

## **Statement by Gismat Gozalov, Deputy Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Regional Planning Council**

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies,

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to Your Excellency Mr. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to address the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Regional Planning Council (RPC).

The Regional Planning Council plays an important role in promoting the aims and objectives of ECO. Because RPC meeting is considered to be an important annual event, providing an opportunity to review progress achieved, it outlines future course of action for realization of collective goals and objectives. As an observer this allows Turkic Council to see ECO work in action, get acquainted with various proposals offered by member states.

As it is a first time for Turkic Council to address RPC as an observer, let me elaborate a little about our organisation.

Turkic Council is an intergovernmental organisation with its headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey established by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey by Nakhchivan Agreement signed in 2009, with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive collaboration in all areas among Turkic speaking States.

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

The fact that all member states of the Turkic Council are also ECO members provides us with great opportunity. With institutional cooperation between Turkic Council and ECO, a greater value added could be created for all stakeholders concerned.

With this in view, as an observer, Turkic Council shall be able to benefit from the enriched experience of the ECO meetings which have been accumulated throughout years.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my thanks to the ECO for their kind invitation for excellent organisation of this event and wish all the success to the Meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.