the Yunus Emre Oratorio performed in the USA as well as large-scale projects such as the International Youth Chamber Orchestra, the International Youth Chamber Choir and the Orchestra of Traditional Instruments of TURKSOY established upon initiative of TURKSOY have helped introduce Turkic culture to the world and contributed to the rapprochement and further strengthening of ties among artists of the Turkic World.

While as of 2010, traditional events and activities of TURKSOY such as Nevruz celebrations which reflect the sophisticated system of Turkic peoples' national values and traditions as well as gatherings of painters and photographers of the Turkic World, opera days, academic meetings and publications gained impetus, TURKSOY also began carrying out large-scale artistic projects introducing Turkic culture, art and artists to amateurs of art such as the "International Koroglu Opera" performed with the contribution of 250 artists from 6 member countries of TURKSOY. Under the leadership of a new art director, this masterpiece by Uzeyir Hajibeyli, the legendary composer of Azerbaijan, was performed in four cities including Bishkek, Ankara and Baku, the capitals of TURKSOY member countries, and in the city of Almaty in Kazakhstan in September 2009.

A year later, in 2010, it was then performed at the closing event of the First International Opera Festival organized within the framework of events held in the European Capital of Culture in Istanbul. This Project which contributed to the revival of Koroglu, the common hero of the Turkic World and promoted Uzeyir Hajibeyli in the Turkic World was realized with the valuable contribution of 250 artists including musicians, choir singers, stage and costume designers, choreographers, as well as renowned soloists from TURKSOY member countries who all achieved a historical success with this event.

Following this project, TURKSOY launched the exchange of artists and repertoires among its member countries with the establishment of a new instance called, "The Board of Opera and Ballet Directors of TURKSOY Member Countries". This acclaimed initiative paved the way towards the establishment of similar joint initiatives in the fields of theater and cinema with meetings of Cinema Directors, Theater Directors and Sectoral Representatives of TURKSOY Member Countries regularly held every year. With activities we have carried out in the field of theater such as as the Theater Festival "Thousand Breaths,

One voice” organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey since 2008 and the “Theater Festival of Caspian Sea Countries” held in the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan since 2017, we have brought together many theater ensembles from member countries of TURKSOY.

Since 2008, mutual cooperation protocols were signed between TURKSOY and UNESCO, the Council of Europe, ISESCO, the International Foundation of the CIS for Humanitarian Cooperation, the International Council of Traditional Music (ICTM) and the International Society for Music Education (ISME), leading to joint projects being realized in cooperation with these organizations which carry out activities based on similar principles and aiming at similar goals. While in cooperation with the International Foundation of the CIS for Humanitarian Cooperation, TURKSOY published the “Encyclopedic Dictionary of Eurasian Turcologists” and held a photography exhibition featuring “Photos of the Turkic World” in the Headquarters of ISESCO in Rabat as well as a seminar entitled “The Use of New Technologies in the Classification of Archives” in Kazakhstan.

Later on, within the framework of joint activities aimed at the worldwide promotion of Turkic culture, cooperation agreements were signed with prestigious universities of member countries to carry out joint activities in the fields of education, science and culture. Hence, while university students of TURKSOY member countries pursued their studies in the afore-mentioned institutions of higher education with scholarships, wide-scope meetings such as “Dede Korkut – Turkic Legends From Past to Present” were held with the contribution of senior scholars for these students. Of course, the scope of activities carried out by TURKSOY is not restricted to its member countries. Indeed, painting and photography exhibitions held in Rabat (ISESCO Headquarters), Paris (UNESCO Headquarters), Strasburg, Cologne, Milan, Florence and various cities of the Balkans as well as concerts of TURKSOY in countries such as Austria, Japan, the USA, Argentina and South Korea stand as a tangible proof of the fact that activities carried out by TURKSOY reach beyond the borders of its member countries.

TURKSOY’s Celebrations of Nevruz, the Common Feast of Turkic Peoples

Nevruz is a spring celebration traditionally held by many peoples of the Northern Hemisphere in a large part of Eurasia. Upon initiative of TURKSOY member countries, this tradition is now celebrated worldwide. Besides the Ramadan Feast and the Aid-al-Adha, Nevruz is the only common feast celebrated by all Turkic peoples. As a matter of fact, it is celebrated not only by Turkic tribes and their kindred communities but also by communities living close to Turkic peoples in geographical terms. These celebrations which play an integrative role in Turkic social life are strengthening ties of mutual love and respect among people as well as their will to live together in solidarity with each other. Above all, they are the expression of traditions, customs and beliefs which are meaningful cultural values. In 2009, the Nevruz tradition was included in the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO upon submission of a joint file by Turkey, Iran, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and India. Upon initiative of Azerbaijan, March 21st was then declared International Day of Nevruz by the United Nations General Assembly on February 23rd, 2010¹.

Besides Nevruz celebrations it has been holding in Turkey and Turkic republics since 1995, TURKSOY has brought the joy of Nevruz to audiences worldwide with historical celebration events held in major venues and cities of the world including UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, Strasburg, in the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York, in Washington, Boston, London, Sarajevo, Mostar, Cetinje, Tiran,

¹ United Nations Document Index General Assembly Report, 2010.

In this Report, the United Nations General Assembly calls upon Nevruz celebrating countries and intergovernmental organizations such as UNESCO along with NGOs to cooperate with each other for the promotion and celebration of Nevruz.

Gostivar, Plovdiv, Sofia, Brussels, Berlin and Vienna. Hence, thanks to TURKSOY, colourful Nevruz celebrations depicting the abundance, livelihood, love, brotherhood, mutual sharing and peace brought about by the revival of nature with the arrival of the spring season reached out to the whole world.

Nevruz celebrations of TURKSOY which take place with the contribution of a higher number of artists and larger audiences every year are becoming a trademark of TURKSOY. Within the framework of its Nevruz celebrations held in cooperation with TIKa and the Yunus Emre Institute, TURKSOY held celebrations in Turkistan, the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World 2017 with the contribution of nearly 200 artists from 22 countries and in Kastamonu, the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World 2018 with the contribution of more than 350 artists from 18 countries and regions of the Turkic World.

All these events left undelible traces in the memories of their audiences. In 2017, TURKSOY celebrated Nevruz, one of the most important tradition of the Turkic World, in Turkistan, the homeland of Yassawi along with the declaration of the latter as Cultural Capital of the Turkic World together with young artists from Europe and Asia. In parallel to these celebrations, TURKSOY also held Nevruz celebrations in Romania (Bucharest and Constanta) and in Moldova (Komrat and Chisinau) in Europe and in Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek) as well in Kazakhstan (Almaty) in Asia, hence turning this spring celebration into a unique opportunity of mutual rapprochement among all Turkic peoples. Following the lighting of the Nevruz fire in Kastamonu in 2018, the joy of this spring celebration then reached out to 6 other countries where 16 concerts were held with the contribution of our artists.

Thanks to initiatives of cultural diplomacy undertaken by TURKSOY, “Nevruz” has become the symbol of the rapprochement of Turkic peoples and the trademark of the worldwide promotion of Turkic culture. With its publications on Nevruz as well as its activities carried out in its member countries and abroad since 1995, TURKSOY has not only helped overcome misperceptions regarding Nevruz but also revived this common celebration of the Turkic World and transformed it into a universal celebration addressing humanity as a whole.

Cultural Capitals of the Turkic World and Commemorative Years

Adopting a wide-scale approach to the notion of culture and following up activities carried out worldwide to foster cultural interaction within this framework, TURKSOY launched the declaration of commemorative years dedicated to illustrious personalities of the Turkic World who contributed to the enrichment of its culture, art and literature in 2010 and the annual declaration of one city of the Turkic World as its Cultural Capital in 2012.

Upon suggestion of TURKSOY at the 10th Summit of the Heads of States of Turkic Speaking States held in Istanbul on September 15th-16th, 2010, Astana, the Capital of Kazakhstan was declared Cultural Capital of the Turkic World in 2012. This title went over to Eskişehir (Turkey) in 2013, Kazan (Tatarstan, RF) in 2014, Merv (Turkmenistan) in 2015, Sheki (Azerbaijan) in 2016, Turkistan (Kazakhstan) in 2017, Kastamonu (Turkey) in 2018, Osh (Kyrgyzstan) in 2019 and Khiva (Uzbekistan) in 2020.

As an initiative which contributes to the enrichment of Turkic culture and art, the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World has today become a highly praised title which cities of the Turkic World compete with each other to obtain.

TURKSOY also invests considerable efforts in the commemoration of illustrious personalities of the Turkic World and the transmission of their legacy to future generations. As we all know, each and every

nation has its own illustrious personalities who entered history with their exceptional character. With its commemorative days, events and years dedicated to these personalities, TURKSOY has paid tribute to the memory of many of them in the past 27 years.

Hence, with various commemorative events it held in its member countries and beyond, TURKSOY introduced many of these personalities to the world such as the first female composer of the Turkic World Dina Nurpeyisova, the Kazak poet Kasym Amanjолоv, the Tatar poet Abdullah Tukay, the great author of Azerbaijan Mirza Fatali Ahundzade, the People's poet of Azerbaijan Ahmed Cevad, the Karachay Balkar People's poet Ismail Semenov, the Turkmen philosopher Magtumduly Pyragy, the first Khakas scholar Nikolay F. Katanov, the famous Kyrgyz author Chingis Aitmatov and the Turkish playwright, novelist and journalist Haldun Taner amongst others and paid tribute to them. In addition to this, TURKSOY also held many academic meetings and artistic events to promote scholars, intellectuals and artists who enriched Turkic culture and art with their works and commemorate them throughout the year. The first commemorative year declared by TURKSOY was dedicated to Zeki Velidi Togan in 2010. The following commemorative years were dedicated to Abdullah Tukay, Nikolay Katanov, Mirza Fethali Ahundzade, Mukan Tulebayev, Magtumduly Pyragy, Toktogul Satylganov, Haldun Taner, Simion Kadyshev, Yusuf Khas Hajip, Molla Panah Vagif, Chingis Aitmatov, Magjan Jumabay, the minstrel Ashik Veysel, Imadeddin Nesimi and Abai Kunanbaiev.

The opening events of commemorative years traditionally held in TURKSOY Headquarters took place in the presence of the Term Coordinator of TURKSOY and ministers of culture or senior officials of the related country and were broadcasted to the large public by the press media. The organization of similar events to commemorate these illustrious personalities in the Balkans and pay tribute to their works which enriched Turkic culture has of course contributed to introduce their legacy and claim ownership thereof in the entire Turkic World.

Art Ensembles of Turksoy Introduce the Culture of Turkic Peoples to the World

There are three different art ensembles which have been established upon initiative of TURKSOY. The first of these ensembles is the Youth Chamber Orchestra of TURKSOY which was established by the International Organization of Turkic Culture in 2010 with a view to introducing the culture, music and, composers of Turkic speaking peoples to the world through the universal language of classical music. The Youth Chamber Orchestra of TURKSOY which is composed of talented students from conservatories of TURKSOY member countries was established with the support of the Ministries of Culture of TURKSOY member countries as well as of Rectors of the Ankara State Conservatory of the Hacettepe University of the Republic of Turkey, the Kazak National University of Kurmangazy, the Kyrgyz National Conservatory, the State Conservatory of Uzbekistan, the State Conservatory of Kazan named after N. Jiganov, the Music Academy of Baku named after U. Hajibeyli and the Ufa State Academy named after Z. Ismagilov. Since its establishment, the Youth Chamber Orchestra of TURKSOY has given nearly 60 concerts in various cities of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, the United States of America, Germany, England, Italy, Scotland, France, Austria, Slovakia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia and Albania. With tens of concerts it gave on various continents worldwide, the Youth Chamber Orchestra of TURKSOY enchanted its audiences with its colourful performances of common melodies of the Turkic World. The ensemble which gave its first concert in Ankara, the capital of Turkey and in Istanbul within the framework of the 1st International Festival of Youth Chamber Orchestras in Istanbul in 2010, later took the scene at the Festival of Young Artists in the city of Bayreuth in Germany where it performed together with young talents from all around the world.

In 2011, the Youth Chamber Orchestra of TURKSOY which came together with a new repertoire dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, recorded its first album in the Studio of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra of Turkey under the leadership of the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY). Then, besides concerts it gave in various countries of America, Europe and Eurasia in 2012, the orchestra took the scene together with the Symphony Orchestra of TURKSOY in New York and Washington DC where it performed the Yunus Emre Oratorio. In 2013, the orchestra went on a tour organized by TURKSOY and gave concerts in various cities of Turkey with a fully new repertoire. Within the framework of this tour, the orchestra also recorded its second album dedicated to the 20th anniversary of TURKSOY.

The Youth Chamber Orchestra then took the scene with 10 concerts in Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Bosnia Herzegovina and Serbia where it once again enchanted its audience in 2017 and 2018. The most recent performances of Youth Chamber Orchestra of TURKSOY are its concert dedicated to the 25th anniversary of TURKSOY in the Headquarters of UNESCO in Paris, the capital of France as well as its performance in the Musikverein of Vienna, the capital of Austria which is one of the most famous concert venues in the world when it comes to Western classical music and, last but not least its performance in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. The orchestra which takes the scene together with world famous soloists under its young talented conductor from Azerbaijan, Maestro Mustafa Mehmandarov, is going on tour in various countries of the world every year.

The second ensemble established by TURKSOY to foster exchanges of repertoires, conductors and musicians among choirs of the Turkic World is its Youth Chamber Choir composed of talented young musicians selected among students of prestigious conservatories in Turkic republics. With concerts it gave and awards it won shortly after its establishment, the Youth Chamber Choir of TURKSOY composed of conservatory students from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Tatarstan (RF) has since then carried out many successful projects. The choir came together for the first time in Ankara in 2015 pursuant to the decision of the 32nd Term Meeting of the Permanent Council of Ministers of Culture of Turkic Speaking States aiming at the promotion of choir music among Turkic peoples and of Turkic peoples' music around the world. Within this framework, young artists who came together under the auspices of TURKSOY have reached considerable achievements in a short period of time thanks to masterclasses given by senior experts in the field of choir music. Under the leadership of its choirmasters, Mrs. Elnara Karimova, Choirmaster of the TRT Radio Choir and Mrs. Gulmira Kuttybadamova, Choirmaster of the Philharmonic Choir of Kazakhstan, the Youth Chamber Choir of TURKSOY reached its first achievement at the Second European Choir Games in Germany where it won three Gold Medals in 2015 and became a great source of pride for the Turkic World. In 2016, the Youth Chamber Choir of TURKSOY then took the scene in Bayreuth within the framework of the Festival of Young Artists.

This festival held with the contribution of choirs from various countries of the world has been a great experience for young artists of the Turkic World as it made it possible for them to exchange their knowledge and know-how in concerts they gave together in 10 different cities of Germany. At the end of the festival, the Youth Chamber Choir of TURKSOY took the scene as part of the Harmony International Choir gathering all participating choirs of the festival. The Youth Chamber Choir of TURKSOY which went on a tour in Kazakhstan and gave concerts dedicated to the 25th anniversary of TURKSOY in Karagandy, Pavlodar, Semey, Oskemen and Astana in 2018 is further pursuing its activities to introduce melodies of Turkic peoples to audiences worldwide.

The third ensemble established by TURKSOY is its Orchestra of Traditional Instruments which introduces ethnic and traditional music of Turkic peoples to the world. This Orchestra of TURKSOY which was established in 2016 features traditional instruments of the Turkic World such as the dombra, baglama, syrnai, sherter, kyl-kobyz, tar, kamancha, komuz, kyl-kyiak, quray, nay, qaval, mouth harp, morin huur, garmon, rubab, topshur, chatgan, doyra, jetigen and qanun. The Orchestra of Traditional Instruments of TURKSOY gave its first concert within the framework of Nevruz celebrations of TURKSOY held in Ankara, Istanbul, New York and Washington DC in March 2016. Later on in the same year, the orchestra then gave concerts dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and went on a tour to Kazakhstan (Taldykorgan, Almaty), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Turkey (Ankara, Istanbul, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya) and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (Kyreneia) in 2016. In 2017, the orchestra pursued its activities to promote traditional music of the Turkic World and gave concerts in Turkey (Edirne), Romania (Constanta and Bucharest) and Moldova (Cisinau and Komrat) within the framework of events to celebrate Turkistan, the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World. On the occasion of celebrations of the 25th anniversary of TURKSOY in 2018, the Orchestra of Traditional Instruments of TURKSOY then gave concerts in various cities of Turkey and Japan. Since its establishment, the Orchestra of Traditional Instruments of TURKSOY has been introducing traditional melodies of Turkic speaking countries, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and of autonomous republics of the Russian Federation namely, Altai, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Khakassia, Tyva, Sakha-Yakutia as well as Mongolia and Gagauzia (Moldova) to the world. The orchestra is composed of professional soloists, dancers and musicians of famous music and dance ensembles which are carrying out their activities in various countries of the Turkic World.

Artistic Gatherings and Academic Activities which Constitute the Cultural Memory of the Turkic World

The Painters' Gatherings of TURKSOY which have been carried out every year since 1997 have brought together 300 artists from 17 different countries until today, resulting in a unique art collection of TURKSOY featuring 1500 paintings. Within the 24 years elapsed since the first Painters' Gatherings of TURKSOY, paintings of this collection have been displayed in nearly 100 cities of 30 countries worldwide from New York to Tehran and Florence to Rabat, thus, introducing Turkic culture to amateurs of art from a different perspective. Within the framework of artistic gatherings it organizes every year, TURKSOY brings together members of different professions such as photographers, painters, sculptors, opera singers and poets along with architects, members of the press media, cinema directors and artists amongst others. Until today, these gatherings have brought together nearly 1500 artists and allowed members of one and the same profession from different countries of the Turkic World to exchange their views and experiences while taking part in joint activities. Within the framework of Opera Days which have been held under the auspices of TURKSOY until today, more than 35 concerts gathering nearly 350 artists have taken place.

Besides its artistic events, TURKSOY also contributes to academic activities. Apart from its publications, TURKSOY contributed to many academic events and activities since its establishment. These have gathered nearly 2000 scholars under its auspices to unveil, preserve and transmit the common heritage of Turkic peoples.

In line with its commitment to the exploration and transmission of the national history, mother tongue, literature, culture, art, traditions and customs of Turkic speaking peoples to future generations and pursuant to its activities aiming at the strengthening and encouragement of academic research exploring

the common history of peoples of the Turkic World as a whole while working towards the creation of favourable conditions regarding the use of a common language and alphabet, TURKSOY has published various works, carried out artistic events, international festivals, commemorative events and celebrations and held exhibitions, conferences, symposia and panels in order to strengthen our cultural ties of brotherhood and introduce our common culture to the world.

With successful projects it carried out, TURKSOY has become a joint artistic and cultural platform bringing together Turkic peoples. Today, traditional activities regularly carried out by TURKSOY are being followed-up with great interest by both amateurs of art as well as members of the press media.

Conclusion

On their way towards claiming their national identity and gaining recognition from the international community following their independence, Turkic republics adopted an approach privileging cultural development. In this process, Turkic republics experienced great achievements and major success stories in the field of culture. These above-mentioned multilateral cooperation platforms which are still under construction are steps taken towards the realization of prophecies and wishes as to the fact that the 21st century shall be a Turkic century. While political and economic relations among Turkic republics are taking shape within the framework of universal principles such as equality, mutual interest and non-interference in domestic affairs, the shared common culture constitutes the basis of cooperation in all fields.

With their history dating back to thousands of years, Turkic peoples are the heirs of a rich cultural heritage. This heritage which has grown richer and wider, influencing various nations and regions throughout ages, is of unequalled value when it comes to its contribution to world civilization. TURKSOY which carries out activities to promote and foster the beauty, originality and diversity of the rich Turkic culture is assuming an important role in the rise of Turkic civilization and its cooperation with other cultures. Hence, with multifaceted cultural and artistic projects it will continue to carry out, TURKSOY will further contribute to the process of cultural integration of Turkic Republics, as well as to the increase in economic and political ties among TURKSOY member countries which will, in turn, bring about the strengthening of cultural cooperation.



Role of the International Turkic Academy in Enhancement of Integration of the Turkic States

*Prof., D.H.Sc. Mr. Darkhan Kydyrali**

Introduction

The article highlights the activity of the International Turkic Academy, fostering the development of cooperation between the

Turkic-speaking states in science, education, culture and humanitarian sphere, as well as coordination of relations in these areas. It also acknowledges an important role of the Republic of Azerbaijan as one of the founding states in ITA activity, projects implemented with participation of Azerbaijan, as well as outlook for fostering the relations.

Scientific model of integration

Along with organizations such as Council for Cooperation of the Turkic-speaking States (CCTS), TURKPA (Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking States), TURKSOY, Foundation for International Turkic Culture and Heritage, International Turkic Academy plays an important role in the development of multi-faceted cooperation between the Turkic states and in enhancement of the international relations. One of the factors that closely connects the organization with Azerbaijan is its status as one of the founding states. Another important fact is that the decision to establish the Academy was taken on the ancient and indigenously Turkic land – in Nakhchivan. Organization of this historic Summit in Nakhchivan at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev, as well as the decision made to establish the Turkic Council and the Turkic Academy in that city was symbolic.

The Initiative to establish an organization that would foster the cooperation between the Turkic-speaking states in the sphere of science and culture, as well as the research of the rich cultural and historical heritage of the Turkic peoples, was voiced by the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev at IX Summit of Heads of the Turkic-speaking countries, held on 3 October 2009 in Nakhchivan. The Turkic Academy was established on 25 May 2010 in Astana (Nur-Sultan), the capital of Kazakhstan, and was temporarily placed within the structure of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan; however, on 23 August 2012 it obtained its international status during the II Summit of the Turkic Council in Bishkek.

Currently the full-fledged members and founders of the organization are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey; Hungary holds an observer's status. In 2019, during the VII Summit of the Turkic Council held in Baku the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev officially announced the intention of the country to become an ITA member.

The main goal of the International Turkic Academy is to study and research the ancient and contemporary history, language, literature and culture of the Turkic peoples, their contribution to human civilization, as well as coordination of the academic activity in the Turkic world. In line with this purpose the Academy renders assistance to scientific organizations of the Turkic peoples in the sphere of science and education, supports the initiatives of intellectual communities of the Turkic-speaking states and peoples, regularly organizes platforms, and implements the instructions of Heads of the States in this sphere.

* President of the International Turkic Academy

According to the rule of rotation, the International Turkic Academy is currently managed by the Republic of Kazakhstan. In January 2020 as per the decision of the III meeting of the Scientific Council of the organization held in Baku, the leadership position in the Scientific council for 2020 was transferred to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In 2015, during the V Summit of the Council for Cooperation of the Turkic Speaking States held in Kazakhstan, the Heads of States set a number of objectives for the International Turkic Academy that were successfully achieved.

In particular the electronic multimedia fund – “Atalar Mirası” portal (<http://atalarmirasi.org/>) was presented within a short period of time; it collecting the rich historic, material and spiritual heritage of the Turkic peoples. Currently it is available online in four languages. This fund contains samples of the rich heritage, related to written and spiritual-material culture of the Turkic peoples. The portal is being continuously improved and updated since 1 January 2018.

In addition to it, the “General Turkic history” program and textbook that covers the period up to XV century has been expanded; the textbook was already included into the curriculum of middle schools of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkey as an elective subject. There is an ongoing work on the program and concept of the textbook “Common Turkic history”, covering XV-XXI centuries. During this time the concepts for textbooks “Common Turkic Literature” and “Geography of the Turkic World” were elaborated, as well as the text for “Geography of the Turkic World” was written. The preparation process related to these activities is performed in accordance with the agreed schedule.

In order to perform the instructions of the Heads of States, the Turkic Academy had prepared the draft “Turkic integration concept”, which was approved during the VI Summit of Heads of States of the Turkic Council, held in September 2018 in Kyrgyz Republic.

Based on the priorities identified during the summit, the ITA had carried out quite a number of scientific events. In particular, in 2015 the international event “Dede Korkut’s Heritage and the Turkic World” was organized at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, as well as the academic conference on the “Synergy on the Silk Way and the 2030 Strategy” in 2016 in the UN headquarters in New York, the international forum “Spiritual renaissance and cultural heritage: Turkic language from the past into the future” in 2018 in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, and the international forum “The Great Steppe: Cultural Heritage and its Role in the World History” in 2019 in UNESCO.

At the same time, starting from 2016 ITA holds an annual International Forums of Humanities “The Great Steppe”. Hundreds of scientists and public figures participate in this forum; it has already drawn a significant response in academic circles and has transformed into an influential platform for the exchange of opinions in the sphere of humanities.

ITA has been extremely successful in the sphere of sociological research. 2017 has seen the first publication of the sociological baseline survey results carried out in six independent Turkic-speaking countries. It was presented in Astana (Nur-Sultan) at the end of 2017. The “Turkbarometer” project was implemented based on the experience of such significant projects as «Eurobarometer» carried out in the European Union, as well as “Afrobarometer” and “Latinobarometer” in other parts of the world. Main goal of the project is to make survey of the public opinion in the Turkic-speaking states in relation to economic and cultural aspects of the integration process. The following stages of project development include performance of these comparative sociological surveys twice a year.

Cooperation and analysis of the international experience is a priority for ITA

In order to develop scientific integration, ITA has established extensive relations with respectable international and scientific organizations – including influential structures such as UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), UNESCO, ISESCO, SESRIC, ECO (SF), COMSTECH (OIC), IRCICA. Currently ITA has signed up to 100 memorandums of cooperation with foreign scientific organizations. The Academy has obtained observer status in ISESCO, and has become a member of the Worldwide Union of Academies. Along with that, ITA has established cooperation with the National Academies of Sciences of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Japan, Tatarstan (RF), Bashkortostan (RF), Hungary, Mongolia, Russian Academy of sciences, Academy of social sciences of China, with leading universities and scientific centers of the USA.

ITA places strong emphasis on the cooperation with the Republic of Azerbaijan and its relations with this country has significantly broadened. The Academy has carried out an international conference dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Baku Turkologic congress. Materials of the Congress that rendered significant influence on the formation of the Turkic world and the development of Turkology were systematized and published in the form of a fundamental monograph.

In compliance with the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Ilham Aliyev, an international academic conference “Dede Korkut’s Heritage and the Turkic World” was organized in 2015 in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Archeological excavations that were carried out upon the initiative of the President Ilham Aliyev during that year revealed the most ancient sample of kopuz – a folk musical instrument of the Turkic peoples.

During the past several years ITA has organized over 40 international congresses and forums, up to 100 workshops and roundtables dedicated to anniversaries like the 1000th anniversary of Yusuf Khas Khajib, 850th anniversary of Khodja Akhmed Yasawi, 550th anniversary of Kazakh Khanate, 180th anniversary of Chokan Ualikhanov, 170th and 175th anniversaries of Abai, 150th anniversary of Alikhan Bokeikhanov, 130th anniversary of Gabdulla Tukai, 125th anniversary of Zaki Validi Togan, 90th anniversary of Baku Turkologic Congress, 125th anniversary of Magzhan Zhumabayev, 95th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, 80th anniversary of Chingiz Aitmatov, 100th anniversary of death of V. Radlov, 125th anniversary of decoding of the Turkic written artifacts by V. Tomsen, 100th anniversary of Azerbaijan People’s Republic, 650th anniversary of Imadeddin Nasimi, 1300th anniversary of Toniukuk monument, 1150th anniversary of Al-Farabi, 25th anniversary of Independence of the Turkic-speaking countries. These events were organized accordingly in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Russia, Hungary, USA, Mongolia, France and other countries.

Besides, the decision of the Ministers of the Foreign Affairs of the member states of the Turkic Council to assign ITA observer status to Hungary was approved in September 2018 in Bishkek. In December of the same year the state flag of Hungary was officially handed to the Academy. Up to date, quite a number of projects were performed in cooperation with the National academy of sciences of Hungary, a number of monographs were published. Besides Hungary, Mongolia has also expressed its willingness to obtain ITA observer status.

Currently the activity of the Academy raises international interest. Close relations has been established with the scientists and scientific organizations of European countries, Russia, China, USA, Japan, South Korea, India, Pakistan and other countries.

In 2015 ITA organized the I International archeological expedition, performing archeological excavation in Berel and Karakaba in the Altay Mountains. In 2016 ITA organized the II International exploration

expedition in Mongolia named «From Tengri-tau to Otuken: historical and cultural values of the peoples of the Great steppe». Within two years the archeological excavations were carried out twice in the ritual complex Shiveet-Ulaan in Otuken; the research showed that the structure of this complex can be dated back to approximately the period of 670-710. It was revealed that the complex of octagon structures was installed to honor the Turkic ruler Ilterish-kagan. Archeological excavation revealed new historic artifacts and scientific research of the “Bengu tash” monument was carried out; ITA had officially received a scientific patent for this research. Currently Mongolia considers the possibility establishing an outdoor museum in the Shiveet-Ulaan complex.

The III archeological expedition to homeland of Genghis Khan for the first time in the history of turkology was organized in August 2018. During “Kerulen scientific research expedition” that was carried out together with the National museum of Mongolia, the ITA research group has discovered new archeological artifacts that can shed some light on the general Turkic history in the valley of Kerulen river near Burkhan-Khaldun mountain. Currently the Academy continues archaeological works in the Kerulen river valley, in Khayaa and Gunburd regions.

The academy supported implementation of several scientific research projects related to languages that are under the threat of extinction. In addition specialized expeditions were organized. 2017 witnessed the publication of the 4-volume encyclopedia “Turkic Languages under the Threat of Extinction” that was prepared with the help of 130 well-regarded scientists from 26 countries.

The Academy also implements joint scientific research projects together with scientists from Uzbekistan. In May 2018 ITA has organized an international conference “The Role of Uzbek Language in the International Turkology and Prospects for Cooperation” in Tashkent. The Memorandum of cooperation was signed between ITA and Tashkent State university of Uzbek language and literature, it is also planned to launch cooperation with the academy of sciences of Uzbekistan. The II International forum of Humanitarian sciences “The great steppe” was held for the first time with participation of the Uzbekistan delegation.

ITA also strengthens its relations with scientific organizations and scientists of Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. As part of a celebration of the 290th anniversary of the renowned Turkmen poet Makhtumkuli the Academy has published a book of his poems in Turkmen and Kazakh languages.

Close cooperation was established with scientific research organizations of Russian Federation, as well as with the intellectual circles of Turkic-speaking peoples of Russia. Russian committee of turkologists rendered its support to the fundamental projects of the Academy and has actively participated in joint preparation of scientific monographs. Emir Najip’s “Comparative dictionary of Turkic languages of XIV century” was published in 4 volumes. Besides, the “Ancient Turkic dictionary” was revised under the supervision of the internationally renowned scientists Dmitri Nasilov, Igor Kormushin and Anna Dybo.

At the same time, in order to support dialogue and integration between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, in 2018-2019 ITA has held four Kazakh-Kyrgyz forums for intellectual circles. To honor 90th anniversary of Chingiz Aitmatov, 2018 was announced to be the «Year of Chingiz Aitmatov», international events were organized to commemorate the world famous writer, and Osmonakun Ibraimov’s “The last writer of the empire” (close friend of C. Aitmatov) was published.

With the support from the Turkey National commission for UNESCO affairs the Academy has published a scientific monograph on «Atabatu-l-haqaiq». A book of the renowned historian Fazlullah Rashidaddin, “Djami’ at-tawarikh”, was translated into Kazakh language as well as Bekasyl Biybolatuly’s “Zikzal”. In

total, during 2015-2019 ITA has published over 180 new books in English, Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Hungarian, Mongolian, Turkish and other languages. It should be noted that the Turkic library fund under ITA has also increased. Currently the library has over 60 thousand books, and the quantity of exhibits in Turkic museum exceeds 700 items.

Besides, the Academy issues the quarterly scientific analytical journal “GLOBAL-Turk” dedicated to analysis of the social, political and cultural aspects of the Turkic states and peoples in Eurasia, as well as the scientific magazine “Altaistics, Turkology, Mongolistics”. Both publish articles in four languages. Currently the internet-portal of the Academy (www.twesco.org) also operates in four languages. Since November 2015, the Academy also issues weekly electronic digest “Turkic Weekly” in four languages.

Geographical and Spiritual Bridge of the Turkic World – Cooperation with Azerbaijan

From the standpoint of historic research, Azerbaijan has a special significance as one of the territories originally inhabited by the Turkic peoples. Azerbaijan made a series of discoveries in culture, literature and art on the level of the Turkic and Muslim world, played a leading role in the development of national self-identification of the Turkic peoples due to its ancient traditions of the statehood, and was the first of these to launch the anticolonial struggle. Therefore, studying the achievements of Azerbaijan and its popularization in the Turkic world and on the international level is one of the priorities of the International Turkic Academy.

With this purpose in mind, during the past few years the Academy has undertaken a number of important steps and implemented a number of vital projects. In particular, in April 2018 it organized a forum in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris “From Spiritual Renaissance to Spiritual Heritage: the Turkic Language from Past to Future”, which gathered participants speaking various Turkic languages, researchers and renowned public figures from more than 20 countries. In the course of the forum the representatives of the Turkic peoples living on a vast territory from Mongolia to Hungary have exchanged their opinions on the future of their native languages. Together with the representatives of the independent Turkic states, the forum hosted the representatives of peoples such as Tuvinians, Khakas, Sakha (Yakut), Sary-Uighurs, Shorians, Nogays, Karaims, Kashkays, Kumyks and other peoples, whose languages are under the threat of extinction.

Considering the fact that President Ilham Aliyev had announced the year of 2018 to be the “Year of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic”, 100th anniversary of the Republic was celebrated as part of the international forum organized in the UNESCO headquarters. One of the panels on the forum was fully dedicated to the Republic and its role in the history of the Turkic statehood. Besides, forum participants visited the tomb of Alimardan Topchubashov – one of the founders of the Republic – in the suburbs of Paris to honor his 155th anniversary.

The international forum of the humanitarian sciences “The Great Steppe” traditionally held in Kazakhstan in June 2018, one of the six panels was similarly dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Republic. As part of a panel named “Peculiarities of the Turkic Statehood”, the speakers organized discussions on the significant role of ADR in the history of the Turkic statehood and development of the national liberation ideas.

Together with this, to honor the 95th anniversary of the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, a book “The One, who Opened the Way to his Country” was translated into Kazakh and issued in Nur-Sultan. The foreword to this book was written by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev.

As part of events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic a special encyclopedia edition was prepared for issue “Azerbaijan Democratic Republic – 100” in Kazakh language.

In addition to the above, the ITA had launched the scientific research related to Karabagh and became the first international organization that prepared a book-album that includes a number of facts, related to Karabakh history, culture and geography, as well as international documents covering the occupation period.

Besides, to honor the 125th anniversary of the renowned Kazakh poet Magzhan Zhumabayev, who defended the idea of Turkestan, the Academy translated and published his poems in Uzbek, Mongol, Altay, Kyrgyz, Hungarian and Azerbaijani languages.

On 26 April 2019 the ITA had announced the opening of the “Year of Nasimi” in Kazakhstan. In honor of the 650th anniversary of the great thinker Imadeddin Nasimi, President Ilham Aliyev announced 2019 to be the “Year of Nasimi” and a portion of his poems were translated into Kazakh and published in a book called “I do not fit into this world”.

Together with that, the selected books of 20 Azeri classics were translated into Kazakh language and published with support from the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Kazakhstan in the form of the artistically crafted edition called “Anthology of Azerbaijani literature”.

In May 2019 under the ITA aegis an international forum “The Great Steppe: Cultural Heritage and Role in the World History” was organized in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Together with the representatives of the ITA member states the forum hosted over 70 scientists, researchers and state officials. The forum honored a number of anniversaries on the international level: 650th anniversary of Imadeddin Nasimi, 950th anniversary of Yusuf Khas Khajib’s book «Kutadgu bilik», 150th anniversary of the renowned turkologist Akhmed Agaoglu, 100th anniversary of the start of the national liberation movement of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

In 2019 one of the six panels of the IV International forum of humanities “The Great Steppe” was dedicated to the 650th anniversary of Imadeddin Nasimi. The Academy translated into Kazakh and presented the 5-volume “The Turkic World” book as part of the forum.

At the same time, the Academy also initiated a project “Turks’ Traces in Caucasus”, aimed at joint research of the material and spiritual heritage, related to our shared history, including organization of the archeological expeditions. As part of this project the preparation of the fundamental encyclopedia publication “Atlas of the Turkic World Toponyms” was started; it reflects the research and analysis of the historical and modern names attributed to the Turkic peoples from Mongolia to Hungary (names of settlements, locations, water bodies, mountains, rivers, etc.), as well as the chronological changes and development of the Turkic toponyms from Skythian period up to our days. In addition to it, the atlas “Sacred Places of the Turkic World” is nearing completion as well as the encyclopedia “The Outstanding Figures of the Turkic World”.

At present, despite all hardships caused by COVID-19 pandemics, the Turkic Academy continues to fulfill the instructions it obtained during the extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council initiated by the President Ilham Aliyev works to expand cooperation in the sphere of science and education. Several international activities have already been performed in this respect: an online meeting of the National Academies of Sciences of the Turkic world was organized with the purpose of reviewing possible ways to ensure continuous cooperation between the member states of the Academy in these extreme conditions.

Together with this, an online meeting of the Turkology chairs of the member states was also organized. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemics, the meeting of the ITA Scientific Council held in January 2020 in Baku has approved a work plan, which is currently being implemented on schedule.

The International Turkic Academy successfully implements the instructions given by the Heads of States at the Summits of the Turkic Council. Overall, its activity is mainly focused on expanding scientific, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the Turkic states and peoples on fostering scientific integration.



Promotion of Turkic World heritage through the activities of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation

*Gunay Afandiyeva**

Culture unites people, plays an absolute role in the harmonization of society and the spiritual connection between generations.

Throughout its long history, the Turkic world had a unique place which bore and developed uniting cultures and powerful civilizations. The Turkic-speaking people had many points of contact in history which became the reason for the emergence of similar layers of culture, customs and traditions. In fact, this common heritage reflects their similar history, lifestyle and spiritual world. They have common roots, language, literature and music. They share epics, art samples, moral values, and most importantly - all this has found a place in the treasury of world culture.

The Turkic world is diverse not only culturally, but also religiously. Most of the people of the Turkic world profess Islam, but at the same time there are other religions, as well. For example, Karaites are Turks who profess Judaism, Gagauz are Christians, Tuvans are Buddhists, or Shamans who have experienced a significant influence of Tengrianism.

It is our duty to pass on our precious heritage to future generations. Just as people need culture for their spiritual enrichment, culture also needs to be carefully treated and protected. This challenge is especially relevant and brought to the fore in today's conditions of rapidly changing reality, when each culture with a unique system of traditions is subject to a spiritual crisis and is undergoing a transformation of values.

The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, whose activity is to research, study, and preserve the rich Turkic cultural heritage – is a young organization that was created by the initiative of the President of Azerbaijan His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev and with the support of the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. The Charter of the Foundation was adopted at the Bishkek Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States held on August 23, 2012. Following the 5th Summit of the Turkic Council, in Astana (now Nur-Sultan) on September 11, 2015, the Foundation started its activities. Last year, in the framework of the Baku Summit of the Turkic Council, Uzbekistan joined the ranks of the organization and Hungary became an observer state of the Foundation. The opening of the administrative building of the Foundation was held on October 14, 2019, with the participation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of member and observer countries and heads of the Turkic Cooperation Organizations.

During the period of its activity, despite many difficulties and obstacles faced what regards to the formation of the organization, the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation together with member countries has implemented a number of various projects in the field of promoting the rich history, national and spiritual values of the Turkic-speaking people. These projects included organizing

* President of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation

round tables, conferences, publishing books, celebrating anniversaries of great personalities of the Turkic World, holidays and other activities.

The study of the Great Silk Road - a significant layer of culture which unites the whole world is of great importance for the organization. Turkic-speaking people have played an important role in the formation and functioning of the Great Silk Road. At the same time, by the means of trade caravans the Silk Road influenced the economic, commercial, cultural convergence of these people, contributed to the promotion and transmission of traditions, as well as enrichment of the cultural heritage of the Turkic World.

The modern restoration of the Great Silk Road necessitates close cooperation with UNESCO. Last year, on May 3, 2019, within the framework of the Fifth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue being held in Azerbaijan, the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation organized a high-level round table dedicated the topic of "The Role of Great Silk Road in building dialogue among Turkic speaking countries" attended by leaders of international organizations, including representatives of UNESCO, as well as ambassadors, writers, scientists, turkologists from different countries of the world.

Three years earlier, on May 6, 2017, within the framework of the IV World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue supported by UNESCO, UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, Council of Europe, ISESCO, North-South Center of the Council of Europe, the Foundation for the first time in the history of these forums organized a round table on the topic of "Turkic heritage at the crossroads of cultures and civilizations". The heads of the international organizations related to the Turkic world, namely Turkic Council, TurkPA, TURKSOY, as well as Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and many guests from different countries participated in the round table. The event was aimed to expose the religious diversity and cultural richness of the Turkic-speaking peoples along with the promotion of their historical-cultural heritage, as well as to discuss the role of the Turkic world in the intercultural dialogue and its contribution to the world culture.

On part of the organization, the implementation of a large project "Turkic countries on the Great Silk Road" has begun, which comprises research materials of historians, archeologists, geologists and other academicians about the contributions of the Turkic countries to rendered to the development of this historical highway, as well as the impact of the Silk Road itself on the mutual enrichment of countries that lay on its path. The first part of the project "Azerbaijan on the Great Silk Road" is ready for the publication.

Traditions are among the connecting links of the Turkic world, an integral part of their life. This is an invaluable treasure of the national heritage, which must promoted and passed on to the future generations. One of the main traditions of the peoples of the Turkic world is Nowruz holiday, considered a harbinger of spring and New Year, celebrated throughout the whole Turkic World. In this regard, expanding this tradition beyond its borders, under the auspices of the Foundation and with support of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Bulgaria, Nowruz celebrations were organized in March 2019, in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, as well as in Kardzhali, the largest Turk – populated city of Bulgaria. The events were attended by Vice President of the Republic of Bulgaria Iliana Yotova, Bulgarian Tsar Simeon Saksoburgotsky, Chairman of the Bulgarian People's Assembly Tsveta Karayancheva, representatives of the Bulgarian Parliament, ambassadors of various countries and other officials. The celebrations were accompanied by the artwork exhibition "By the Trail of our Ancestors" which demonstrated the richness of symbols, ornaments and signs of the Turkic people.

Another unifying link of the Turkic-speaking people are "Dede Korkut", "Manas", "Alpamysh", "Koroglu" and others epics that represent an artistic reflection of their historical past.

One of them is "Kitabi Dede Korkut" ("Book of Grandfather Korkut") - the main repository of ethnic identity, customs, traditions and value systems of the Turkic people for many centuries. The tales deposited in the monument of the medieval Oguz heroic epic reflect the persistent spirit and age-old wisdom of our predecessors.

Each Turk has his own Dede Korkut, someone says Dede Gorgud, someone Korkut Ata, someone Atam Korkut ... but none of them say "mine", everyone says "our" Korkut, and this makes it unifying principle. Last year, a scientific conference committed to this written monument was organized under the auspices of our organization, where scientists from various countries exchanged views, discussed various aspects related to the epic. The conference was held within the framework of the "Week of the Turkic World" on October 8-13, 2019, organized by the Foundation and dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the "Nakhchivan Agreement" and the 7th Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking states. The week included exhibitions, scientific discussions, celebration of anniversaries of prominent personalities of the Turkic world, concerts, seminars, symposiums and a number of other events covering rich cultural values, history, traditions and cultures of the Turkic peoples.

One such event was an art exhibition dedicated to the Hungarian tapestry called "Harmony of Threads". Despite the fact that this tapestry is a European type of carpet, Hungarian masters were able to raise deep, centuries old ties to the surface and show their involvement in the Turkic world.

Together with the National Commission of the Republic of Turkey for UNESCO, the Foundation realized a project named "Traditional Handicrafts of Turkey and Azerbaijan". Within the scope of this project, common female handicrafts including weaving, silk farming, and carpet weaving have been widely studied. This project is planned to continue with Asian countries as well.

In the system of spiritual values, a significant area of research is the role of women in Turkic societies. By analysis, we observe that on the one hand, they are belligerent, strong-willed, determined, as in the image of Burla Khatun, Seljan Khatun, Banu Chickek from the "Kitabi Dede Korkut" epos. On the other hand, they are highly intelligent and enlightened, they inspired poets and were poetesses themselves. An example of such a woman is Khurshudbanu Natavan, the heiress of the Azerbaijani Khan of Karabakh in the 19th century. The outstanding poetess gathered cultural, scientific and artistic figures in her palace in Shusha and organized famous poetry meetings called "Majlisi-Uns".

The woman held a rather high position in the Turkic society. She also took an active part in politics. A detailed account of the first Turkic female ruler Tomris was provided by Herodotus in the 5th century B.C. In the 1st century B.C., one of the roman historians Appian describes with astonishment the heroism of Caucasian Albanian women who fought alongside their husbands and sons. Following several centuries, Sarah Khatun became an outstanding diplomat and statesman of the 15th century Aq Qoyunlu state, having a great influence on foreign policy and other public affairs.

Within the framework of its activities, the Foundation has organized various events dedicated to the women who have left a bright mark on Turkic history and culture. One of them was a conference called "Woman of the Turkic world - from the past to the future." The event consisted of people from all around the Turkic world. At the end, an actress who represented the Karaite people – a Turkic minority group living in Lithuania (and a few other countries) performed their folklore that survived to this day.

Based on the rich poetic heritage left by Azerbaijani women, the Foundation published a book entitled "Anthology of Poetry by Women in Azerbaijan", which reflects the poetic ideas and feelings, desires and

aspirations, as well as a deep literary vision of Azerbaijani women. In Collaboration with UNESCO, we presented it to a wide range of readers. The anthology has been translated from Azerbaijani into Italian, English, German, and is also being prepared for publication in Arabic and Bulgarian. The presentation of the book in Italian was held in the Italian Senate, with the participation of members of Italian Parliament, representatives of various state institutions of the country, as well as the diplomatic corps, academic circles and artists.

The Turkic culture has made a great contribution to the world culture, the great personalities – thinkers, writers and poets of Turkic – speaking people, have gained different universal accomplishments. The works of Nizami, Fuzuli, Yunus Emre, Nasimi, Makhtumkuli, Abay and many others are among the pearls of World literature.

**... “Both worlds within my compass come, but this world cannot compass me
An omnipresent pearl am I and both worlds cannot compass me...”**

The author of these mystic and yet very meaningful words is the great Azerbaijani poet Imadaddin Nasimi, whose 650th birth anniversary was celebrated last year by the whole world, including UNESCO and other organizations. Despite having lived a very short and tragic life, Nasimi left a unique and unforgettable mark in the history and literature of the whole Turkic World. Being one of the greatest poets and thinkers of his time, his creative works embraced not only national, but also universal values.

Under the auspices of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation many events were organized all over the world dedicated to his jubilee. For example, the book "Nasimi Poetry" was published in Italy, including poems and ghazals of the great poet. The book was presented at three famous universities of the cities of Rome, Naples, and Venice. The event featured a documentary film prepared by the Foundation called "The Sun of Eternal Love", which tells about the life, tragic death and work of the brilliant Nasimi. At the presentation, his poems were recited in original and Italian languages by famous artists and turkologists.

At the same time, in Scotland, a poetry evening was also held at St Andrews University. Students from different countries performed Nasimi ghazals in their own languages to the sounds of Azerbaijani national music.

This year, the world, including UNESCO, is celebrating the 175th anniversary of the great Kazakh poet Abay Kunanbayev. Several generations of readers – representatives of different cultures have grown up on Abay's works. Among the main tasks of his time was introduction to world culture and call for the exchange of cultural values with other people.

"Good, progressive communication, friendly relations between people give rise to civilization."

This saying belongs to Abay Kunanbayev.

In connection with the anniversary of the poet, the Foundation planned events, which unfortunately, had to be temporarily postponed due to the pandemic. Despite this, the organization published a book dedicated to the life and work of the Kazakh thinker, poet and educator. Also in Baku, Azerbaijan, on the street bearing the name of the poet, a memorial plaque in the honor of his anniversary was unveiled. The event was attended by heads of international and public organizations, diplomats, representatives of the scientific circles and intelligentsia.

Post stamps dedicated to the 175th anniversary of Abay Kunanbayev and the 135th anniversary of the great composer of Azerbaijan and the Turkic world Uzeyir Hajibeyov were issued in Spain under the auspices of the Foundation.

They are both multi-faceted personalities, Abay, being a great poet, philosopher was also a distinctive composer, while Uzeyir Bey, being a famous composer, the creator of the first opera as well as the first operetta in the East, was a bright journalist and playwright. Their works are among the pearls of culture that went beyond borders of their countries to the whole Turkic world.

On the occasion of the anniversary of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, the musical Comedy of the brilliant composer “Arshin Mal Alan” was presented on October 2020 in the city of Kardzhali, Bulgaria, with the organization of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation.

The whole world is familiar with the works of the famous Kyrgyz writer and thinker Chingiz Aitmatov. His books were included in the golden fund of world literature.

- *“... the meaning of human existence is in the self – improvement of his spirit, there is no goal higher than this”* – these words belong to Aitmatov.

In 2018, with the participation of high – level officials, the Foundation solemnly celebrated Chingiz Aitmatov’s 90th anniversary, during which a performance based on his novel “Jamila” was shown in Baku by actors of Kyrgyz theatre in Baku on October 2018.

In addition to those listed, the Foundation also celebrated various anniversaries of prominent personalities of the Turkic World: Khoja Akhmet Yassawi, Molla Panah Vagif, Magzhan Zhumabayev, Makhtumkuli Fragi, and other great representatives of the Turkic world, as well as memorable events such as the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate, 100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, 90th anniversary of the First Turkology Congress.

It should be noted that the promotion of the culture of the Turkic-speaking peoples on foreign stages is also one of the main tasks of the organization. Moreover, the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation within the framework of cooperation with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality City Theater staged the play “Iblis” of great Azerbaijani poet and playwright, supporter and promoter of the Turkic nations’ unity Huseyn Javid in Istanbul in April 2018.

Music is an important part of the life of the Turkic people: their common traditions and customs are associated with characteristic musical styles and forms.

Under the auspices of the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, the Dede Korkut Chamber Orchestra was created, bringing together musicians from various Turkic-speaking countries. They perform folklore music, as well as famous works of prominent composers of the Turkic-speaking states both within and beyond the Turkic World borders. The first performance of the Dede Korkut Chamber Orchestra on the international stage was in Finland on June 2018 at 15th International Black and White Festival.

One of the main tasks of the Foundation is to introduce the young generation to the spiritual values of the Turkic world. In this regard, this year we have announced a contest of drawings and essays among

children and students on the theme "Let's protect our world: traditions of the Turkic world". The drawing competition was attended by children from 5 to 17 years old from member and observer countries of the Foundation: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Hungary, as well as from Turkmenistan, Bulgaria and Ukraine, who presented about 700 distinct works on various themes and aspects of the Turkic World, such as "Music", "Women", "Epos", "Carpets", "Traditions", "Semazens", "Cuisine", and others.

The main goal was to attract the younger generation to the study and protection of ancient traditions, to show that even in these difficult times, culture and art, the acquisition of knowledge are one of the most important factors that determine our lives. This project demonstrated the huge creative potential of children and young people. At the moment, an illustrated book based on these drawings is in preparation.

In order to familiarize students with the centuries-old history of our ancestors, the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation in cooperation with the Republican Child and Youth Development Center of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan organized the "Week of Museums of the Turkic World" on May 18-24, 2020, during which every day students from different countries joined virtual tours of museums in Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Hungary. The students were virtually acquainted with the live monuments and artifacts preserved in the museums and listened to lectures about the history and culture of their countries of origin.

Another priority of our activity is the preservation of historical and cultural monuments that make up our tangible heritage. Turkic nations which have a rich material and spiritual heritage have amazed the world with the historical monuments, rare examples of cultural heritage which is not only significant to the Turkic world, but is also protected within the UNESCO World Heritage list. This year, the whole Turkic World, as well as UNESCO, celebrates the 1300th anniversary of the Tonyukuk monument - a symbol, source of Turkic origin.

During the period of its activity, the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation compiled a register of monuments of the Turkic countries within which the book "Magic monuments of Azerbaijan" as part of a large project "Magic monuments of Turkic World" was published.

An important objective of the Foundation is to raise awareness about endangered cultural sites and the destruction of material heritage of the Turkic world. Unfortunately, today one of the many examples of this is the Nagorno-Karabakh region, where hundreds of architectural and archeological sites, monuments, cemeteries have been destroyed. Albanian Christian monasteries have been falsely claimed, mosques - Muslim places of worship had been desecrated and turned into cattle camps by Armenian occupiers. In this regard, the Foundation immediately gave statements strongly condemning the criminal acts aimed at destroying and misappropriating monuments of universal significance, and called on the international community to not remain indifferent to such actions and give a truthful assessment. It should be pointed out that the Foundation also raised this issue at the online meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Turkic Council.

At the same time, the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation has published a series of books covering historical documents and research estimating the damage caused to historical and cultural monuments.

One of them is the book entitled “International treaties on the South Caucasus in the XIX-XX centuries and the resettlement of Armenians”, written by Professor in Law Namik Aliyev. The book shows the historical background that led to the signing of the Kyurekchay, Gulistan, Turkmenchay, Moscow and Kars treaties, as well as reveals their political and legal essence and consequences for Azerbaijan.

The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation has implemented a large-scale project entitled «Damage to historical and cultural monuments in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan». As part of the project, a book of the same name and a catalogue with photos were published.

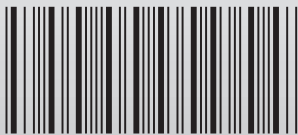
The book contains bitter facts about aggression against natural and cultural heritage as a result of the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding areas, as well as information about the amount of material and moral damage inflicted on Azerbaijani monuments.

During this period, the Foundation was represented in a number of high-level forums and conferences organized by the UN, UNESCO, ISESCO and other international organizations or countries including its member states. At the same time, the Foundation, with the aim of promoting Turkic culture in the national and international arena cooperated with various international Turkic organizations such as Turkic Council, TURKPA, TURKSOY, Turkic Academy, and signed Memorandums of Understanding with various organizations such as IRCICA in April 2017 and IICAS (International Institute for Central Asian Studies) in February 2020.

The International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation represents the Turkic World, yet at the same time, our goal is to interact with other civilizations, draw parallels, and find common ground to unlock the uniting potential of culture. Several events including the scientific conference on “Turkic and Latin American Cultures, History and Traditions - Continental and Regional Approach”, as well as the photo exhibition on “A Piece of Turkic Heritage in Brazil”, held in the Brazilian Parliament’s Exhibition Hall and the scientific seminar entitled “Latin America and the Turkic World at the Crossroads of Cultures” held in Belgrano University in Argentina were organised by the Foundation as part of the large project “Involvement of the Turkic World in Latin America”, which took place between the date of October 23-November 3, 2017.

Another memorable event of our organization was the International Conference on “The Turkic World: Enlightenment and Identity” which was held in Paris on June 18, 2018 with the participation of Ambassadors of the Foundation’s member countries, as well as scholars from the Turkic world and French universities. The conference was followed by an exhibition “The Paradise Gardens of the Turkic World”, where representatives from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkey performed folk music on national instruments.

All above-mentioned is just a small part of what Foundation has done, despite many difficulties faced in the formation of our organization. Nevertheless, there is still a lot of work to be done in the borderless and ever-expanding domain of cultural heritage. Culture can be a powerful driver of peace, facilitating intercultural dialogue, preventing conflicts between nations, and creating optimal conditions for achieving universal prosperity. I hope that our efforts in the promotion of Turkic Culture in the international arena will help us achieve these objectives.



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