

2017 ANNUAL REPORT





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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



In the year of 2017, the world presented a mixed picture of progress, challenges and opportunities and proved that demonstrating cooperation matters more than ever. Today multilateral action is the only possible option for us to find viable solutions to the most pressing set of challenges in the world such as humanitarian tragedy caused by the protracted conflicts in the Middle East, global terrorism, threat of new pandemics etc. During this fast changing period where the international system taking more nationalistic but also more transactional character in which the responsibilities are more widely shared, Turkic Speaking States assumed their part in its own region as well on the international scene with determination and strong political will continued offering a wide range of opportunities with their determination and strong political will.

The year of 2017 was especially remarkable for the Turkic world. Turkey celebrated the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Turkic Speaking States in honor of which an official reception was hosted by the Foreign Minister, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, which brought together numerous politicians, bureaucrats and the corps diplomatique in Ankara. The reception was yet another manifestation of the value and attention that the

importance attributed to the Turkic world. Furthermore “Turkey again: Alumni Homecoming” program organized by the Presidency of Turks Abroad and Related Communities under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey was among the important achievements that established strong bridges of friendship between the Turkic Speaking States and better understanding of their common potential.

In the field of sports, Azerbaijan successfully hosted the fourth iteration of the Islamic Solidarity Games attended by 6,000 athletes from 54 nations to compete in 21 sports and proved that Baku became the world center for international sport and culture. The fourth edition of the multisport event represented the next step on the possible path to staging the Olympics for Azerbaijan.

The successful implementation of Astana EXPO 2017 in the sphere of “Future Energy” by Kazakhstan was an unprecedented event that opened new horizons of alternative energy in the region. Astana EXPO became a platform for numerous international fora and activities. Turkic Council provided necessary support and actively participated in the events. Outcomes of the Astana EXPO were also fruitful in terms of consolidating the existing relations between the Turkic Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) with finalization of the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on the sidelines of the First Summit of Science and Technology simultaneously held in Astana.



In the course of 2017, Kyrgyz Republic launched a nation-wide program of digital transformation called “Taza Koom” with the aim of building open and transparent institutions raise life standard of citizens, as well as improving the business environment. The program is a key component of the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Kyrgyzstan which is based on human capital and innovations in harmony with the environment.

Additionally, Turkic Council had the honor of welcoming the First Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sunatulla Bekenov to the 7th Meeting of Ministers in charge of Economy. I eagerly look forward to see Uzbekistan’s support to the Council activities continue increasingly in the days ahead.

The Turkic Council, as a regional organization with global roles, responsibilities and influence, carried out and consolidated its efforts with concrete projects in the past year to promote comprehensive cooperation in areas ranging from youth and sports, tourism to transport and information & communication technologies not only among its Member States but also in the wider region. A number of important achievements have been gained during this period. The completion of the crucial Baku-Tblisi-Kars (BTK) railway link, connecting Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, crossing the Caspian and Black sea was in that sense, an important step forward in establishing the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route. The BTK rail line emerged to become the artery of this reestablished trade corridor by filling the missing rail freight connection between Turkey and Central Asia, allowing goods to be seamlessly transported from one side of Eurasia to the other in less than 15 days. The South Caucasus region along with Central Asia is coming together to leverage its geographic position and once again become the land bridge as it was during the days of the ancient Silk Road.

Furthermore, the traditional Silk Road constituted the backbone not only for trade but also cultural and human interaction in and beyond the region during more than five centuries. Even if it lost its impact for various reasons for a while, the traditional Silk Road with all its capillary routes never fully lost its charm and significance connecting continents and several sub-regions. And today, the traditional Silk Road has entered in a crucial transformation period with modernized infrastructure projects and new multi-modal integrated transport facilities. This is a historical step for regaining its attractiveness and popularity in economic and political terms.

As the Turkic Council, we designed a unique initiative entitled “Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package” that confirms the role of tourism to empower sustainable development in our region. Within this package, in a trip of 15 days, a curious tourist will be able to follow the landmarks of the historical Silk Road in our Member States. We successfully finalized the fam trips of this package in 2017 with the participation of 59 journalists and tour operators from 16 countries. The selling of this tour package has started through our website (www.modernsilkradtour.com). The first touristic tours will be kicked off in March 2018 coinciding with the Nowruz celebrations. The Consortium consisting of 11 tour agencies from our Member States that individually signed the Global Code of Ethics of the UNWTO will implement the operations within the joint tour package.

We firmly believe that this package presents a comprehensive rural development project addressing home-grown needs in tourism sector of our Member States while providing exchange of knowledge and expertise as well generating decent jobs in the region.

Raising a common awareness of historical heritage of the Turkic world, the Turkic Academy in coordination with Member States and Turkic Council Secretariat finalized the Common Turkic History Textbook covering the period until the 15th century and the preparation phase of the Draft Concept Paper of the Common Geography Textbook for its approval and its inclusion to the curriculum.



2017 was also significant for the Turkic Council to enhance cooperation and to consolidate its existing relations with regional and international organizations. Turkic Council was one of the implementing partners of the Global South-South Development EXPO 2017 organized by the UNOSSC and hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. This platform brought together more than 800 South-South and Triangular cooperation actors from 120 countries across the world. Within the EXPO, Turkic Council organized a solution forum in partnership with UNDP and a high-level roundtable on tourism with the participation of governors from the Member States.

On the other hand, the Turkic Council and UNOSSC jointly published the Report entitled "South-South in Action: How the Turkic Council Uses South-South Cooperation to Promote Regional and Global Development" which was launched in New York on the margins of 72nd Session of UN General Assembly.

In the light of aforementioned activities, this annual report provides an overview of the Council's undertakings during 2017. It gives a comprehensive picture on the Turkic Council's achievements within the last year by shedding light on its true potential to deepen and widen the existing cooperation among the Member States and in the region in the period ahead.

As the Secretariat, we extend our appreciation first and foremost to our Member States for their continuous support and to our regional and international partners for their collaboration in fulfilling our goals to contribute to the multilateral cooperation. Therefore, I would like to sincerely thank our Heads of State, governments and relevant institutions of the Member States as well as partners, and the Secretariat staff for their support to the efforts of the Council.

Taking the opportunity, I wish 2018 to be the year that strengthens the solidarity and integrity between the Turkic Speaking States and to be remembered with concrete achievements for greater peace, stability and prosperity in our region and the world.

Ambassador Ramil Hasanov
Secretary General

I. OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL



A. Objectives and Structure of the Turkic Council

Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States (the Turkic Council) is an intergovernmental organization, whose overarching aim is to promote comprehensive cooperation among Turkic Speaking States. The organization was established by the Nakhchivan Agreement on Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, which was signed at the Summit of the Heads of Turkic Speaking States held in Nakhchivan in 2009. The founding and current members are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey.



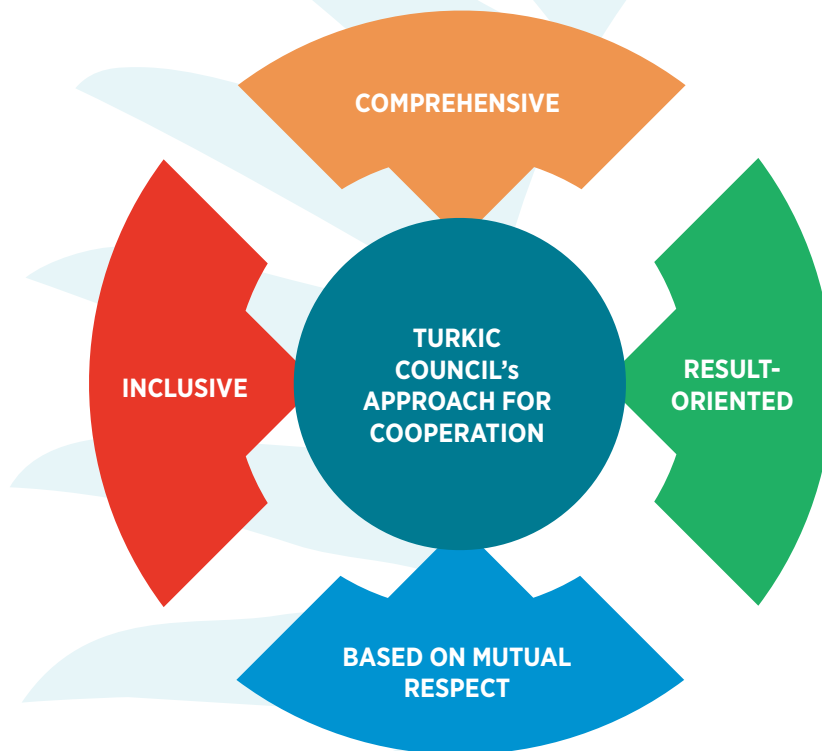
The Turkic Council reflects the common political will that emanates from the Process of Summits of the Heads of States of the Turkic Speaking States. The process began at the very first Summit of the Heads of Turkic Speaking States held in Ankara in 1992, which brought together the leaders of Azerbaijan, 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.



The Working Principles of the Turkic Council



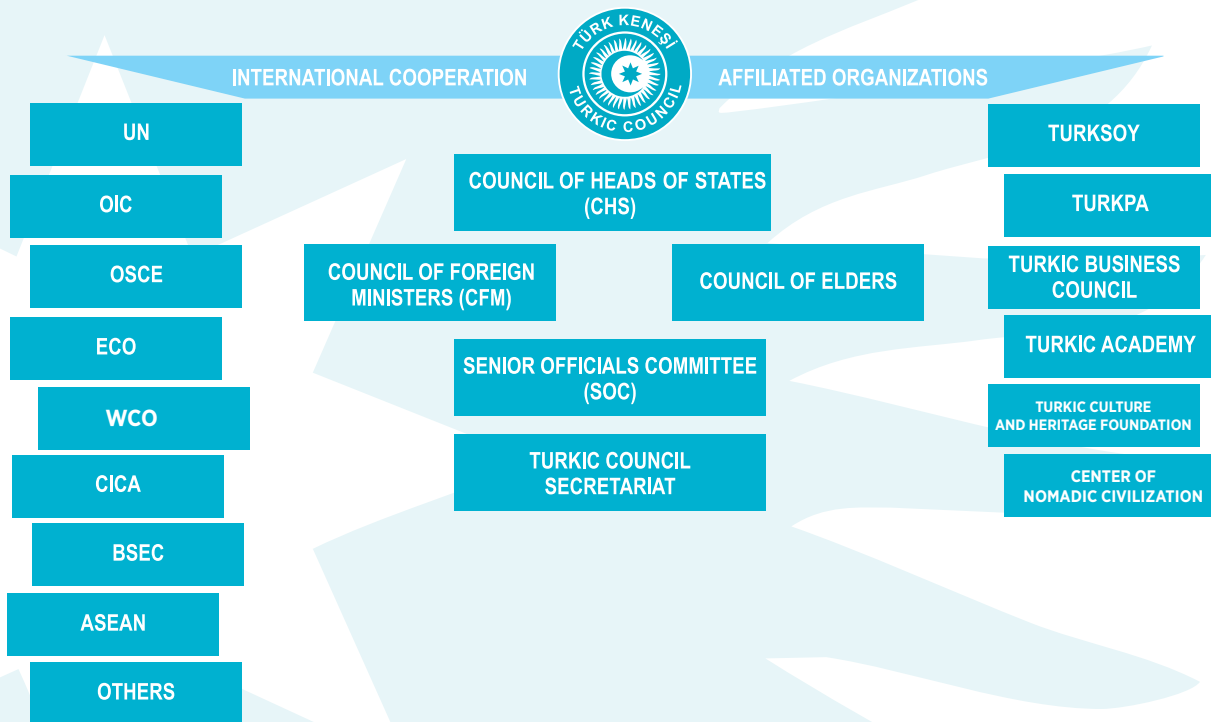
These summits, after the establishment of the Turkic Council were renamed as “Summits of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”. Five Summits have been held in Almaty, Bishkek, Gabala, Bodrum and Astana since the establishment of the Council and the next one will be hosted by Kyrgyzstan in 2018. These major annual events are convened with the participation of the Presidents of Member States, Foreign Ministers and other Ministers as appropriate.

Nakhchivan Agreement sets out the main purposes and tasks of the Organization as follows:

- Strengthening mutual confidence among the Parties;
- Maintaining peace in the region and beyond;
- Promoting common positions on foreign policy issues;
- Coordinating actions to combat international terrorism, separatism, extremism and trans-border crimes;
- Promoting effective regional and bilateral cooperation in all areas of common interest;
- Creating favorable conditions for trade and investment;
- Aiming for comprehensive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development;
- Discussing questions of ensuring rule of law, good governance and protection of human rights;
- Expanding interaction in the fields of science, technology, education and culture;
- Encouraging interaction of the mass media and wider communication;
- Promoting exchange of legal information and enhancing legal cooperation.



The Working Mechanism of the Turkic Council



In order to fulfill the objectives and tasks of the Turkic Council, following structures were established:

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

The state that hosts the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of States assumes the chairmanship of the Turkic Council until the next summit.

I. Council of Heads of States

The main mechanism of the political cooperation among Turkic Speaking States is the annual Summits where the Council of Heads of States (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.



First Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 20-21 October 2011 in Almaty under a specific topic: “Economic Cooperation”. During the Summit the complementary documents setting out institutional framework of the Secretariat were adopted and approved. In order to reach more tangible results, the coordination mechanism as annual ministerial and working groups meetings was settled.



Second Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev on 22-23 August 2012 in Bishkek. This Summit was dedicated to the topic of “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”. During the Summit “Agreement on the Financial Rules of the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”, “Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Academy” and “Charter of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation” were signed. Among other outcomes of this Summit were approval of the flag and logo of the Turkic Council.





The Third Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on 15-16 August 2013 in Gabala. This Summit was first summit where Turkmenistan had participated. The main theme of this Summit was “Transport and Connectivity”. In the framework of the Summit, the “Protocol of Cooperation among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Turkic Council” was signed and the 20th Anniversary of TURKSOY was celebrated. Furthermore, the CHS adopted the “Joint Cooperation Protocol on the Development of Transport”.

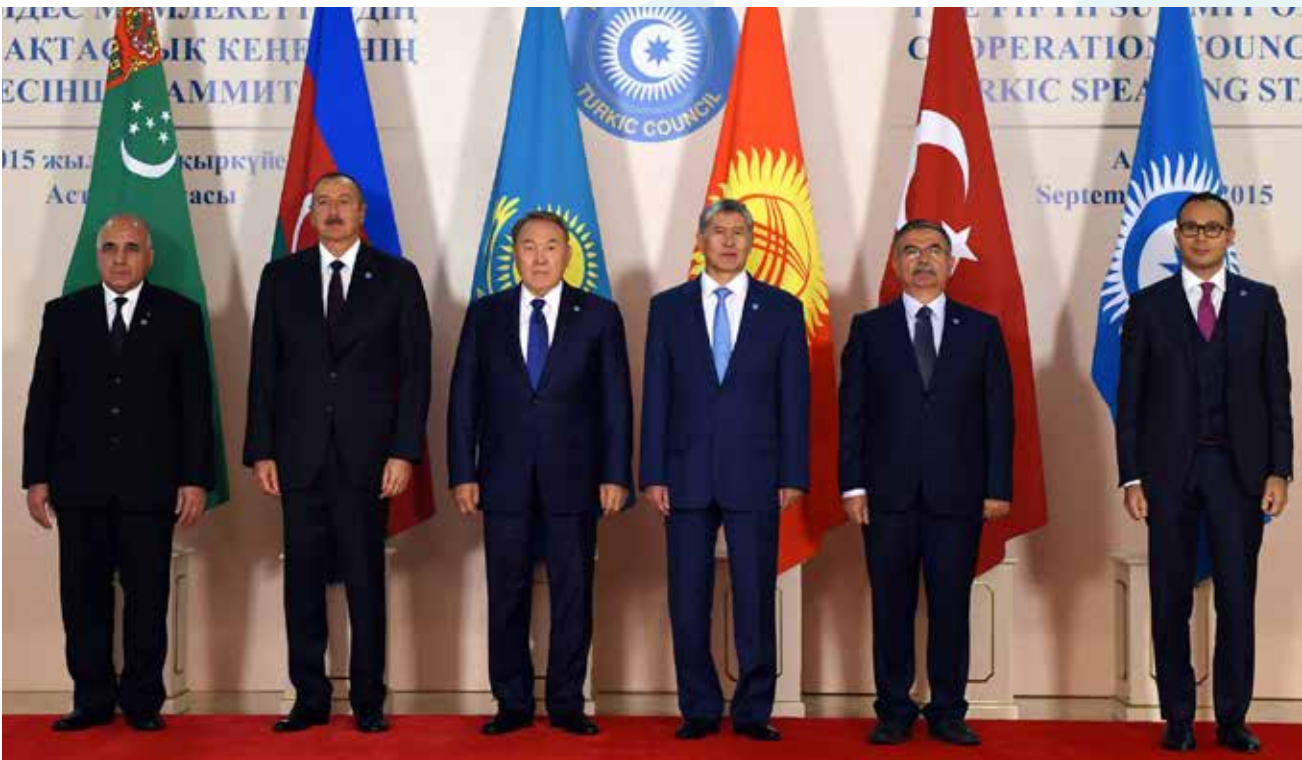


The Fourth Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Turkey Abdullah Gül on 4-5 June 2014 in Bodrum. This Summit was organized under the topic of “Cooperation in Tourism”. It was agreed to join efforts in order to launch a “Turkic Council - Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package”, which will play a role to strengthen the brand of the Silk Road and contribute to the development of tourism in Turkic Council Member States.





The Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 11 September 2015 in Astana. During the summit entitled “Cooperation in Information and Media” the “Concept Paper for the Establishment of the International Turkic TV Channel” was approved as well as complementary documents of the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation were approved and signed. Furthermore, a decision on the establishment of a new affiliated organization of the Turkic Council named Centre of Nomadic Civilization was taken and its complementary documents were signed.





II. Council of Foreign Ministers

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.

III. Council of Elders

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.

IV. Senior Officials Committee

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.

A. 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:

- **TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture)**, established in 1993 in Ankara, aims at enhancing cooperation on the issues of education, science, culture and art; introducing and promoting the common values of the Turkic World on the international level; as well as deepening the cultural relations among Turkic Speaking States and peoples.
- **TURKPA (Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries)**, became operational in 2008, headquartered in Baku, operates with the purpose of deepening inter-parliamentary cooperation among Turkic Speaking States.
- **Turkic Business Council**, established in 2011, aims at enhancing economic cooperation among Turkic countries through business events, forums and entities of Turkic Council Member States.



- **Turkic Academy** became an international organization in 2012, based in Astana, conducts academic research in the field of history, culture, geography, archeology, languages, literature, and ethnography of Turkic peoples.

- **Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation**, established in 2012, located in Baku, aims at providing assistance in the protection, study and promotion of Turkic culture and heritage through funding various activities, projects and programs.

- **Center of Nomadic Civilization**, to be based in Bishkek, aims to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation among the Turkic speaking peoples and other communities through organizing sport events and promoting the heritage of nomadic culture.

The Turkic Council attaches great importance to overseeing the activities of and the coordination among the affiliated institutions.

Major Achievements since the Establishment of the Turkic Council



II. COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES AND IN THE REGION



A. Political Cooperation

The CHS and the CFM constitute the backbone of political motivation among the Member States. Member States deepen political cooperation through other means, 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 Foreign Ministers is a testament to the intense political cooperation that the Member States have endured within the framework of the Turkic Council.

I. Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers

In line with the customary practice of convening the informal CFM on the margins of the UN General Assembly, the Seventh Informal Meeting of the CFM was hosted on 21 September 2017 in New York by Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in his capacity as the Foreign Minister of the chair country of the Turkic Council.



Secretary General Ambassador Ramil Hasanov briefed the CFM on the enhancement of fruitful relations of the Turkic Council with the UN, its specialized agencies, the OIC and the OSCE. At the meeting, the Ministers discussed the overall work of the Council as well as the other pressing issues of common concern.

The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation for the steps taken by the Secretariat with regard to the progress achieved for its deepening relations with the relevant international organizations and reiterated their support to further this progress.





II. International Election Observation Missions

Election observation primarily aims to assess the conduct of an election process on the basis of national legislation and international election standards. Following a short-term observation methodology, since 2011, Secretariat deployed 11 election observation missions (TC EOMs) to the Member States, to assess election processes according to international standards, national legislations and best practices for genuine democratic elections. In 2017, TC EOMs were deployed to monitor Election of Deputies of the Senate of Parliament of Kazakhstan and Presidential Election of Kyrgyzstan.



III. Cooperation among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers

The 4th Meeting among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers was held on 10 November 2017 in Baku. At the same date in the framework of the meeting, Strategic Research Centre (SAM) Azerbaijan held an international conference titled “Impact of geopolitical changes on the future of the Turkic Council” and also a panel discussion on “The emerging opportunities and challenges for the Turkic Council”.



In the framework of this cooperation Kazim Sari, Associate Professor and Chair of Industrial Engineering Department at Beykent University with collaboration of the experts from Member countries prepared a report related to the Transportation and Logistical Potential of the Member States. The Parties also have agreed to publish a special academic edition to be dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Independence of the Member States of the Turkic Council.





IV. Junior Diplomats Joint 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 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.



The content of the training program annually is generated by the Secretariat taking into consideration the aim of the program as well as the priorities of the Turkic Council and the Host Country, based on the experience and comments of the participants of the previous programs. Throughout the programs, junior diplomats attend two-week training in one of the Member States, which consists of lectures by competent academicians, top government officials and high ranking diplomats; cultural tours to historical places and official visits.



The 4th Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program was held on 2 – 15 July 2017 in Kyrgyzstan. Hungary, as the first non-member country, were also invited by the Secretariat and took part in the Program. The next training program is planned to be held in Turkey in 2018.



V. Relations with Non-Member Turkic Speaking States

As is known, the main goal of the Turkic Council remains to be the building and consolidation of cooperation among the Turkic Speaking States in as many areas as possible. The Turkic Council continues to work to ensure carrying bilateral relations onto a multilateral framework and also opening new avenues for further collaboration, attaching utmost importance to the improvement of cooperation with non-Member Turkic Speaking Countries, namely Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in political, economic, educational, transport and tourism.

Turkmenistan

Despite not being a member, Turkmenistan did not spare its support to the Turkic Council since its establishment. President Gurbangulu Berdimuhamedov attended signing ceremony of Nakhchivan Agreement in 2009 and participated in the 4th Turkic Council Summit in Bodrum in 2014, Turkey as a guest. In 2015, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Sapardurdi Toyliyev took part in the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council in Astana.





Uzbekistan

As the other remaining non-Member Turkic State, Uzbekistan shows interest in interacting more closely with the Turkic Council with regard to possible cooperation areas.

In this context, Turkic Council has taken necessary steps with the relevant institutions of Uzbekistan in order to include Uzbekistan's top touristic destinations into the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Tour Package. Additionally, Member States welcomed the First Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sunatulla Bekenov at the 7th Meeting of Ministers in charge of Economy held on 29-30 November 2017 in Istanbul.

Turkic Council looks forward to have the growing support and cooperation of the non-Member Turkic States to the Council's activities in the future.





B. Economic Cooperation

A number of events and activities have been organized by the Turkic Council Secretariat in the past year in the sphere of economic cooperation. The Council increased its efforts to boost economic cooperation in accordance with the instructions and decisions of the Ministers in charge of Economy.

The 9th Meeting of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation and the 7th Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy were held respectively on 29-30 November 2017 in Istanbul. First Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sunatulla Bekenov also honoured the ministerial meeting.



At those meetings, Research Paper on investment climate and international trade complementarities of the Turkic Council member countries, further cooperation on special economic zones, Turkic business portal, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), economic statistics, technical visits for investors/businessmen, business forums and meetings of Turkic Business Council, round tables for the businessmen, establishment of the Common Fund of Turkic Integration and other issues were discussed.





I. Turkic Business Council Meeting and Business Forum

The 5th Meeting of the Turkic Business Council was held on 3 April 2017 in Astana. In light of increasing trade between Europe and China and the resultant emergence of Central Asia and the Caucasus as a transport hub, Parties discussed the feasibility of establishing joint logistic centers in the Member States.



Alongside the Business Council meeting, Turkic Council assisted the TOBB GTI to conduct meetings with the relevant Kazakh authorities in order to contribute to the modernization process in Kazakh customs control border gates.

TOBB, in coordination with the Secretariat, will organize the “First Turkic Council Chamber Business Training Program” in Ankara with the participation of the Member States.





C. Customs Cooperation

Customs cooperation among the Member States of the Turkic Council aims at improving control of trade flows and the enforcement of applicable laws and regulations through the exchange of information on customs aspects such as export and import declaration data, trader-related information, origin and valuation-related information. At the same time, this cooperation aims to help customs authorities to use new instruments or increase the efficiency of existing tools for the control of the trade flows and the fight against fraud and illegal activities.



In this regard, the Ministry of Customs and Trade of Turkey hosted the 8th Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Cooperation and the 6th Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations of the Turkic Council on 11-12 May 2017 in Antalya. At both meetings, Parties discussed and reviewed matters of common interest to the Member States in the customs sphere, as well as the 8th Silk Road Forum which is planned to be held in Kyrgyzstan in 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.





D. Transport Cooperation

The development of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor as a viable option has continued in the year 2017. Ameliorations have been made by the governments to reduce the logistical expenses as well as to expedite the transport operations across the corridor. Opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars (BTK) railway on 30 October 2017 was one of the most memorable events of the year. As a game-changer project for the Trans-Caspian Corridor, BTK railway will provide uninterrupted connection from Beijing to London. Initially, 5 million tons of cargo is expected to be transported along the route annually, with a passenger movement of 1 million. Then, the aim is to increase it to 17 million tons of cargo, with 6,5 million passenger per year.

With the finalization of BTK and operationalization of the Road Transportation Agreement between Turkey and China, the cargo flow passing through the Trans-Caspian Corridor is expected to boost considerably. 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 in 2017.



"The Chinese One Belt One Road Initiative and Middle Corridor Initiative are compounding each other."
President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, "Belt and Road" Summit, 14-15 May 2017, Beijing.

I. Sister Ports Relations

Turkic Council Secretariat continued to rally its efforts in the field of transport to support the positive developments in the Corridor. On 22 May 2017, Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of Azerbaijan and Baku International Sea Trade Port organized the 2nd Meeting of Baku-Aktau-Samsun Sister Ports of the Turkic Council in Baku with the participation of the Ports Directors, Ambassadors of the Member States based in Baku, representatives of critical transport institutions such as Azerbaijan Customs Administration, Azerbaijan Transit Council, CASPAR, Azerbaijan Railways Authority, as well as participants from private sectors of the Member States.

The latest developments in transport sector in China-Europe axis, existing transport infrastructure and future projects in the Trans-Caspian transport corridor were discussed by the Parties. To streamline efficient cooperation, Parties agreed to establish a technical group comprising the officials from the ports and the Turkic Council Secretariat. Delegations also visited the Baku International Sea Trade Port in Alat to observe the capacity of the newly built port as well as the ongoing construction efforts. Furthermore, due to the critical position of Kuryk Sea Port of Kazakhstan along the Trans-Caspian Corridor Parties agreed that it would be beneficial to include Kuryk Port in sister ports relations.





II. Opening of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway

Secretary General Hasanov participated in the opening ceremony of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway held on 30 October 2017 in the port of Baku at Alat. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Georgia Giorgi Kvirikashvili, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov, Ministers of Transport of the regional countries, members of cabinet of the Republic of Azerbaijan, transport and customs authorities of the countries included in the said railway network and diplomatic corps accredited in Azerbaijan attended the launch of the first official railway service that would establish a continuous railway link between Asia and Europe.



"Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway will strengthen the brotherly bonds among the Turkic Speaking States. It will also make significant contribution to the peace and stability of our region."
President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, Opening Ceremony of BTK, 30 October 2017, Baku

III. International Conferences on Transport

In order to draw attention to the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, Secretary General Hasanov participated at the “One Belt One Road (OBOR)-The Driver of World Trade” Forum as a Panelist on 15 June 2017 at the Astana Economic Forum. Secretary General Hasanov gave an in-depth analysis on the Turkic Council’s activities on economy as well as transport and customs along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor. He expressed that the Trans-Caspian Corridor is an integral part of the OBOR initiative by putting forward latest positive developments along the corridor that decreased logistical costs and accelerated transport operations. He further mentioned the prospective transport projects that the Turkic Council is going to put in action along the corridor soon.

In addition, Secretary General was a keynote speaker of the 10th International Conference on “Transport Transit Potential-Trans Eurasia 2017” organized by the Ministry of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan on 2 November 2017 in Astana. In the opening session hosted by Minister of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan Zhenis Kassymbek, Secretary General gave information on the activities carried out by the Turkic Council in the field of transport and made evaluations on the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, which gained a greater importance with the opening of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway.





IV. Relations with Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR)

The delegation of the Turkic Council headed by Turkic Council Deputy Secretary General Ömer Kocaman held a meeting with the International Association “Trans-Caspian International Transport Route” (TITR) on 3 November 2017 in Astana. Parties agreed to work together to increase the rail cargo transportation through the Trans-Caspian Transportation Corridor, which gained greater importance in the scope of China’s “One Belt One Road” project and subsequent opening of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line.

Pursuant to this understanding, a Kazakh transport delegation 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 and Turkish State Railways (TCDD) on 16 November 2017 in Istanbul at the Secretariat of the Turkic Council. During the meeting, organized with the assistance of the premises of the Secretariat, the Parties made evaluations on the prospective cargo transportation that would be implemented through railway line of the Trans-Caspian Transportation 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.





On the same day 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 (UND) of Turkey in Istanbul at the Secretariat of the Turkic Council. The said Memoranda were aimed at furthering the cooperation on the prospective cargo transportation that would be implemented through railway line of the Trans-Caspian Transportation Corridor.

Turkic Council and TITR also joined hands to promote Trans-Caspian route at the “Logitrans” International Transport Logistics Exhibition that was held on 15-17 November 2017 in Istanbul. In this connection, Turkic Council facilitated the meetings of the TITR, officials of “Khorgos” logistics center and Kuryk Port, with the Turkish firms operating in the field of railway transportation.



V. Relations with UNESCAP and OSJD

Turkic Council attended the Regional Meeting on Harmonization of Rules and Regulations for Facilitation of International Railway Transport organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) on 20-21 December 2017 in Astana. ESCAP and OSJD member countries and some international transport organizations participated in the meeting where Parties discussed measures for further enhancing efficiency of railway border crossings, developing common technical standards, and generating harmonized operational practices along international railway corridors.



E. Tourism Cooperation

Pursuant to the 4th Summit with the theme of Tourism Cooperation, the efforts of the Turkic Council to increase cooperation among its Member States in this field and to render the historical Silk Road an attractive tourism destination continued in 2017. In this regard, the Council concentrated its activities on the operationalization and promotion of the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package (Tour Package) as an alternative and attractive tourism destination.

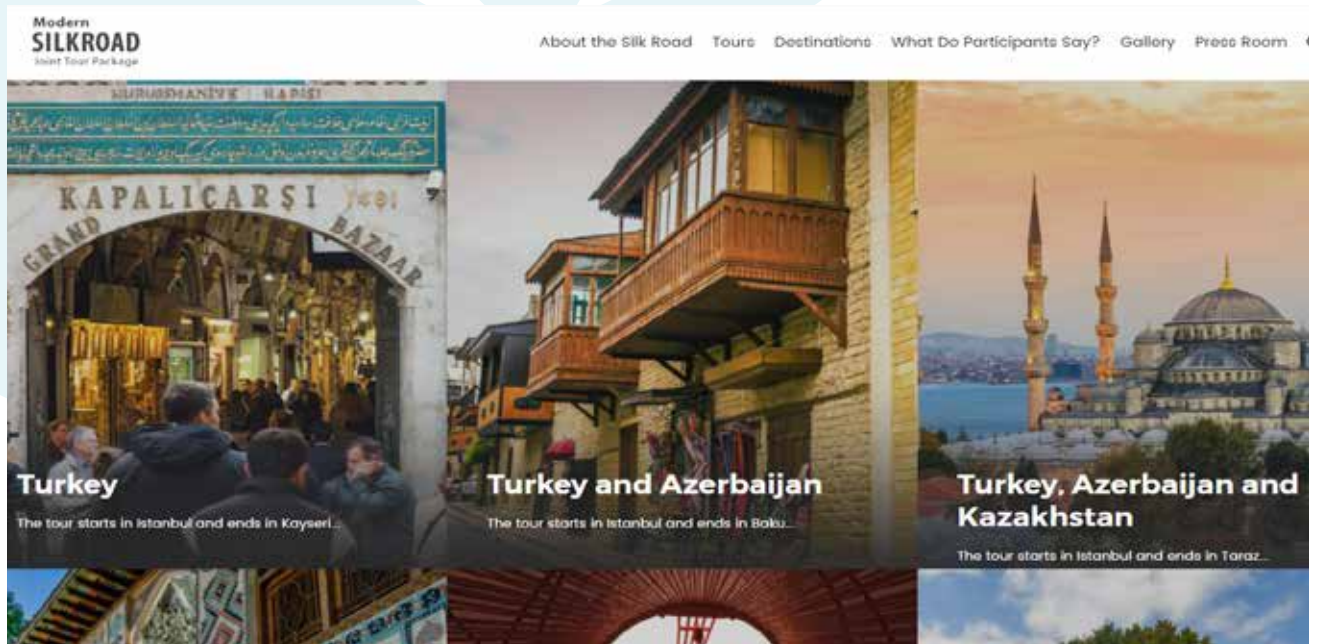
The 10th Meeting of the Working Group on Tourism held on 16 February 2017 in Istanbul, the issues related to the Tour Package and the preparation of the familiarization (fam) trips to promote the said package were taken up. The continuation of vocational trainings on service sector and the enhancement of relations with international organization, particularly with UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) were among the items discussed at the meeting. During the 11th Meeting of Working Group convened on 8 April 2017 in Almaty, the financial experts of the tour operators within the Consortium of the Tour Package examined the technical issues regarding the selling process of the abovementioned tourism product to the tourists.



I. Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project

The Tour Package aims at bringing tourists together with the unique cultural, spiritual, historical and gastronomic life of the traditional Silk Road, which was a source of inspiration for famous travelers, including Marco Polo. This joint package will pave the way for the increase in the flow of tourists among the Turkic Speaking States while it will boost the touristic visits from the third parties to these countries.

The fam trips of the Tour Package were realized on 21 April-5 May 2017 and 12-26 May 2017 with the financial contributions of Prime Ministry Promotion Fund and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, Turkish Airlines (THY as the main sponsor of transport), Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) and Air Astana Airlines.



Through the recommendations of the Member States and the efforts of the Secretariat, 59 media members, academicians and representatives of tour operators coming from 16 different countries such as Belgium, Italy, USA, United Kingdom, Spain, Iran, Singapore, France, Germany, Austria, Qatar, Poland and our Member States participated in the fam trips. During and after these trips, several news and articles were published while TV programs were broadcasted to raise awareness on the rich tourism potential of the abovementioned joint tour package as well as generous cultural and historical heritage of the Silk Road in the Turkic Council Member States.



“The Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package is an attractive tourism product for those looking for alternative destinations offering a unique experience for discovering the landmarks on the traditional Silk Road around our Member States.”

Ambassador Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General of the Turkic Council, Press Conference, First Fam Trip, Istanbul

“The Silk Road connects China with Europe, with a daily trade volume of 1 billion dollars, expected to reach \$3-4 billion in the near future. By promoting the Central Corridor of the Silk Road passing through our countries the organization is aiming at connecting infrastructures and developing new routes to bring the East and West together.”

Ömer Kocaman, Deputy Secretary General of the Turkic Council, Second Fam Trip, Almaty



The first commercial tours of the Tour Package have been kicked off at the second half of March 2018. With the initiative of the Secretariat, the website of the project <http://www.modernsilkroadtour.com> where the selling of the tour will be carried out was finalized. In the meantime, the Secretariat continues its efforts to promote the Tour Package at the national and international tourism fairs and exhibitions.



"Introducing the Turkic States to the world is a very important issue, and let me invite everyone to explore Kyrgyzstan, a country among the mountains with a deep culture where you will have the chance to discover and live ancient traditions."

Azamat Jamankulov, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Information of Kyrgyzstan,
Press Conference, Second Fam Trip, Bishkek



"The secret of the success of the tour will be its unique formula, which allows tourists to pick and choose and design their own tour online. People would be able to combine their destinations and are not obliged to join all the steps of the tour. The tour will be full board and will offer a lot of flexibility, with different options for hotels which appeal to the taste of the middle-income tourists as well as upper-class tourists."

Eli Hadzhieva, Participant of the Fam Trip, Director of EURELIZ Media and Strategic Communications



“The 1500 year Silk Road is awoken once again through the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project that offers an amazing alternative tourism destination.”

Ali Dağlar, Participant of the Fam Trip, Journalist of Hürriyet Newspaper

A presentation on the Turkic Council activities in tourism and particularly about the Tour Package project was made on 5 July 2017 in Ankara at the Training Program on the Development and Promotion of Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) in the Member Countries of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) organized by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

In the joint report of the Turkic Council and UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) titled “How a Regional Organization Uses South-South Cooperation to Promote Regional and Global Development”, the Tour Package and the tourism vocational programs on service sector carried out by Turkey for the tourism employees of other Member States are considered a good South-South cooperation practice for the realization of sustainable tourism in the line with the guidance of Sustainable Development Goals.



II. Joint Photo Exhibition on the Silk Road Heritage of the Member States

Turkic Council continued to organize joint photo exhibition on the Silk Road Heritage of the Member States in 2017. During the Global South-South Development (GSSD) EXPO 2017 held on 27-30 November 2017 in Antalya, the Turkic Council, one of the implementing partners of the said EXPO, organized an exhibition with the photos taken by the participants of the Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Fam Trips held in April-May 2017. Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu opened the joint photo exhibition and congratulated the Secretariat for its efforts in raising awareness of the Silk Road heritage in the Turkic Speaking States. Secretary General Hasanov provided him with the information on the development of the said project during his visit.



III. Organization of International Tourism Events

On the margins of GSSD EXPO 2017, the Turkic Council 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.





At the event, Deputy Secretary General Kocaman made a presentation on the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project that has been considered an exemplary project in South-South and triangular cooperation by the UN authorities. Through the initiative of the Secretariat, Elkhan Usubov, Executive Power of Sheki city of Azerbaijan, Amanbai Kayipov, Government Representative of Naryn Province of Kyrgyzstan, Uzarbek Zylkybaev, Government Representative of Issyk Kul Province of Kyrgyzstan and Olzhaz Shintayev, Acting Director of Tourism Center of South Kazakhstan Region (Ontustik) participated in the round table and presented their cities and regions to the audience.

IV. Participation in Major Tourism Events

Secretary General Hasanov attended the opening ceremony of World Tourism Forum 3rd Global Meeting held on 16 February 2017 in Istanbul. On the margins of the ceremony that was addressed by Binali Yıldırım, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Secretary General Hasanov met with Minister of Civilization and Tourism of Azerbaijan Abulfas Garayev. Furthermore, he had bilateral talks with the Ministers of other countries.





Deputy Secretary General Kocaman participated in the International Tourism Investment Forum entitled “From the Great Wall to the Heart of the Silk Road” co-organized on 15-16 November 2017 in Shymkent by the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Kazakhstan and Governorate (Akimat) of the South-Kazakhstan region. He also made a presentation on the Tour Package Project and its contribution to the development of Silk Road tourism.

On the other hand, Deputy Secretary General Abzal Saparbekuly participated in the opening ceremony of the Eastern Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Fair (EMITT), the 5th largest tourism fair of the world and the largest tourism fair in the region, held on 26 January 2017 in Istanbul.





F. Educational and Scientific Cooperation

Turkic Council emphasizes cooperation in the field of Science and Education. The area is one of the best tools for social change, economic development, and prosperity in our countries. It also proved to be an essential instrument for promoting and consolidating the collective consciousness of our young generations around commonly shared values of language, history, and culture.

Four meetings of Ministers of Education were held so far, while Senior Officials of the Ministries of Education (SOM) gathered six times with the last meeting taking place on 15-16 June 2017 in Istanbul.





I. Common Turkic History Textbook



The finalization process of the Common Turkic History textbook covering the period until the 15th century and the preparation of the draft Concept Paper of the Common Geography textbook form an indispensable part of the SOM meetings. The prospective implementations of the exchange programs among educational professionals and students of secondary/high schools, and the activities carried out within the Turkic Council Turkic University Union are top priorities of the partnership in the sphere of science and education as well.

The final amendments to the Common Turkic History textbook were made at the last experts meeting on the draft textbook held on 25-29 September 2017 in Astana. The final version of the textbook was submitted for adoption of Ministers of Education. After adoption by the Ministers the textbook will be presented to the Heads of State at the 6th Summit of the Turkic Council and included in national school's curricula of the Member States.

Responsible for the Common Turkic History textbook preparation, the Turkic Academy is concurrently working towards the finalization of the draft concept paper of the Common Turkic Geography textbook.



The experts will finalize the stated concept paper integrating the views and recommendations of the Member States and present it at the next SOM. After passing the process of adoption by the Ministers of Education, the Turkic Academy will continue developing the textbook.



II. Exchange Programs for Secondary/High Schools

Exchange programs for the students of secondary/high schools and educational professionals are another end of the cooperation in the field of science and education. Assessing and noting the effective preparation and successful organization of the First Student Exchange Program in April 2016 in Turkey, the representatives from the Ministries of Education consented on carrying out the practice with the next student exchange program planned to be arranged in 2018 in Azerbaijan. Such programs proved to propel students towards acceptance and understanding of similar cultural values and perspectives enhancing familiarization with other Turkic languages and increasing awareness and general knowledge of the students towards the brotherly Turkic states.

With the success of the first student exchange program, the senior officials from Ministries of Education set to start another exchange program for educational professionals of the Member States. At the last SOM meeting Parties approved the concept paper of the said program and submitted it to the ministers. The program aims to increase the professional qualification of the employees working in the sphere and invite them to share their professional experience.

The proposal to launch the Sister Schools Project, just as the exchange program among educational professionals, will impart new principles to the work of Secretariat in 2018. The future project promises to be a meaningful, reciprocal and sustainable long-term partnership between the schools of the Turkic states, aimed at fulfilling a range of purposes as determined by aims, goals and objectives of the Turkic Council. The Secretariat prepared a concept paper that would serve as a basis for encouraging prospective cooperation in this regard and which will be high on the agenda of the next ministerial meeting.



III. Turkic University Union

Turkic Council Turkic University Union (Union) has been intensively involved in numerous efforts to advance cooperation in the sphere of higher education. Developed by the Union, the student/lecturer exchange program entitled “Orkhun Process” has come to the implementation phase. During the 5th meeting of the Union taken place at the premises of Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, current Chair-in-Office of the Union, the participating Rectors/Vice-rectors adopted the “Draft Regulation of the Turkic Council Turkic University Union Orkhun Exchange Program”. The program is the result of indication coming from the 2nd Summit of the Turkic Council devoted to cooperation in science, education, and culture.



The official basis of the Orkhun Exchange Program will be completed after its regulatory documents will be approved by the Ministers of Education. As the first step in the realization of the process, a pilot project of the stated program started for the academic year 2017-2018. Being in the first place for the undergraduate students of the departments of International Relations, Political Science, and Political Science and International Relations, 43 students from the member universities are currently benefitting from this program. The gradual completion of the legal ground will constitute a fundamental milestone for the Turkic academic world and will eventually become a prestigious brand among the universities of the Turkic states.

The Turkic University Union also brings together the athletes of the member universities to promote friendship, harmony, and solidarity among the university students in the Turkic States. The platform serves the purposes of establishing a tradition of sports events/competitions within the Union as well. On 15-19 May 2017, the current Chair-in-Office of the Turkic University Union Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University organized the “First Sports Games of Turkic Council Turkic University Union” in Bishkek. A total of 300 athletes from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey representing 11 member universities took part in the games.



The “Student Council”, another product of the Turkic Council Turkic University Union, had a highly interactive and lively year. Along with the active involvement in the activities of the union, in 2017 the Student Council organized a cultural night event at Karasayev Bishkek Social Sciences University. Apart from the social component including traditional songs and national games performances, such events provide an excellent opportunity to share the activities of the Union with the audience. In 2017, the Student Council also organized a Friendship Tournament on Toguz Korgol/Togyz Kumalak (Mangala) at the Kyrgyz National University involving athletes from other member universities.





G. Information and Media Cooperation

In line with the “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”, which were signed in 2015 in Astana, the representatives of the media institutions of the Member States have continued to conduct multilateral cooperation in the framework of Turkic Council.

The 6th meeting of the Working Group on cooperation in information and media sphere was held on 27-28 April 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey. Parties discussed the current situation on implementation of the Plan of Events on development of cooperation in the sphere of information and media among the Member States of the Turkic Council for 2016 and agreed to prolong the Plan for the next 3 years. The Secretariat noted that according to the Plan the national TV channels started their exchange of video materials and organized screenings in their channels.

News Agencies of the Member States supported the idea of assigning a special blog/news headline of Turkic World News in the News Agencies websites. Anadolu Agency created a separate “Turkic World News” Package, which provides news about the Turkic world.

Parties also discussed the establishment of the International Turkic News Channel (ITNC) on the basis of TRT Channel. TRT will prepare a Concept Paper on the establishment of the ITNC on the basis of TRT Channel, including the financial side, establishment mechanism and other important issues of the channel. The Parties also agreed that this issue will be presented to the consideration of the Ministers of Information and Media of the Turkic Council during their upcoming meeting in 2018 in Azerbaijan.





Secretary General Hasanov received Regional Director of TRT Marmara Abdülhamit Avşar at his premises on 2 March 2017. Secretary General and TRT Regional Director exchanged ideas on the steps to be taken in order to facilitate the ongoing cooperation between the two organizations. In particular, they made evaluations regarding the Turkic Council Joint Education Television Channel and International Turkic News Channel.



Secretary General Hasanov met with Chairman of Kazakhstan National Television and Radio Corporation Yerlan Karin. Development of cooperation among the National TV Channels of the Member States in line with signed protocol was discussed. It was agreed that frequent meetings in a short period of time would make a major contribution to the cooperation among National TV Channels.





H. Diaspora Cooperation

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. Their critical role 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.

In this vein, based on the decision taken at the 3rd meeting of the Contact Group under the aegis of the Turkic Council in 2016 in Almaty, around 15 youngsters from the diasporas of the Member States living in foreign countries attended the Turkic Council International Youth Camp held in Antalya, Turkey in August 2017.

The Secretary General Hasanov met with the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Hakan Çavuşoğlu who is in charge of the diaspora affairs of Turkey, on 22 November 2017 in Ankara in order to discuss the diaspora agenda of the Turkic Council along with the activities planned to be held in 2018.





I. Cooperation in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)

Across the past twenty years, the use of ICT has fundamentally changed the practices and procedures of nearly all aspects of business life and governance. The 2nd meeting of the Turkic Council Working Group on ICT was held on 16 May 2017 in Istanbul, hosted by the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of Turkey. During the meeting, the 4 sub-working groups namely; cyber security, e-government, development of TASIM project and fiber infrastructure, and satellite services held their meetings in order to discuss the cooperation in the mentioned areas.



The 3rd meeting of the Working Group on ICT and the 2nd meeting of the Ministers in charge of ICT were convened 8-9 November 2017 in Istanbul. During the meeting, the Ministers expressed their readiness for enhancing cooperation between the Member States on subjects such as developing a common secure software and hardware as well as technology transfer and agreed on the organization of a special Business Forum on the sidelines of the 3rd Meeting of Ministers in charge of ICT and the 4th Working Group Meeting on ICT planned to be held in Kazakhstan with the participation of leading national software/hardware developers designated by the Member States. At the meeting, the idea of preparing a draft quadrilateral Memorandum of Understanding which will pave the way for an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of e-government was welcomed.





J. Youth and Sports Cooperation

Cooperation in the field of Youth and Sports is high on the agenda of the Turkic Council. Turkic Council Member States emphasize the importance of policies on Youth and Sport considering their educational, cultural and economic role. Furthermore, the upcoming Summit of the Turkic Council was dedicated to the theme of “Youth and National Sports” at the previous Summit. Based on this motivation and the instructions of the Heads of States, Turkic Council Member States continued their cooperation in this field in 2017.

I. Second Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports

The 2nd Meeting of the Turkic Council Working Group on Cooperation in the Field of Youth and Sports, and the 2nd Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council were held on 31 March 2017 in Istanbul and 13 May 2017 in Baku, respectively. Ministers took decisions on the below-going topics to further the ongoing cooperation among the Member States.





II. Turkic Council Youth Platform

Pursuant to the decisions taken at the above meetings, a “Youth Platform” under the Turkic Council operating with the purpose of strengthening the relationship among the youth organizations (non-governmental youth NGOs and National Youth Councils) of the Member States was established in 2017. The Regulation of the Youth Platform was adopted by the Ministers of the Turkic Council in charge of Youth and Sports in their 2nd meeting in Baku on 13 May 2017. Turkic Council expects that the Platform will increase the cooperation and coordination among the Youth of the Member States as well as that of regional countries with various projects and activities by bringing them under one roof, and gaining them a unified representative capacity towards the world. The Youth Platform will have representative and elected bodies such as a Board and will hold regular General Assemblies. Its Board will convene regularly in advance of the meetings of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Member States to reflect their problems and expectations.

III. Turkic Council International Youth Camps

Two International Youth Camps were organized in Zerendy, Kazakhstan (10-16 July 2017) and Antalya, Turkey (13-19 and 22-28 August 2017) with the participation of some 500 youngsters from the member states and regional countries. The aim of the camps was to contribute to the personal development of the future young leaders, promote socialization among the youth sharing the same history, culture and language, as well as create a future generation with increased sense of awareness towards the social problems. 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.





IV. Youth Partnership with the UN Organs

In a bid to contribute to the global and regional efforts to empower the role of youth, Secretary General Ramil Hasanov met with the High Representative of the UNAOC, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, in New York in September 2017. Based on the decisions taken at this meeting, the youth affiliated to the UNAOC and the Turkic Council were brought together in a Youth Dialogue meeting on 11 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, Turkic Council Secretariat met with the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, on 18 September 2017 in New York. During the visit, 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 2nd UNESCO Youth Forum on "Establishment of Intercultural Dialogue and Cooperation among the Youth in the Prevention of Violent Extremism" organized by UNESCO on 8 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.



V. 1st International Professional Kick Boxing Tournament of the Turkic Council Countries



Based on the understanding reached at the 2nd Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council, the 1st International Professional Kick Boxing Tournament of the Turkic Council Countries, hosted by the Kick Boxing Federation of Azerbaijan, was held on 30 June-2 July 2017 in Baku. Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan İsmayıl İsmayılov, Ambassadors of Turkic Council Member States in Baku, heads of various sports federations of Azerbaijan participated in the tournament organized with participation of a large number of athletes in

different categories from four Member States. Azerbaijani people showed great interest in the tournament, which was broadcasted live on a Sports Channel of Azerbaijan. Contestants who won at competitions received gold, silver and bronze medals as well as cash rewards.



VI. Becoming the Founding Member of Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA)

In order to bolster its international standing in the field of sports, Turkic Council has become one of the founding members of the Sports Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) in 2017. It attended two SIGA General Assemblies held in 2017 with the purpose of increasing the unifying force of sport, protection of integrity and ethics code in sport, and ensuring equal opportunities and prevention of corruption.



VII. Supporting Traditional Sports

Turkic Council continued its support to the organizations and activities aimed at revitalizing traditional sports and cultural values of the Turkic speaking countries. Secretary General Hasanov and the accompanying delegation attended opening ceremony of the 2nd Ethnosport Culture Festival on 11 May 2017 which was honored by the participation of the Minister of Youth and Sports of Turkey, Akif Çağatay Kılıç, organized by the World Ethnosport





Confederation to revive traditional Turkic sports. Similarly, Turkic Council attended the 1st World Ethnosport Workshop as a keynote speaker on 7-8 October 2017 in Istanbul. The representatives of Ethnosport Federations coming from 15 countries discussed the current situation of the ethno sports, the problems they face and the steps needed to be taken for ethno sports to gain popularity.



Secretary General Hasanov was also invited to the opening ceremony of the “Islamic Solidarity Games” on 12 May 2017 in Baku, which was attended by 20 Ministers of Sports from 57 countries, representatives of international organizations and a large number of senior officials.



III. RELATIONS WITH AFFILIATED AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS



Pursuing good relations with our affiliated organizations are among priorities for the Turkic Council. With this spirit, the Secretariat of the Turkic Council initiated a process of consultation among the Turkic Council and the affiliated organizations - TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and Centre of Nomadic Civilization - to ensure efficient coordination and cooperation in the Turkic world.



Upon the kind invitation of TURKSOY, Turkic Council attended the 35th meeting of the Permanent Council of Culture Ministers of TURKSOY and the closing ceremony of the program “Turkistan-the Cultural Capital of Turkic World” held on 4-5 December 2017 in Turkistan, Kazakhstan. In line with the suggestion submitted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, the Permanent Council of TURKSOY declared the city of Kastamonu as Cultural Capital of the Turkic World 2018. The Permanent Council also elected Mr. Dusen Kasseinov as the Secretary General of TURKSOY for the term of 2017-2020.





In order to discuss ongoing projects and activities of both organizations, Secretary General Ramil Hasanov met with the President of the Turkic Academy Darkhan Kydyrali three times in 2017. The preparation of Common Turkic history, geography and literature textbooks, as well as improvement of the relations of the Academy with its counterparts and Turcology centers of leading universities of the world were the main issues discussed.

In addition to the mutual visits held between the Turkic Council and the Turkic Academy during the reporting period, the Secretariat participated in the 2nd “The Great Steppe” Social Sciences Forum; expert meetings on the preparation of textbooks on common Turkic history literature and geography; the Opening Ceremony of the exhibition “Turkic and Islamic calligraphy along Silk Road” and various occasions organized with the aim of promoting the books prepared by the Academy in 2017.

Similarly, the Secretariat and the TURKPA continued mutual interaction. Secretary General Hasanov attended the 7th Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of TURKPA held on 8 December in Bishkek. In his speech at the Plenary, Secretary General Hasanov emphasized that the

Turkic Council, as the umbrella organization for the cooperation mechanisms among the Turkic Speaking States, has centered its efforts to strengthen cooperation among its Member States with a view to contributing to the development of regional collaboration as well as intensifying interaction with regional and international actors.

Secretary General Hasanov congratulated the Kyrgyz Chairmanship and also Mr. AltynBek Mamaiusupov on his election as a Secretary General of TURKPA and reaffirmed the readiness of the Turkic Council to cooperate with them in the upcoming term.



Deputy Secretary General Ömer Kocaman attended the 3rd Meeting of the TURKPA Commission on Environment and Natural Resources held on 22 June 2017 in Astana. He informed the audience about the activities of Turkic Council in the field of alternative energy, particularly about the work of Working Group on alternative energy cooperation among the Member States of the Turkic Council.



Secretary General Hasanov participated in the event entitled “Turkic Heritage at the Crossroads of Cultures and Civilizations” hosted by the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation on 6 May 2017 in Baku within the framework of 4th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue. At the event, in his address to the audience, he touched upon the comprehensive, inclusive and result-oriented approach of the Turkic Council and its activities carried out in a wide range of areas from economy, tourism, education to media, youth and sports while also mentioning the growing cooperation of the Turkic Council with the international organizations.



IV. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS

A. UN and Its Specialized Agencies

Throughout 2017, the Turkic Council continued to deepen its institutional relations with the UN and its specialized agencies while contributing to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, as an applicant for observer status in the UN General Assembly (UNGA), it carried out activities for the successful implementation of the MoUs signed with the UNDP, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) while deepening its ongoing relations with UNECE and UNESCO.

The Secretariat's efforts to coordinate the developments about the Turkic Council's bid for observer status at the UNGA continued throughout 2017. In this context, with Secretariat's initiative Permanent Representations of the Turkic Council Member States in New York came together to discuss the measures to be taken in fulfillment obtaining the observer status at the UNGA.



UNDP

With the joint commitment to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in our region, the Turkic Council and the UNDP enhanced their relations on the basis of the MoU signed in 2016. In this vein, Cihan Sultanoğlu, Assistant Secretary General of the UN, Assistant Administrator of the UNDP and Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC) visited Secretary General Hasanov at the headquarters of the Turkic Council on 17 May 2017. At the meeting, further joint steps on the role of youth in preventing and countering violent extremism, development of rural tourism and empowerment of e-governance were raised.

Within the framework of his official visit to New York on the occasion of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, Secretary General Hasanov convened a bilateral meeting with Deputy Administrator Sultanoğlu. During the meeting, the parties expressed their commitment for the close cooperation between the two institutions. Based on the outcomes of the Turkic Council-UNAOC international conference, they agreed to start the preparations for the establishment of an online academy on prevention of violent extremism. At the meeting, the parties also agreed to co-organize a joint session during the GSSD EXPO 2017 between 27-30 November 2017 in Antalya.



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 with the moderation of Deputy Secretary General Kocaman. Deputy Secretary General Kocaman, and Rastislav Vrbensky, Deputy Regional Director of UNDP RBEC addressed the participants at the opening segment of the Forum that showcased successful South-South cooperation examples from the Eurasian region making a transformative impact on the achievement of SDGs. Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Astana; Kabira Mammadova, Deputy Director of the Department of International Relations at State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations (ASAN) under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Sesili Verdzadze, Head of Innovations at ServiceLab, Public Service Development Agency of Ministry of Justice of Georgia; Irakli Kotetishvili, Policy Specialist Anti-Corruption and Public Administration at UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub; Ömür Gebeş, General Manager of Customs and Tourism Enterprises Co. Inc. (GTI) from the Republic of Turkey and Clare Stark, Strategic Planning Specialist of UNESCO were the panelists of the said Solution Forum that opened up new avenues for South-South cooperation in the region.

Secretary General Hasanov attended on 18 October 2017 the opening ceremony of the 5th Global National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference co-hosted in Istanbul by the Government of Turkey and UNDP. The conference themed “People, Planet and Progress in the SDGs Era” was attended by more than 500 national and international experts coming from 113 countries. The Project Directors of the Turkic Council participated in various workshops taken place between 18-20 October 2017 during the conference.

On the other hand, Secretary General Hasanov’s message was conveyed at the launch event of the UNDP Report on “Journeys to Extremism in Africa: Drivers, Incentives and the Tipping Point for Recruitment” that took place on 2 November 2017 in Istanbul. In his message, he highlighted the utmost importance that the Turkic Council attributes to cooperate with the UNDP on the area of preventing violent extremism. Thus, the Project Directors of the Secretariat and the experts of the UNDP office in Istanbul work on designing and developing a joint project to launch an online academy on preventing and countering violent extremism in Eurasia.



UNOSSC

The Secretariat intensified its close ties with the UNOSSC on the basis of the MoU signed between the two organizations in 2016.

Upon the proposal of the UNOSSC, the Turkic Council-UNOSSC 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.

Ambassador Ramil Hasanov and Jorge Chediek, Envoy of UN Secretary General on South South Cooperation and Director of UNOSSC addressed the audience at the event, which demonstrated the Turkic Council's contributions to the development of South South Cooperation in particular, and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in general. The report is the first publication attributed to the role of an international organization to implement South-South cooperation within the series of South-South in Action of the UNOSSC.



"The report, with its holistic approach presents a true summary of the efforts that the Council carries out through the lenses of South-South cooperation, it is also a summary of the Turkic Council's efforts for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) putting a special emphasis on SDGs number 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17."

Ambassador Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General of the Turkic Council, Turkic Council-UNOSSC Joint Report Launch Event, 25 September 2017, New York

"Regional organizations such as the Turkic Council are of utmost importance for achieving the 2030 Agenda, since they bring together countries and peoples who share socio-economic, historic, and linguistic ties. Therefore, the Turkic Council is a great example of a mechanism where the countries of the South come together to take charge of their own development and development priorities."

Jorge Chediek, Envoy of UN Secretary General on South-South Cooperation, Director of UNOSSC, Turkic Council-UNOSSC Joint Report Launch Event, 25 September 2017, New York



The Secretariat was among the implementing partners of the Global South-South Development (GSSD) EXPO 2017 organized by the UNOSSC 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 Hasanov delivered a speech on 27 November 2017 in Antalya at the high level opening ceremony of the EXPO. In his speech, he expressed that the Turkic Council is privileged to be one of the implementing partners of this global event while underlining the firm commitment of the Council to work with UNOSSC in promoting and implementing South-South Cooperation in the region.

In their keynote speeches, both Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Foreign Minister of Turkey and Director 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 Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges on 30 November 2017 in Antalya. Meanwhile it also organize 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.

At the Directors General Forum, Deputy Secretary General Kocaman made a presentation regarding the Turkic Council’s contributions to the empowerment of regional cooperation through South-South Cooperation approach. In his presentation, he touched upon the areas such as tourism, customs and transportation as well as diplomacy, youth and sports where the Turkic Council offers opportunities of experience and knowledge sharing and facilitates the conduct of vocational trainings among its Member States as indicated in the Turkic Council-UNOSSC Joint Report.





In the closing ceremony of the UNOSSC EXPO 2017, Director Chediek and Gülseren Çelik, Head of Department of General Directorate for Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey expressed their gratitude to the Turkic Council for its valuable contribution for the realization of the EXPO with such a remarkable success.

At the end of the closing ceremony, Deputy Secretary General Kocaman received the GSSD 2017 Appreciation Award presented by the UNOSSC to the Turkic Council

for the latter's firm support to the materialization of the GSSD EXPO 2017. Project Director Pelin Musabay Baki was the master of the ceremony of the opening and closing segments of the GSSD EXPO.

Secretary General Hasanov also participated in the opening ceremony of the UNOSSC 3rd Regional Networking Forum dedicated the theme "Scaling up Southern Development Solutions through Advanced Youth Leadership" organized on 26 November 2017 in Antalya prior to the GSSD EXPO 2017.

In the preparation process of the GSSD EXPO 2017, with the facilitation of the Secretariat, the joint delegation of the Turkic Council and the UNOSSC headed by Secretary General Hasanov and Director Chediek visited Dr. Serdar Çam, President of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency of the Republic of Turkey (TİKA) and Ambassador Ahmet Yıldız, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey on 10 April 2017 in Ankara.



On the other hand, Deputy Secretary General Kocaman attended the official opening of the South-South Knowledge Exchange and Cooperation Workshop on Effective Pasture Management and Rural Tourism hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration of the Kyrgyz Republic in partnership with South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS) held on 26-28 September 2017 in Bishkek. Deputy Secretary General Kocaman addressed the audience in his welcoming speech and made a presentation on

Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project which is considered as a best practice in South-South cooperation.



UNWTO

The Turkic Council and the UNWTO have been successfully implementing the existing MoU between the two organizations. In this context, Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of UNWTO visited Secretary General Hasanov on 27 January 2017. During the meeting, the Secretaries General reviewed the steps already taken for the development of tourism along the historical Silk Road and discussed the joint activities to realize during 2017 that was designated as “the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development” by the UN General Assembly.

Following the meeting, Secretary General Rifai signed the Honor Book of the Turkic Council. The signing ceremony proceeded with the press conference. At the press conference, the Secretaries General touched upon the significant contribution of tourism to the development of economies and socio-cultural relations. In this context, they emphasized the importance of revealing the enormous potential of the Silk Road through concrete projects.



“I certainly appreciate the contributions of the Turkic Council to the development of tourism sector in the region and along the Silk Road through the realization of its Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project.”

Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the UNWTO, 27 January 2017, Istanbul



Secretary General Hasanov participated on 8 March 2017 in Berlin the 7th UNWTO Meeting of Silk Road Ministers that focused on sustainable tourism and local Silk Road Communities organized on the margins of International Tourism Fair-ITB Berlin. At the meeting, while having contacts with Secretary General Rifai, he had meetings with the Tourism Ministers of the Member States. He also attended the opening ceremony entitled “the World Conference on Tourism and Future Energy: Unlocking low-carbon growth opportunities” organized in Astana, Kazakhstan on 26 June 2017 by the Astana EXPO 2017 and UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Sports of Kazakhstan as a part of the celebrations of 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. On the occasion of the event, Secretary General Hasanov presented the plate of the Turkic Council to Vice President of Air Astana İbrahim Canliel for Air Astana` s contribution to the successful realization of familiarization trips of Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project carried out in April and May 2017.

Deputy Secretary General Kocaman, participated on 14 September 2017 in the 22nd Session of the UNWTO General Assembly dedicated to the theme of “Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals: Journey 2030” where he delivered a speech touching upon the Turkic Council’s contributions to the achievements of SDGs related to the assurance of sustainable tourism.



On the other hand, a delegation of the Secretariat attended the Official Opening of International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development that was held on 18 January 2017 in Madrid while taking part in the activities of FITUR 2017 (International Tourism Trade Fair in Spain).



B. OSCE

The Turkic Council stiffened its efforts to add value to the development and prosperity of Eurasia through its enhancement of its institutional relations with the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In this regard, during 2017, the Secretariat has taken steps to further cooperation between the two organizations in line with the instructions of the Heads of State.

The delegation of the Turkic Council headed by Deputy Secretary General Kocaman participated in the 24th Ministerial Meeting of the OSCE taken place on 7-8 December 2017 in Vienna as the guest of the OSCE Austrian Chairmanship. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Erlan Abduldjayev, Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and Ahmet Yıldız, Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey addressed the audience touching upon the regional issues of the OSCE agenda on the first day of the meeting.

The common practice according to which the Member State assuming the Turkic Council Chairman-in-Office voices the expectations to further enhance the relations between the Council and the OSCE continued during this OSCE Ministerial Council. Accordingly, in his address, Minister Abdrakhmanov, with his capacity representing the current Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council, expressed the gratitude of the Turkic Council Member States to the Austrian Chairmanship for inviting the Council to the OSCE Ministerial Meeting as a guest. He also highlighted that the Turkic Council Member States firmly believe that the active participation of the Council as a regional cooperation mechanism in the work of the OSCE will contribute to the attainment of the common goals shared by the two organizations.

On the margins of the ministerial meeting, Deputy Secretary General Kocaman met with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger and expressed him the Turkic Council`s desire to further enhance the ongoing fruitful relations between the two organizations. On the margins of the event, he Turkic Council delegation also attended the side event on youth, peace and security convened by the Austrian Chairmanship and its Special Representatives on Youth and Security. On the other hand, 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.





C. ECO

The relations with Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) continued developing since the renewal of observer status in 2015. As a regular practice, the Secretary General Hasanov participated at the 13th Summit of the ECO, preceded by the 22nd meeting of the ECO Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) held on 27-28 February 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The representative of Turkic Council also observed 28th meeting of the Regional Planning Council of the ECO held on 14 December 2017 in Islamabad.

D. OIC

Relations between the Turkic Council and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have been enhanced with the continuous efforts of the Member States for the establishment of an official basis for cooperation with, as well as for obtaining the observer status in the OIC. In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by both Secretaries General on the margins of the 1st OIC Summit on Science and Technology held in Astana, on 10 September 2017 in the presence of numerous international and national representatives. At the informal CFM meeting held in New York, Foreign Ministers of the Member States agreed to further support the Turkic Council's ongoing bid to obtain an observer status at the OIC at the 45th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers scheduled for 5-6 May 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.





E. BSEC - PABSEC

Maintaining good relations with other regional neighboring organizations allowed Turkic Council to familiarize with the work of those organizations. Accordingly, the representative of Turkic Council participated at the 49th and 50th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Assembly of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) meeting held in Istanbul and Kiev respectively in 2017.

In order to establish good relations with Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), Secretary General Hasanov conducted a bilateral meeting with Ambassador Michael Christides, Secretary General of the BSEC on 22 June 2017 and handed a draft MoU in order to conclude mutually beneficial cooperation.

F. World Customs Organization (WCO)

As a forum for dialogue and exchange of experiences for Customs delegates, the WCO offers a range of Conventions and other international instruments, as well as technical assistance and training services. As Turkic Council intensified its cooperation in customs sphere the use of international available tools of the WCO can greatly assist the Member Countries in their endeavors to modernize and build capacity within national Customs administrations. Turkic Council, in order to benefit the MoU signed between the two organizations, is planning to jointly organize a workshop on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) with the active participation of private sector of the Member States.

Turkic Council as an observer also attended 129/130 Sessions of the WCO Customs Co-operation Council and Working Group Meeting on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFAWG) including a joint session with the Permanent Technical Committee of the WCO held in Brussels in 2017.

G. TIKA



The joint delegations of the Turkic Council headed by Secretary General Hasanov and Jorge Chediek, Envoy of UN Secretary General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the UNOSSC visited Dr. Serdar Çam, President of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency of the Republic of Turkey (TIKA), on 10 April 2017 in Ankara.

During the meeting, Ambassador Hasanov gave information about the fruitful cooperation between the Council and the UNOSSC. Director Chediek expressed their gratitude to cooperate with the Turkic Council on various issues. The issues related to the Global South-South Cooperation Development EXPO for 2017 were also discussed at the meeting. Referring to

the ongoing fruitful cooperation with the Turkic Council, President Çam underlined their commitment to collaborate with the UNOSSC on the possible occasions in the near future.

V. ASTANA EXPO 2017



Kazakhstan hosted the international specialized exhibition (EXPO) under the auspices of the International Exhibition Bureau in Astana from June 10 to September 10, 2017. The theme of the exhibition was “Energy of the Future”.

Astana EXPO 2017 was visited by 4 million people. 115 countries and 22 international organizations brought exclusive innovations to their pavilions. About 140 scientific inventions in the field of renewable energy sources were showcased during the EXPO.

The significant outcomes are that more than 1,400 small and medium enterprises received orders for goods and services worth roughly 2 billion USD, tens of thousands of people got jobs and decent wages. Kazakhstan’s tourist sector saw a noticeable revival, with the demand for tour operator services almost doubling. The number of business entities in Astana increased by more than 10%. The budget of the capital from the service sphere increased 1.2 times. The capital of Kazakhstan was at the epicenter of global attention.



“Most importantly, the whole world was able to witness the event. Representatives of 185 countries including people of Kazakhstan visited the EXPO. The event also paid off in financial terms. I consider it a success,”
Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Kazakhstan has selected 105 foreign and 28 national technologies demonstrated at the EXPO foreign and national pavilions. In the field of oil and gas: 27 technologies, coal industry: 7 technologies, electric power, energy saving and renewable energy sources: 63 technologies, ecology (waste management, water treatment and air quality control): 36 technologies will be implemented in Kazakhstan.



Turkic Council was also a part of this significant event. Turkic Council signed the cooperation protocol with Astana Expo 2017 Company. And on the basis of that protocol Turkic Council provided necessary support and actively participated in the work of EXPO.

One of the initial activities organized by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and KAZENERGY was Ministerial Dialogue entitled “Energy Security, Regional Trade and Infrastructure”. Panelist Ministers drew attention to the rising energy demand in the world economy that is expected to be doubled in the course of next 25 years as well as to the pressing need to transform traditional energy sector to green energy. They also elaborated on the main risks and threats to the stability of the energy supply security of the energy importing countries and point to the need to more international integration to address current problems. Following the Ministerial Dialogue, Turkic Council delegation visited the stands of Turkic Speaking Countries at the Exhibition area of Astana EXPO 2017.



Astana Economic Forum was another activity on the side-lines of EXPO. Turkic Council delegation actively participated in the work of panels that are related to the scope of the Turkic Council and Plenary Session with the participation of President of Kazakhstan.

Secretary General addressed the “One Belt One Road-The Driver of World Trade” Forum on 15 June 2017 at the Astana Economic Forum as a Panelist. In his speech, Secretary General Hasanov underlined the importance of the One Belt One Road (OBOR) project with statistical information. He touched upon the massive transformative power of the 900 billion USD OBOR project in the wider region with new infrastructural investments on roads, railways, ports and power grids. Subsequently, Secretary General Hasanov gave an in-depth analysis on the Turkic Council’s activities on economy as well as transport and customs along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor.

Furthermore, Secretary General Hasanov attended the official reception given by the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev in honor of the heads of the delegations attending the Astana Economic Forum. And the breakfast given by the President of Astana International Finance Centre Kairat Kelimbetov in honor of the high level participants of the Astana Economic Forum.





VI. OFFICIAL VISITS AND CONTACTS

As a customary practice, since the establishment of the Turkic Council Secretary General annually pays official visits to the Member States to follow up the instructions given by the CHS and discuss issues on the agenda with Government officials.

In the framework of observation mission of Turkic Council, Secretary General Hasanov met with the Chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on 26 June 2017 in Astana. During the meeting the Secretary General Hasanov informed the Chairman of Senate about the activities and projects of the Turkic Council, with a particular reference to information and communication technologies, alternative energy and tourism.



During his official visit to Kazakhstan, Secretary General Hasanov was received by the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev on 3 April 2017. Prime Minister Sagintayev and Secretary General Hasanov discussed the projects carried out in the scope of the Business Council Meeting, Turkic Business Forum, Astana EXPO-2017 and activities in the field of transport, and Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package. ,





In the framework of the observation mission for the Presidential Elections of Kyrgyzstan, Secretary General Hasanov paid a courtesy visit to the Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan Sapar Isakov on 16 October 2017. He was also received by the Prime Minister Isakov on 8 December 2017. In both meetings, Prime Minister and Secretary General held talks about the organization of the upcoming Turkic Council Summit in Kyrgyzstan, cooperation in the field of transport, education, economy, as well as organization of 3rd World Nomad Games.



Secretary General Hasanov visited Yıldırım Tuğrul Türkeş, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey on 26 January 2017. Secretary General provided the Deputy Prime Minister with in-depth information about the activities of the Turkic Council including the Central Transport Corridor, tourism projects, Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package, projects in the field of education and Common History Textbook, Joint TV Channel of the Turkic World, Turkic Council Turkic University Union and the Student Council, as well as World Nomads Games.





Secretary General Hasanov visited Hakan Çavuşoğlu, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, on 22 November 2017 in Ankara to discuss the diaspora agenda of the Turkic Council along with the activities planned for the year 2018.



Besides meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Secretary General Hasanov had meetings with Foreign Ministers of the Member States - Elmar Mammadyarov, Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Erlan Abdildaev and Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu in order to discuss the follow up of implementation of instructions of Heads of States.





Secretary General Hasanov had 85 meetings in total with the high level officials of the Member States in 2017 when the abovementioned occasions and his meetings with various Ministers put together. During these meetings, he informed the officials on the projects of the Turkic Council and further steps to be taken to enhance cooperation among the Member States.



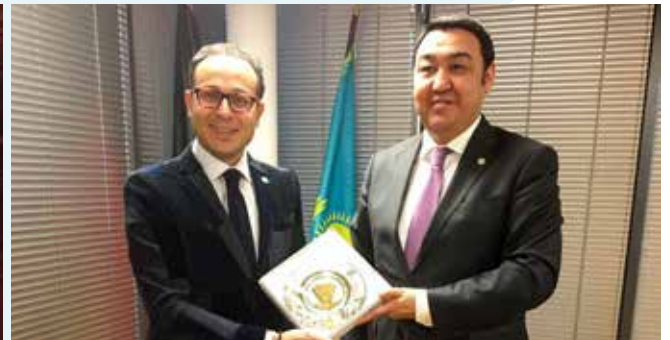


Secretary General continued his regular meetings with Ambassadors Permanent Representatives and heads of relevant local authorities of the Member States during his visits to the Member States in the third countries in order to inform them on the projects and activities of the Secretariat and exchange views regarding the prespective undertakings and endeavors in various fields of cooperation.

Within the context of his official contacts in Ankara, Secretary General periodically meets with Ambassadors of the Member States in Ankara.



During 2017, Secretary General met with Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives of Member States in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Germany, United Kingdom and United States of America.





In addition to the Secretary General's official contacts, the Deputy Secretary General also held contacts with the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Ambassadors of the Member States as well as of partner countries and organizations to discuss the details of implementing the cooperation agenda of the Turkic Council.



2017 was also an active year for the visits paid by high-level officials of the Member States and other countries to the Turkic Council Headquarters in Istanbul.





2017 visits was also an active year for the visits paid by high-level officials of the Member States and the partner countries to the Headquarters of the Turkic Council. In this vein, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Yıldız, visited the Headquarters of the Turkic Council Secretariat and met with its personnel. Furthermore, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Yıldız was briefed by the Deputy Secretary Kocaman about the ongoing activities as well as the planned activities for 2017.



Furthermore, Ambassadors of Turkey to Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Venezuela paid visits to the Headquarters of the Turkic Council in 2017. They were provided with brief information regarding the ongoing projects and future plans of the Turkic Council by Secretary General and his Deputies. Also developments of cooperation with the countries where Ambassadors are accredited were discussed during those meetings.





VII. COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

A. Khojaly Conference

Organization of conferences that would increase visibility and outreach of significant (historical) events constitutes an essential element of Secretariat's activities. The conference aimed to commemorate the Khojaly genocide, one of the gravest human tragedies of the modern times occurred 25 years ago in the Republic of Azerbaijan, effectively serves such a purpose.

The conference entitled "Khojaly Genocide, Crimes against Humanity and Terrorism" organized in conjunction with the International Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University took place on 22 February 2018 in Ankara.



Primary goals of the Conference were set as increasing awareness on the atrocities against the Azerbaijani people in Khojaly, allowing objective deliberations on the case and hence contributing to the establishment of international peace, and discussing current issues of crimes against humanity and terrorism which are critical for our member states and our region.



The stated special event featured several notable speakers such as Secretary General Hasanov, Chairman of Board of Trustees of Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University Musa Yıldız, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan Mikayil Jabbarov, Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov and Acting Speaker of Grand National Assembly of Turkey Ahmet Aydın.

The two panels of the conference were dedicated to discussion on (i) "Khojaly Genocide: A Human Tragedy at the End of the 20th Century" and (ii) "Crimes against Humanity, Genocide, Terrorism and Their Interrelations." Alongside with the conference, the exhibition titled "Khojaly through the Eyes of Children" was organized with support from the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Ankara. The exposition displayed the paintings of Turkish and Azerbaijani students on the topic.



Over 300 participants including Ministers, politicians, high-level officials, diplomats and academics from our member states participated in the conference. With the close participation of the audience, the speakers discussed the issues related to the Khojaly Genocide, the examples of crimes against humanity and the worldwide terrorism with their historical, legal and current aspects. The national and international media followed the event creating far-reaching awareness on the issues discussed.





B. Promotional Activities

Promotional activities of Secretariat build up the credibility of the organization and boost its reliability among the public and bureaucrats of the member states and other partner countries. One can identify four complementary approaches of the Turkic Council used to improve its visibility: (i) receptions, (ii) publications, (iii) interviews, and (iv) social media.

I. Receptions

In 2017, Secretariat traditionally celebrated the anniversary of its establishment, which starts from the date of signing of Nakhchivan Agreement in 2009. This year, Secretary General Ramil Hasanov hosted a reception on 5 October 2017 in Istanbul at the Çırağan Palace.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey Ahmet Yıldız, Deputy Governor of Istanbul İsmail Gültekin, Deputy Chairman of National Movement Party (MHP) and current Antalya MP Mehmet Günal, Deputy Secretary General of TURKSOY Fırat Purtaş, Deputy Secretary General of TURKPA Fuad Alakparov and other prominent guests honored the celebrations of the 3rd October - Cooperation Day of Turkic Speaking States.



During the said reception, Secretary General Hasanov and Deputy Foreign Minister Yıldız presented plaques of appreciation to the diplomats who completed their terms of office at the Secretariat: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Turkey Abzal Saparbekuly, former Deputy Secretary General of Turkic Council, Diplomat of Azerbaijan Zamin Aliyev, former Project Director of Turkic Council, and Diplomat of Kazakhstan Yedil Myrzakhanov, former Project Director of Turkic Council.



To gain exposure to audiences for the public relations purposes, the Secretariat also participated in number of (9) receptions. Some of these parties were held as side events of major activities. Suitable examples of such endeavors were the opening reception of the “Sports Integrity Global Alliance” (SIGA) General Assembly organized by the International Center for Sports Security (ICSS) in Lisbon (26 July 2017) and the official reception given by the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev for the delegation heads attending the Astana Economic Forum (15 June 2017).



Other similar events were held by the local authorities of the Member States. Such receptions were usually celebrated in honor of some historical milestone of vital importance to the given country. For instance, on 29 October 2017, Deputy Secretary General Kocaman attended the official congratulatory ceremony on the occasion of the 94th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Turkey. Or, on 5 December 2017, Project Director Asan Mazhitov attended the reception on the occasion of the 26th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Ankara.

Some receptions had particular relevance to the relations among the Turkic states. Secretary General Hasanov attended one of such meetings on 3 October 2017 in Ankara. The stated reception, given by Foreign Minister of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, was held on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Turkey and the friendly and brotherly countries.



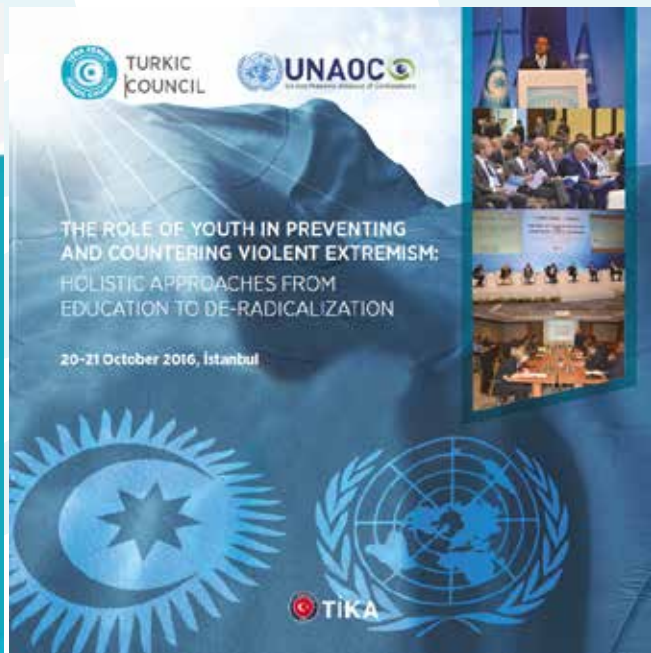
II. Publications



The Annual Report of the Turkic Council for 2016 is a flagship publication of the Secretariat in 2017. The report keeps abreast the interested parties of the organization's goals and achievements and communicates specific information about activities and projects that the Secretariat carried out in 2016.

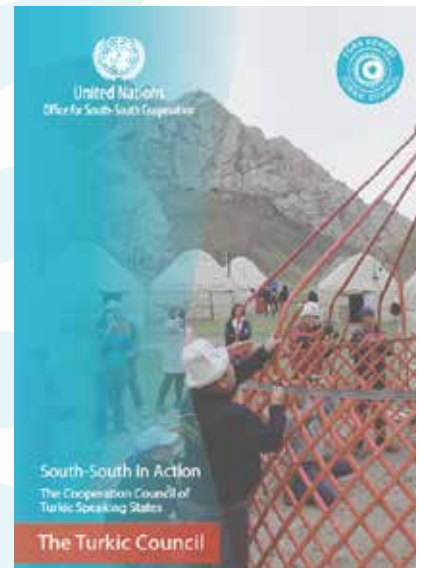
The Secretariat also published two reports that review the outcomes and recommendations of the international conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and international conference on Khojaly Genocide. The former report offers the analysis of causes behind violent extremism providing practical, comprehensive and innovative solutions for preventing and countering violent extremism engaging and involving the youth. The following record briefs on the conference findings that strive to increase awareness on the atrocities against the Azerbaijani people in Khojaly providing the prospective reader with a solid basis for objective deliberations on the case.

The Turkic Council team invested a tremendous effort in the publication of the joint report with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The launch event of the said report was held on 25 September 2017 in New York on the margins of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly.



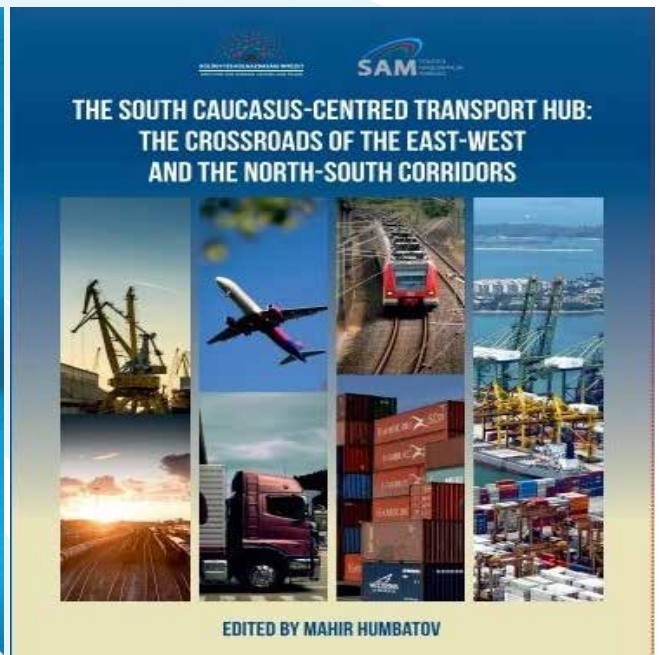
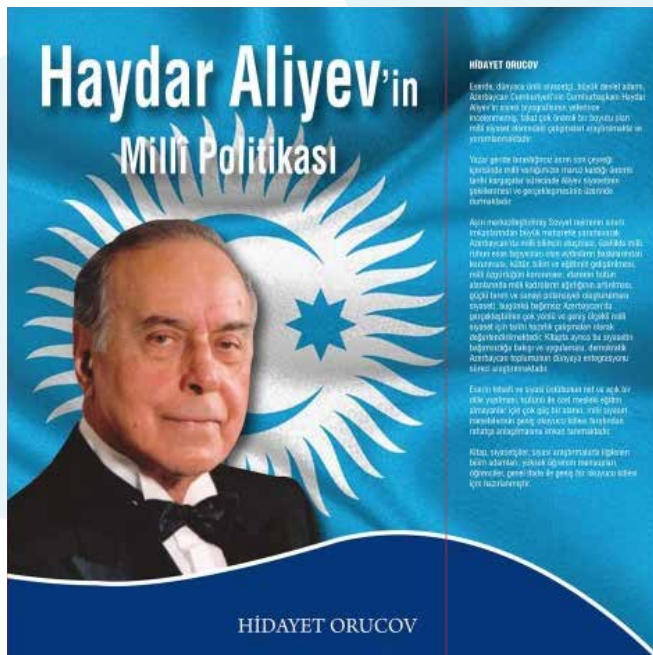


Entitled South-South in Action: How the Turkic Council Uses South-South Cooperation to Promote Regional and Global Development, the report showcases the approach of Turkic Council as a regional intergovernmental organization in contributing to South-South cooperation. It gives three concrete initiatives of the Secretariat in the fields of tourism, customs, and diplomacy, which are displayed and analyzed based on the information provided by the Secretariat and interviews with participants and trainers. The part of the report also presents the individual efforts of its member states - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey in the field of development emphasizing the support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



The Secretariat outsourced the making of a short video clip on the reception that took place on the occasion of 3rd October - Cooperation Day of Turkic Speaking States on 5 October 2017 in Istanbul at the Çırağan Palace. The said video footage was broadcasted on the YouTube Channel and is reachable at the social media accounts of the Turkic Council.

Apart from making products itself, the Secretariat pledged contributions to the publications of the third parties. Thus, the organization printed the book of the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Bishkek Hidayet Orucov in the Turkish language.





The volume under the title “Haydar Aliyev`s National Policy” includes the study and interpretation of the national politics of Azerbaijan and political biography of Haydar Aliyev, the founder of the Republic of Azerbaijan and one of the masterminds behind the integration of the Turkic states.

Fruitful cooperation with the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers (SAM) produced a tangible result. As a part of its publication series, the SAM of Azerbaijan (SAM) released the report titled “Turkic Council Countries: Infrastructure, Trade, Logistics, and Transportation.” The said report aims to investigate logistics and transportation potential of the Turkic speaking states - Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey including Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. It also sheds light on trade and economic relations of the mentioned countries, available infrastructure projects and the prospective infrastructure development programs.

Prepared by Chair of Industrial Engineering Department at Beykent University Associate Professor Kazim Sari in collaboration with other experts from the member states, the mentioned study focuses on thorough analysis on the importance of the Turkic speaking countries both in the East-West and North-South transport corridors. It also analyzes the joint activities of the Turkic speaking states in the field of transport and logistics considering geopolitical and geo-economic changes in the world.

III. Interviews

In the course of the year, the Secretary General Hasanov assessed the activities of the Secretariat reporting on the progress made by the organization to a plethora of media representatives. These included participation in the press conferences, giving a short interview on the margins of some significant event, involvement in a television program or briefing the reporters for a newspaper article.



Among the most prominent of these was the participation of the Secretary General to the television program of Khabar 24 TV Channel on 4 April 2017 within the framework of his official visit to Astana. During the program, Ambassador Hasanov touched upon the ongoing activities and projects of the Turkic Council and gave information about organization’s links with other international organizations including UN and its specialized bodies. Reaffirming the commitment of organization to its principles, he added that the doors of the organization are always open for other two brotherly Turkic states - Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



In beginning of the year (27 January 2017), Secretary General gave another interview to Khabar 24 TV Channel where he reviewed and responded to the prospective constitutional reforms initiated by the President of Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev. Secretary General shared his thoughts and discoursed on the matter adding that this political transformation should lead to the formation of a solid state system, which would serve for the benefit of Kazakh people. Later on in the interview, Ambassador Hasanov stressed the role of President of Kazakhstan in the establishment of the Turkic Council, as well as the historical importance of his initiatives for the integration of the Turkic World.



In another talk to national television channel “Qazaqstan” (10 October 2017), Secretary General conveyed detailed information on the Turkic Council, with a specific reference to the ongoing transport projects along the Trans-Caspian corridor, Turkic Council Joint Tourism Tour Package, as well as the cooperation with the UN bodies such as UNDP, UNOSSC, UNAOC. Moreover, he expressed his appreciation for the process of transition of Kazakhstan to Latin alphabet, underlining the importance and contribution of this development to the integration of Turkic world.

Likewise, Secretary General gave interviews on the margins of special events. Thus, on 27 November 2017, during the Global South South Development (GSSD) EXPO 2017 he made assessments to AZTV and ITV on the event, attended by of approximately 850 exhibitors. He briefed the reporters on the Turkic Council stand and Turkic Council photo exhibition, sharing the organization’s involvement in the EXPO.





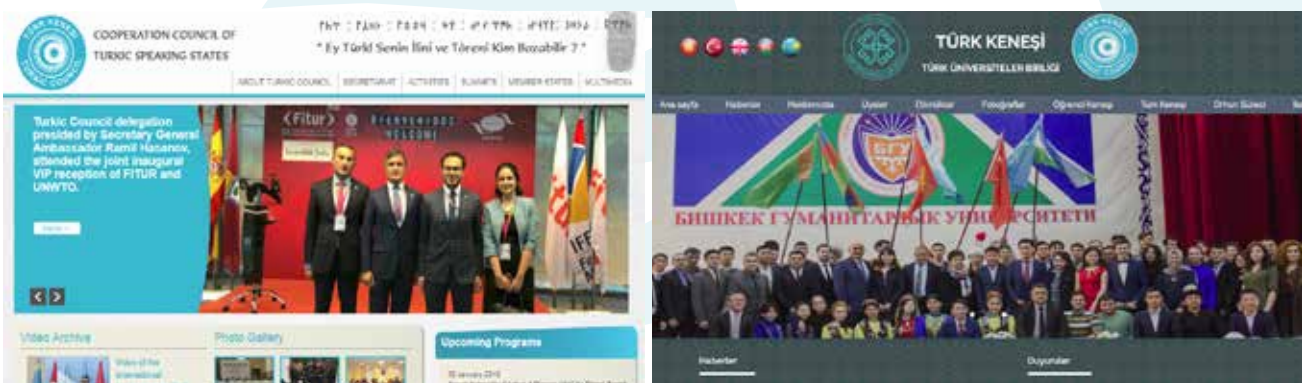
The interview of Secretary General Hasanov was published in one of the leading newspapers of Kazakhstan “Egemen Kazakhstan” as well. In this publication, the head of the organization reminded that the Turkic Council was the first voluntary union of Turkic States in history. He also briefed on the Astana Process aimed at contributing to the resolution of Syrian crisis underlining country’s role as a mediator in improving relations among other states in the region and informing about its peace-building activities.

One of the summarizing interviews were given to Representative of APA Mais Alizade (19 December 2017) in which Ambassador Hasanov provided detailed information about the Turkic Council activities realized as end of the year 2017 and about the activities and projects planned to be implemented in the year 2018.

IV. Social Media

The Secretariat has redoubled its efforts to work collaboratively across its social media accounts, which helps to validate the name of the organization among the public. The responsible staff does its best to maintain and disseminate up-to-date information through the website of the organization (www.turkkon.org) and its social media accounts issuing 389 news articles this year. A total number of news stories on the official site of the Secretariat and its Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts is close to 1700.

This year also witnessed the launch of the official website of the Turkic Council Turkic University Union. The said site promises to establish more express and secure communication among the university members of the union and share the ongoing and planned activities with all its members and other higher education institutions around the world. The union will also use the platform for academic purposes broadcasting the news of the Orkhun Exchange Program and the projects of the Student Council in five languages.



C. Participation in Major International, Regional and National Conferences

I. International Conferences

Exposing yourself to the international events posit excellent opportunities to get experience in the sphere of your industry, discover new ideas and trends, encounter new vendors and explore avenues for networking and information sharing. In this regard, the Secretariat attended several conferences, fora, and seminars of primary international concern in 2017.

At its 70th session in 2015, the UN General Assembly had declared 2017 as the International Year for Development and designated the UNWTO to the lead the celebrations. The ceremony of the said event took place on the margins of the FITUR 2017. Former Deputy Secretary General Abzal Saparbekuly and Project Director Pelin Musabay Baki accompanying him took part in the 13th UNWTO Awards Ceremony on 18 January 2017 in Madrid.



During the Crans Montana Forum, Secretary General Hasanov was awarded the Gold Medal of the conference. Under the decision of the Fondation du Forum Universale `s Governing Board, the "Crans Montana Forum `s Gold Medal" was appointed as the highest honor of the event since forum`s 20th anniversary and awarded on exceptional occasions by the special decision of Forum officials in recognition of successful achievements in favor of a more Humane World. During the previous forums, the said medal was offered to Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers, heads of international organizations and other very important persons, who contributed toward a more impartial world. Among the awarded persons were the President of Azerbaijan, President of Macedonia, Director General of ISESCO, Executive Director of CICA and others.



Some of these significant international gatherings were related to the sphere of education. The Second EURIE International Eurasia Higher Education Summit held on 22 March 2017 in Istanbul was important in terms of promotion of the Turkic Council Turkic University Union. The Fourth International Research Symposium on Turkic World organized by Ömer Halisdemir University on 26 April 2017 in Niğde, Turkey, also served the purposes of increasing the publicity of activities and projects of the Secretariat in the field of science and education such as the Orkhun Process (Student/Academician Exchange) and the Common History Textbook.



The Fourth World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held on 5 May 2017 in Baku, and the Fifth Global National Evaluation Capacities (NEC) Conference organized on 18 October 2017 offered a special interest in engaging in the awareness-raising and supporting our partners such as UNAOC, UN World Tourism Organization, Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS (RBEC).



The Secretariat delegation took part in the Ministerial Conference “Meeting Challenge of Sustainable Energy” and the “Eighth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development” held on 11 June 2017 in Astana based on the decisions of the Heads of States taken at the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council to begin the emerging cooperation in the field of alternative energy.



Some of the major events were organized in the member states. These events often had strategic impacts on the subsequent development of the member states. For instance, the initiative “Taza Koom” started with the international conference on the topic. Deputy Secretary General Kocaman who attended the event distinguished the transformative power of digital technologies on the public policy recognizing the role of e-government in supporting the sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan in his speech during the event.



Another such forum was devoted to the issue of snow leopards and their ecosystem. Secretary General Hasanov who attended the event on 25 August 2017, contributed to the most significant outcome of the gathering - the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of Snow Leopards.

A significant milestone for Kazakhstan was the traditional Astana Economic Forum taken place on 16 June 2017 in Astana. A large delegation from Secretariat had a chance to observe the forum that focused on topics of sustainable economic development, revival of Silk Road and the importance of energy and information technology issues in the global economy.





The most significant development during the period was the launch of the first annual TRT World Forum under the theme “Inspiring Change in an Age of Uncertainty” held on 18-19 October 2017 in Istanbul. TRT World Forum brings together leading experts, senior decision-makers, and influencers to analyze and understand these pressing issues of global politics and economic globalization and unprecedented humanitarian crises.



Finally, in 2017, the Turkic Council partook in the “II. International Conference on Religions and their Contribution to Concord and Peace” on 6 November 2017 in Madrid. During the event, organized by the Evsen Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Spain, Secretary General Hasanov elaborated on the positive role of religion in peace and stability in a world marred by conflicts. Expressing Turkic Council’s efforts to maintain peace in its region, Secretary General Hasanov underlined that “by strengthening mutual confidence among the regional countries, by promoting effective regional and bilateral cooperation through creation of favorable conditions for lucrative economic and trade relation, by increasing people to people contacts, and by striving to ensure the rule of law and good governance in our member states, we try to underpin the peaceful atmosphere in our region”.





II. Regional Conferences

In addition to the international conferences, Turkic Council took active part in regional conferences on various themes throughout the last year.

As one of the major political dossier in the region, Turkic Council supports Afghanistan in a way to complement the individual roles of its Member States – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey in this regard. Committed to the common principles of providing security and stability in Afghanistan, Turkic Council is willing to take part in the Istanbul Process with concrete and result oriented projects. In this context, Ambassador Ramil Hasanov participated in the 7th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on “Security and economic Connectivity towards a Strengthened Heart of Asia Region” on December 1, 2017 in Baku as a guest of the Azerbaijani Co-Chairmanship.



Maintaining close relationship with its international and regional partners, Turkic Council attended the official opening session of the First Summit on Science and Technology of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on 10-11 September 2017 in Astana. In the framework of the summit the Secretary General Hasanov had a chance to have bilateral meetings with the high officials and guests of the forum, including Dr. Abdullatif R. Alzayani the Secretary General of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Concerning its cooperation areas Turkic Council followed various regional conferences. Information and Communication Technology is not only powerful tool for economic growth and poverty eradication but also facilitates integration of many countries into global market. For that reason, Turkic Council acts as a great platform for realization of short and long term goals and also initiates concrete programs that will make the difference on the ground. With this aim, Secretary General Hasanov participated in the opening ceremony of the Business Forum entitled 'Turkic Council & World Telecommunication and Information Society Day' hosted by the Ministry of Transport, Maritime and Communications of the Republic of Turkey on 17 May 2017 in Istanbul.





In the field of transport, Turkic Council within the framework of the “10th International Conference on Transport Transit Potential-Trans Eurasia 2017” organized by the Ministry of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan, participated in the “Trans Kazakhstan Translogistica” Transport and Logistics Fair on 1 November 2017.



As part of economic cooperation in the Member States, Deputy Secretary General of the Turkic Council Dr. Ömer Kocaman attended the plenary session of the Kazakhstan-Turkey Business and Investment forum held in Chimkent on 1 February 2017 by the invitation of the Akimat of the South Kazakhstan Region.





With relation to the great importance of Turkic languages for Turkic Council, Deputy Secretary General of the Turkic Council Abzal Saparbekuly took part in the meeting co-organized by the International Turkic Academy and Akhmet Yassawi University on 7 February 2016 in Astana where the multivolume work entitled “Endangered Turkic Languages” was presented.



Further on cultural cooperation, the city of Turkistan was unanimously selected the cultural capital of Turkic World for 2017 at the 34th Meeting of the Permanent Council of Ministers of Culture of TURKSOY Member States in Azerbaijani Sheki. Turkic Council Deputy Secretary General Abzal Saparbekuly was also present at the opening ceremony and celebrations of the “Turkistan - Cultural Capital of Turkic World 2017” on 22 March 2017.





III. National Conferences

Aside from the international and regional conferences, Turkic Council closely follows the conferences taking place on national level of its Member States. In that regard, Deputy Secretary General Dr. Ömer Kocaman represented the Turkic Council at the 9th Ambassadors Conference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey entitled “Towards 2023: National Values, Global Goals” in Ankara on 9-14 January 2017.



Turkic Council Deputy Secretary General Dr. Ömer Kocaman also participated in the “15 July as a Human Rights Violation” panel that took place on 14 July 2017 in Ankara at ATO International Convention and Exhibition Centre where heinous coup attempt of 15 July and related topics such as history of military coups in Turkey and in the world through the prism of human rights, freedom and security were discussed by renowned experts.

Furthermore, upon the invitation of World Association of Kazakhs, Turkic Council delegation participated in the Grand Opening of the 5th World Kurultay of the Kazakhs under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev on 23 June 2017 in Astana.



VIII. TEAM OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL



Ambassador Ramil Hasanov
Secretary General



Abzal Saparbekuly
Deputy Secretary General



Ömer Kocaman (Ph. D)
Deputy Secretary General

DIPLOMATIC STAFF



Zamin Aliyev
Project Director



Assan Mazhitov
Project Director



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Jyldyz Uzakova
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Hatice Özge Pan
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