

**DECLARATION OF THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF
THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES
Astana, Kazakhstan**

The Council of Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 11 September 2015 in Astana, Kazakhstan upon the kind invitation of H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. H.E. İlham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and H.E. İsmet Yılmaz, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey participated in the meeting, which was presided over by H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. H.E. Sapardurdy Toyliyev, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan honoured the meeting upon the invitation of the Host.

The Heads of State,

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

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

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

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

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

declared that they:

Cooperation in Media and Information:

1. Stress the importance of developing cooperation in media and information sphere among the Member States, and consider its indispensable role in promoting the communication and mutual understanding and raising the political, cultural, economic and social awareness about the Member States at the local and international levels;
2. Welcome the First Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Information and Media held on 18 August 2015 in Astana; commend the signing of the Turkic Council Joint Protocol on Information and Media, the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation among Official News Agencies of the Member States of the Turkic Council, the Protocol of Cooperation among the National TV Channels of the Member States of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States; take note of the Concept Paper for the establishment of the International Turkic TV Channel, and encourage the Parties to facilitate its establishment process;

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

Cooperation in Economy:

4. Remain committed to the purpose of creating favourable conditions for increased trade and economic relations among the Member States, by taking necessary measures to ensure improving the investment climate, diversifying economic activities and supporting entrepreneurship, and welcome the Fourth Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Economy held on 20 June 2014 in Cholpon-Ata;
5. Instruct the Ministries in charge of Economy to continue the work on the establishment process of the Joint Turkic Investment Fund;
6. Commend the Third Meeting of the Turkic Business Council and the Third Business Forum held on 25 October 2014, in Nakhchivan, and encourage participation of the private sector representatives from the Member States and the wider region to the Fourth Business Forum to be held in the Kyrgyz Republic;
7. Wish success to the Republic of Turkey in hosting G20 Summit on 15-16 November 2015 in Antalya; and welcome the invitation extended to the Turkic Council for the Sixth Tourism (T.20) Ministers Meeting to be held on 29-30 September 2015, as well as the organisation of the Business 20 (B20) Azerbaijan Regional Consultation Forum on 12 May 2015 in Baku in the context of the Republic of Turkey's G20 Presidency;
8. Stress the importance of development of cooperation in the fields of services, alternative energy as well as information and communication technologies (ICT), and welcome the initiative to establish the Working Group on ICT and call on the Member States to organise the first meeting;
9. Reiterate their support for Kazakhstan's efforts to organize international specialized exhibition in Astana EXPO-2017 on the theme "Future energy; wish success to the Antalya EXPO-2016 on the theme "Flowers and Children" to be hosted by Turkey, and reaffirm the participation of the Member States;
10. Reaffirm the importance of exploiting comparative natural and geographic advantages of the Member States located on the traditional Silk Road with a view to translating them into joint economic benefit, and welcome the decisions of the Second Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Tourism Affairs held in Baku on 20 May 2015; appreciate the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the umbrella institutions of the Member States in tourism which will form the basis of cooperation for the private sectors and encourage them for further cooperation through joint activities;
11. Take note of the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package, and encourage the relevant authorities to include it in national tourism strategies and make it more attractive in financial terms for the initial period;
12. Support continuation of regular info-tours as well as joint photo-exhibitions with the participation of the Member States; appreciate the tourism training programs conducted by Turkey for other Member States, and encourage for their continuation on a regular basis;

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

Cooperation in Foreign Policy and Security Issues:

19. Emphasize the need to continue close coordination and cooperation regarding international issues of common interest through regular consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers under the aegis of Chairman-in-Office;
20. Underline the importance of supporting candidacies of the Member States at international organizations, particularly the UN;
21. Urge national authorities of the Member States to invite the Secretariat to the regional and international meetings, organized in their respective countries;
22. Urge the continuation of Security Consultations among the Member States at appropriate levels, and welcome the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey to host the third round of consultations;
23. Express satisfaction with the increasing interaction of the Turkic Council with regional and international organizations. In this regard;
 - a) Appreciate the diplomatic representations and activities coordinated by the Secretariat in line with the “Road Map” for obtaining observer status in the UN General Assembly, adopted at the informal meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in New York on 26

September 2014, and urge the continuation of the cooperation among the Member States to this end;

- b) Highlight the importance of increasing ties with specialized regional and international organizations, and welcome the meeting and the international conference to be co-organized in Istanbul by the Turkic Council and its international partners, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe-Eurasian Transport Links (UNECE-EATL) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), on 20-21 October and 27-28 October 2015 respectively;
 - c) urge closer cooperation among the Member States to coordinate their actions with a view to obtaining observer status in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the 13th Islamic Summit to be hosted in the Republic of Turkey in 2016, and wish success to the Republic of Turkey in hosting the 13th Islamic Summit Conference in 2016 and for its subsequent Chairmanship of OIC Summit;
 - d) welcome the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), and agree to take necessary measures for extension of the observer status of the Turkic Council at the ECO for another three years;
 - e) appreciate the common position on strengthening the visibility of the Turkic Council within the platform of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE); welcome the invitation of the Secretary General of the Turkic Council to the OSCE 21st Ministerial Council, encourage the continuation of such common efforts for upcoming OSCE meetings, and appreciate steps taken by the Secretariat to establish institutional relations with the Secretariat of the OSCE;
 - f) welcome the establishment of dialogue with the European Union (EU) and its relevant bodies;
 - g) welcome the participation of the Turkic Council Secretariat in the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan on 31 October 2014 in Beijing, and urge the conclusion of the necessary procedures for Turkic Council to become an official supporting organisation to the Process;
 - h) express satisfaction with the signing of Memoranda of Understanding for Cooperation between the Turkic Council and World Customs Organization (WCO), United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and International Center for Sport Security (ICSS);
24. Reiterate the importance of the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
25. Welcome the resumption of comprehensive negotiation process in Cyprus on 15 May 2015 and the progress reached so far in the process; confirm their strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed just and lasting political settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations based on political equality of the two peoples in the Island, and express their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future;

26. Call on parties to contribute to the de-escalation and peaceful resolution of the situation in Ukraine by promoting dialogue and reconciliation in line with the Minsk agreements and the Republic of Turkey as the outgoing Chair of the Turkic Council has informed the Member States about the problems faced by the Crimean Tatars with regard to their status, security and safety.
27. Appreciate the organization of the Turkic Council Junior Diplomats 2nd Training Program on 2-15 March 2015 in Azerbaijan, and welcome the offer of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the 3rd Training Program;
28. Take note of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centres of the Member States and their First meeting hosted by the Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 8 May 2015 in Baku, and instruct the continuation of collaboration through regular meetings and joint activities;
29. Commend the special publication titled “Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council: a Rising Actor in Regional Cooperation in Eurasia” edited by Centre for Strategic Research of the Republic of Turkey in honour of the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council, and encourage the continuation of similar initiatives;
30. Express their commitment to increase joint efforts towards the prevention of misperception and combating exclusionism, extremism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia within the framework of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and welcome the Seventh Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations which will be hosted by Azerbaijan in 2016;
31. Emphasize the importance of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to be held in Istanbul in May 2016, which will aim to shape the future agenda of the humanitarian system at a global scale, and stress the need for high-level participation to the WHS from the Member States of the Turkic Council;

Cooperation in Social and Cultural Affairs:

32. Reaffirm the importance of developing cultural, linguistic and social ties within Turkic speaking states and communities living in different parts of the world;
33. Welcome the establishment of the First Regional Diaspora Centre in Kyiv on 24 December 2014; support further strengthening of cooperation among Turkic speaking diasporas based on Joint Action Plans and through other Regional Diaspora Centres to be opened in the upcoming period; and appreciate the meeting of the Secretary General with the representatives of the Turkic speaking diasporas based in the USA on 13 May 2015 in New York;
34. Commend the successful organization of the “First World Nomad Games” in Issyk-Kul on 8-14 September 2014 with wide participation from across the world and welcoming the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic to host the “Second World Nomad Games” in 2016, instruct the Ministers in charge of Sports to hold all necessary preparations of this event;
35. Underline the significance of enhancing cooperation among the Turkic speaking states in the field of youth and sport, and welcome the organization of the First Turkic Council Youth Camp on 19-25 August 2015 and 27 August-2 September 2015 in Trabzon and Samsun

respectively to contribute to common understanding and mutual awareness among participants, as well as the Youth Festival to be held in 2016 in Azerbaijan;

36. Congratulate Azerbaijan on successful organisation of Baku 2015 First European Games on 12-28 June 2015;
37. Praise the activities of TURKSOY held in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, throughout 2014 as part of TURKSOY initiative of “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” for 2014, and express support for Merv, Turkmenistan, as “Cultural Capital of the Turkic World” for 2015; welcome the Nowruz activities co-hosted by TURKSOY and UNESCO on 24 March 2015 in Paris and express their wish for the continuation of such initiatives; and appreciate the establishment of the Youth Chamber Choir of TURKSOY as a new initiative launched by the organization to foster social and cultural cooperation;
38. Welcome the “Korkut’s Legacy and the Turkic World” International Forum dedicated to the celebration of the 70th anniversary of UNESCO and the 200th anniversary of the first printed version of the “Book of Dede Korkut” organized by the Turkic Academy in cooperation with UNESCO on 15 April 2015 in Paris;

Cooperation in Education and Science:

39. Emphasize the essential role of educational cooperation in raising awareness of common identity among the younger generation that is the guarantee of joint development of the Turkic World, and welcome the Third and Fourth Meetings of the Ministers of Education held on 27-28 November 2014 in Baku and 4-5 September 2015 in Astana;
40. Highly commend the program of the common Turkic history textbook covering the period until the 15th century prepared by the Turkic Academy, and instruct the Turkic Academy and the relevant authorities of the Member States to submit the textbook for final examination and take necessary steps in order to introduce it into school curricula; and instigate work on a common Turkic history textbook covering the period from the 15th century until the 21st century, as well as common geography and literature textbooks;
41. Take note of the First General Assembly of the Turkic University Union hosted by Atatürk University, Chair University-in-Office, in Erzurum on 16-17 October 2014;
42. Welcome the accession of the Turkic Academy to the Union Académique Internationale (UAI) as an Associate Member and encourage it to continue expanding international cooperation;
43. Welcome the series of international scholarly events organized by the Turkic Academy in order to celebrate the 550th Anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate;
44. Praise the archaeological research and excavations conducted by the Turkic Academy with the support of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) in the Altai Mountains that resulted in invaluable discoveries pertaining to the common Turkic history and encourage further such research activities in Turkic world;

Institutional Cooperation in the Turkic World:

45. Welcome the establishment of the Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and Centre of Nomadic Civilization as international organisations and call on the relevant authorities to take necessary steps for the completion of their institutionalisation process;
46. Commend the Coordination Meetings among Turkic Council, TURKSOY, TURKPA and Turkic Academy to ensure efficient coordination in order to strengthen cooperation in the Turkic world;
47. Welcome the work done on elaboration of the “Concept Paper on Guiding Principles for Integration in the Turkic World” by the Turkic Academy, and call for continuation of the work on this document;
48. Welcome the establishment of the “Union of the National Academies of Science of the Turkic World” under the coordination of the Turkic Academy, and call for the coordination of its activities by the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation;
49. Appreciate the establishment of the Scientific Council of the Turkic Academy comprising the Ministers of Education of the Member States;
50. Emphasizing the importance of the inter-Parliamentary dimension in strengthening political dialogue as well as economic and cultural cooperation among Turkic Speaking States, and welcome its activities on accumulating legislative experts’ potential and the organization of the Sixth Plenary Session of TURKPA to be held in December, 2015 in Astana;

Other Issues:

51. Welcome the general progress as presented by the Secretary General in his annual report;
52. Welcome the participation of delegates of Turkmenistan and Hungary in certain meetings of the Turkic Council held since the last Summit, and express their wish for increased involvement of Turkmenistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Hungary in the work of the Turkic Council;
53. Having received the report of Turkey as the outgoing Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council in 2014-2015, congratulate Turkey for a successful Chairmanship;
54. Thank the outgoing Deputy Secretary General Mr. Adakhan Madumarov for his contributions;
55. Thank the First Secretary General Ambassador Mr. Halil Akıncı for his contributions to the work of the Secretariat in his capacity as the Advisor to the Secretariat in 2014-2015;
56. Decide to hold the Sixth Summit of the Turkic Council in 2016 in the Kyrgyz Republic.

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

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

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

İlham Aliyev

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Nursultan Nazarbayev

President of the Kyrgyz Republic

Almazbek Atambaev

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

İsmet Yılmaz