



Turkic Green Vision: Unity for a Sustainable Future *(6 November, 2024, Bishkek)*

Background

The member states of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) face numerous environmental challenges that impact biodiversity, water resources, and air quality, affecting the well-being of their citizens and the resilience of natural ecosystems.

These include climate-change triggered intensive melting of glaciers in the mountains, reduction of water resources, rising temperatures, sea level rise, an increase in the number of mudflows and floods, prolonged periods of drought and water scarcity, a decrease of water level in the Caspian Sea, drying up of the Aral Sea, desertification and salinization of soils, forest fires, weather-related extreme events and other natural disasters.

In recent years there has been a growing awareness of necessity to consolidate efforts to ensure environmental, economic and social sustainability.

This is evidenced by numerous global and regional initiatives of the OTS member countries on climate change, environmental issues, «green» energy and «green» economy, presented at the OTS summits, the UN General Assembly and other international events.

At the same time, the «Turkic Green Vision» has incorporated the conceptual vision of the OTS Member States to unite efforts to achieve common goals in the field of sustainable «green» development, adaptation to climate change and environmental protection to ensure a brighter and safer future for future generations.

Objectives

The main objective of this document is to delve into the interrelated environmental challenges including climate related impacts faced by the Turkic states and to promote bilateral/multilateral cooperation among them to address these challenges effectively.

In this regard, the specific objective of this vision is to develop a common approach among the Turkic countries on environmental issues, analyze indicators that serve as a basis for further partnership of the OTS countries to achieve the SDGs on natural and climate factors, identify key areas of cooperation and establish a future course of action. Innovative projects and initiatives should cover a wide range of efforts aimed at promoting sustainability, resilience, cooperation and knowledge sharing among the Turkic states. By harmonizing approaches to environmental management, the countries can create a more cohesive regional strategy across the OTS region to address common problems.

a) Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change in order to ensure a «green» future for coming generations:

- preservation of glaciers and protection of mountain ecosystems, which are sources of water, energy, food and other resources;
- combating water, land and air pollution;
- combating desertification and soil salinization;
- combating drought and erosion; achieving land degradation neutrality
- protection and preservation of ecosystems;
- systematic promotion of environmental friendly, best available and innovative approaches and technologies;
- ensuring access of the population to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation through modern water supply systems and introduction of wastewater and sewage water treatment technologies with a water reuse system;
- introduction of resource-saving technologies;
- development and implementation of adaptation measures in vulnerable sectors such as water resources, energy, agriculture, healthcare, coastal zones, transportation and port infrastructure and etc.;
- establishment of early warning and response systems for natural and climatic disasters;
- conservation of biodiversity through the creation and maintenance of nature reserves and national parks;
- protection and restoration of forests, steppes and water bodies;
- enhancement of environmental education and public awareness;
- active involvement of the public and NGOs in environmental initiatives on mutually agreed terms;
- promotion of environmentally responsible behavior;
- adoption of technologies for the reclamation of uranium tailings;
- strengthening measures to protect water resources from pollution in the coastal areas of the Caspian Sea;
- implementing adaptation and mitigation measures in regions vulnerable to the climate change, particularly sustainable practices in the field of amelioration;

- creating sustainable infrastructure to safeguard drinking water resources and ensure access to clean water security for and sanitation of the population along with updated modern technologies;
- optimizing irrigation and amelioration processes promoting use of water and apply innovative smart irrigation technologies.

b) Advancing a green economy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, lower greenhouse gas emissions and foster sustainable environmental development:

- promotion of research and innovation in “clean” energy technologies;
 - implementation of zero waste management; recycling and reuse;
 - transition to sustainable “green” transportation systems;
 - establishment of eco-friendly “green” cities;
 - development of eco-tourism as sustainable industry;
 - promotion of sustainable practices in agriculture and fisheries;
 - adoption of organic practices within the green economy framework;
 - creation of “green” jobs and enterprises.
- increase investment and provide incentives for investment in cleaner production and eco-efficiency in all Turkic States,
- diversify energy supply by developing advanced, cleaner, more efficient, affordable and cost-effective energy technologies, especially renewable energy technologies,
 - introduction of low carbon hydrogen;
 - CCUS and CCS technologies to reduce GHG emission of economic activities.

Mechanisms of implementation

(a) International Cooperation and Partnership:

- Strengthening cooperation among Turkic States;
- Enhance cooperation with international organizations and donors, as mutually agreed, with a view to developing project-based and sectoral partnerships for the common benefit, and increasing visibility and influence of the Organization of Turkic States as a reliable international actor;
- Designing and implementing joint projects and programs.

(b) Financing and investment:

- Mobilizing internal and external financial resources;
- Establishing environmental financing and grant programs;
- Attracting private investments in green projects.

(c) Legislation and regulation:

- Harmonizing environmental guidelines and standards;
- Enhancing monitoring and enforcement of environmental regulations;
- Encouraging environmentally responsible behavior through tax and fiscal incentives;
- Within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals, following the international practices considered necessary in maritime transport and encouraging and supporting member states to improve the maritime sector in terms of the environmental perspective and to reduce its potential damage to the environment;
- Implementation of the green port projects to reduce carbon emissions in ports and increase energy efficiency.

d) Research and innovation:

- Supporting scientific research and innovation in ecology and sustainable development;
- Promoting the development and application of innovative technologies;
- Collaborating with research institutions and universities.

By developing and implementing the following mechanisms and joint projects, Turkic countries can collaboratively pursue a multi-dimensional and multi-sectoral approach to achieve a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future.

1. Turkic Alliance for Renewable Energy

The proposed Turkic Renewable Energy Alliance (TREA) represents a significant step towards promoting renewable energy development and cooperation among Turkic states, aligning with global efforts for transition to cleaner and more sustainable energy systems.

2. Green Trans-Caspian East-West-Middle Corridor (Green Middle Corridor)

Green Middle Corridor is proposed as a sustainable transport and trade route that will connect Turkic States by promoting eco-friendly logistics and reducing carbon emissions. This initiative aims to introduce green infrastructure and technologies along the corridor, minimizing the environmental impact of transportation and trade activities in the region.

3. Turkic network for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation

Turkic states possess numerous habitats and species that need to be protected for future generations. The Turkic Biodiversity and Ecosystem

Conservation Network (TBECN) could be an initiative to create a collaborative network to protect and restore biodiversity hotspots and local ecosystems of Turkic countries.

4. Climate Change Education and Awareness Program

The launch of this project will help to raise awareness among different age groups about the impacts of climate change and improve understanding of solutions for sustainable living. Under this program, initiatives that will allow local communities to become more resilient to climate change related disasters can be prioritized.

5. Turkic Initiative on Smart Green Cities

Turkic states are increasingly aware of the importance of combining advanced technologies and environmentally sustainable practices to address the current challenges of urbanization and climate change. Integrating advanced technologies with environmental practices will help conserve natural resources, improve quality of life, and ensure economic stability, which is especially important for fast-growing cities. This approach also supports the cultural and natural values of the region, creating conditions for harmonious urban development where tradition meets innovation and ecology meets technological progress.

Conclusion

“Turkic Green Vision” is an ambitious initiative aimed at promoting sustainable green development among the member countries of the Organization of Turkic States.

Achieving these goals requires the combined efforts of governments, businesses, academia and the public.

Working together will enable the Turkic countries to contribute significantly towards global efforts to protect the planet and improve the quality of life of present and future generations.