

TURKIC COUNCIL
FIRST FORUM OF TURKIC DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS
BAKU DECLARATION

In a rapidly globalizing world, dialogue between civilizations and rapprochement between peoples is dictated by the spirit of the age. The ongoing complex global processes prove that strengthening unity between Turkic peoples is an indispensable prerequisite for ensuring peace and security in the region.

One of the important steps taken toward strengthening and developing cooperation among Turkic peoples has been the establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States in 2009. The purpose of the Council is to bring about a regional Turkic union through developing political, economic, and trade relations among the peoples who share common language and cultural affinity and consolidating their unity.

In January 2013 the First Meeting of Turkic Council Ministers and Heads of Agencies Responsible for Diaspora Issues took place in Baku. The Joint Strategy for Turkic Diaspora was adopted during the Second Meeting of Turkic Council Ministers and Heads of Agencies Responsible for Diaspora Issues held on May 14 the same year.

The agenda of the First Forum of Turkic Diaspora Organizations held on June 21, 2013 in Baku was comprised of important items like promoting cultural values of Turkic states and peoples, promoting their positive image, and defending their national interests.

We, the participants of the First Turkic Diaspora Organizations Forum;

– Offering our gratitude to the leadership of Azerbaijani Republic for excellent organization of the Forum, to Turkic Council which put forward the idea of organizing the Forum, and to the government agencies of the Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey, for their valuable contributions to carrying out the Forum,

– Noting that Turkic peoples share common history and cultural values,

– Accepting development of cooperation among Turkic communities to be a historical imperative,

– In the firm belief that while remaining loyal citizens of their countries of residence, Turkic diasporas' connections with their countries of origin will greatly contribute to strengthening relations between their motherlands and new motherlands,

– Guided by the principles laid out in the Joint Strategy for Turkic Diaspora,

Recommend that diaspora organizations of Turkic Council member states coordinate their actions within the framework outlined below:

1. Supporting organizational institutionalization of Turkic diasporas; establishing regional centers with the purpose of coordinating cooperation among Turkic diaspora organizations, communities, and institutions;

2. Taking steps toward informing the international community of the history and culture of the Turkic World as well as its contemporary issues;

3. Increasing Turkic diasporas' level of participation in socio-political life of the countries of their citizenship. Promoting and supporting joint candidacies of prominent representatives of Turkic diasporas for representative organs and elected offices;

4. Organizing joint fora of Turkic businessmen living abroad;

5. Active participation of Turkic diaspora organizations in publicizing economic and political importance of the international projects undertaken by Turkic countries;

6. Attracting Turkic youth studying abroad to diaspora and lobbying activities; producing solutions to youth's educational problems;

7. Neutralizing unfavorable propaganda carried against Turkic peoples, taking joint action toward changing international community's misperceptions of the Islamic religion and the spiritual values it stands for;

8. Taking joint steps toward informing the international community of the issues facing Turkic peoples; utilizing internet and social networks for this purpose;

9. Developing mutually beneficial cooperation between influential international NGOs and media organizations on one hand and Turkic communities on the other in order to build a strong Turkic lobby;

10. It is kindly requested that the Azerbaijani party publish the proceedings of the Forum and transmit them to the participants.

The Forum invites all representatives of Turkic Council member countries to mobilize their potentials in order to achieve the goals outlined above.

This Declaration was adopted at the First Forum of Turkic Council Diaspora Organizations

June 21, 2013, Baku

Halil Akıncı
Secretary General of the Turkic Council