

The Leaders of the Turkic World convened the Summit of Organization of Turkic States

(Press Release of Secretariat of the Organization of Turkic States)

The Eighth Summit of the Organization of Turkic States held on 12 November 2021 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Before the Summit the Leaders of the Member and Observes States participated in the Flags Raising Ceremony at the new building of the Secretariat of the Organization of the Turkic States, in the city of Istanbul.

1. 8th Summit of the Organization of Turkic States

The Summit was presided over by H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Turkey, and attended by H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan; H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; H.E. Sadyr Zhaparov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic; H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan; H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, President of Turkmenistan; H.E. Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary, and H.E. Baghdad Amreyev, Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States.

The Honorary Chairman of the Organization of Turkic States, First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev addressed the Summit with a video message.

The theme of Summit was “Green Technologies and Smart Cities in the Digital Age”.

During the Summit, the Heads of State praised the remarkable political and socio-economic progress that the Turkic States have achieved since their independence and congratulated the 30th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

2. Agenda items of the Summit

The main agenda items among others, were adoption of decision on “Changing the name of the “Turkic Council” to the “Organization of Turkic States””, “Declaration of the 8th Summit”, “Turkic World Vision-2040”, decision on the “Granting Observer Status to Turkmenistan at the Organization of Turkic States”, decision on the “Finalizing the Establishment of the Turkic Investment Fund”, decision on the “Regulation on Observer Status at the Organization of Turkic States” and decision on the “Creation of Partner Status at the Organization of Turkic States”.

The Presidents of the Turkic States signed the decision on changing the name of the “Turkic Council” to the “Organization of Turkic States” that will contribute to realization of its real potential and strengthening of its role in the international community and deepening of the cooperation and integration processes.

The Heads of State signed the “Declaration of the Eighth Summit”, consisting of 121 paragraphs, identified bilateral, multilateral, regional, international and global issues affecting the interests of the Turkic World with a view to formulating a consolidated position of the Member States of the Organization in the main areas of cooperation, such as foreign and security affairs, economic and sectoral issues, people-to-people cooperation, inter-institutional relations and cooperation with external parties.

The Presidents of Turkic States adopted “Turkic World Vision-2040” document, which will set the long-term goals of the Organization for comprehensive development and to ensure deeper integration in the Turkic World. The document primarily aims at developing political cohesion, supporting more dynamic cooperation under the umbrella of the Organization based on the harmonization of economic policies and all relevant regulatory frameworks.

The Heads of State signed the decision “Granting Observer Status to Turkmenistan at the Organization of Turkic States” that will strengthen

joint potential of the Turkic world and significantly contribute to the multifaceted interaction within the Organization.

The Presidents signed decision on the “Finalizing the Establishment of the Turkic Investment Fund” that would mobilize additional resources for enhancing economic cooperation and global competitiveness of Turkic States through promotion of intra-cluster trade and support SMEs in the realization of joint business and infrastructure projects as well as ensure sustainable development in the region.

The Presidents adopted the decision on “Establishing Partner Status of the Organization of Turkic States”, that will allow to establish a constructive partnership with third states and international organizations at the Organization of Turkic States.

Upon the decision signed by the Heads of States the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev was awarded by the “Supreme Order of Turkic World” in recognition of the historic victory that ensured the liberation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the restoration of its territorial integrity, which significantly contributed to the Turkic unity and paved the way to achieving enduring peace and stability in the region.

The new Regulation of the Council of Elders, consultative body of the Organization of Turkic States was adopted at the Summit, the chairmanship of which will be carried out by H.E. Binali Yıldırım.

3. Statements of Participants

The Heads of State exchanged their views on the above-mentioned agenda items and touched upon in their statements the number of important political and economic developments in the region.

At his speech, President of Turkey **H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan** with the understanding of "unity in language, thought and action", emphasized that changing the name of Turkic Council to the Organization of Turkic States will develop its institutional structure and boost its role in its region and beyond.

President Erdoğan stated that the organization has become a center of attraction as an international organization and expressed that the Member States should effectively benefit from this important political platform to negotiate on the issues and opportunities that concern the Member States and the region itself.

In this respect, R.T. Erdoğan noted that the «Turkic World Vision 2040» should be regarded as a manifestation of the common will of the Turkic States to extend peace and prosperity throughout the region.

He stressed that the Turkic cooperation in the field of economy and trade should be strengthened with common initiatives in accordance with political and social solidarity in the Turkic world. President of Turkey urged the Member States to increase total trade volume estimated 21 billion USD among the Member States from current 3 percent to 10 percent and intensify common efforts to remove all non-tariff barriers to facilitate trade among them.

President Erdoğan expressed the particular importance of signing the “Trade Facilitation Strategy Document” and “International Combined Freight Transport Agreement” within the Organization at the earliest time as well as turning intra-regional transport corridors passing through the Member States, especially the Transcaspian International East-West Middle Corridor into the main arteries of the region.

President of Turkey expressed the need to transform the cities of the Turkic World into “smart cities” and to work towards extending the priorities of the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy into the workings of the Organization, as well as establishing a joint transparent Artificial Intelligence Portal.

Turkish President called on the Parties to include in the agenda of the Organization the measures for tackling destructive trends such as terrorism, xenophobia and Islamophobia. As for dealing with natural disasters, he proposed to establish under the auspices of the Organization a “Civil Protection Mechanism” for search and rescue operations as well as rehabilitation efforts.

The First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Honorary Chairman of the Organization of Turkic States H.E. **Nursultan Nazarbayev** called the Summit the beginning of a new era in the history of the development of the Turkic World, stressing that Turkic civilization is experiencing for the first time in many centuries of world history an unprecedented renaissance where the Turkic countries form a new agenda and ideology, and is going through a period of revival and rapprochement.

At the same time, Elbasy underlined, that Turkic countries being at the center of the greater Eurasian continent are working peacefully within the framework of the paradigms of the Turkic world. He emphasized that the Turkic world is highly interested in long-term and stable relations with all neighbors including Russia, China, India and the European Union, and as one of the strategic goals of the Turkic integration is to promote the consolidation of relations in the greater Eurasia at the core of which the Turkic world is positioned; and to contribute to the formation of a sustainable system of continental security that rests upon the cooperation of all the states of the greater Eurasia.

Elbasy also stressed that the new organization is ready to cooperate with all states and international organizations not as a new block but as a progressive unity, which has built its activities upon the fundamental goals and principles of the UN Charter, concluding that the Turkic world has played for many centuries an important mediator role between cultures and civilizations.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. **Ilham Aliyev** highlighted the need for strengthening of unity and brotherhood between the Turkic peoples, as well as the vast economic, political and military power within this geography and stressed that the Organization in comparison with other international and regional organizations has a brighter future in addressing the emerging challenges.

President Aliyev expressed his gratitude to the Member States for their support in the restoration of East Zangazur and Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, for their active involvement in important infrastructure projects. He added that the materialization of Zangazur transport corridor will usher new perspectives for the Turkic World and the region.

President Aliyev expressed his deep gratitude to the Heads of States of Organization for the award “Supreme Order of Turkic World” as a recognition of historic victory of Azerbaijani people in the liberation of Karabakh that restored territorial integrity and national dignity of Azerbaijan, and further contributed to strengthening of Turkic unity.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** underlined the importance of effectively using the geopolitical potential of the Turkic World and developing economic, technologic, humanitarian and environmental cooperation among Member States.

Underlining the importance of developing energy sources for ensuring the carbon neutrality, President Tokayev proposed to create an international consortium composed of leading Turkic scientific institutions for the development of new technologies in production, storage and transportation of hydrogen.

Referring to increasing the volume of green bonds in the world market President stressed that, it is in the common interest of Turkic States to develop green capital market for the implementation of green technology projects in the region.

The Kazakh President underscored the necessity to strengthen cooperation between information and technology companies in the framework of smart city projects. He invited the Parties to establish a center of modern techno-parks within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States and organize in “Astana Hub” International Technology Park a special Forum for young professionals operating in the field of information technology.

H.E. **Sadyr Zhaparov**, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, praised the activities of the Organization and emphasized that it has become the most important and prestigious platform for the Turkic integration.

President of the Kyrgyz Republic, among others, pointed out the need to make full use of green technologies and digitalization to strengthen national economies, which is stagnating in the face of climate change and pandemic.

He underlined that the most important step for green technology transfer is develop the potential of hydropower and expecting investments primarily from the Turkic States for the construction of small and medium hydropower plants.

Stressing the current situation in Afghanistan, that can directly affect the Central Asian countries, President Zhaparov proposed the establishing a common peace platform "Central Asia - a Peace Zone" within the Organization, for the Turkic World and the international community.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. **Shavkat Mirziyoyev** stressed the need to create favorable conditions for expanding trade relations within the Organization, through elimination of trade barriers, the widespread production of electronic commerce, and increasing exports and imports, and to this end, suggested establishing a Center for Research on Trade Cooperation of the Turkic States, which would develop concrete proposals in these areas.

S. Mirziyoyev proposed to pay special attention to transport and transit issues and to develop a program on transport connectivity in order to establish systemic cooperation in this field.

Calling for strengthening industrial cooperation, President Mirziyoyev proposed to create Engineering and Technology Centers on the basis of relevant institutions of the Member States and expressed readiness to hold the Week of Industry of the Turkic States in Uzbekistan in 2022.

Referring to negative consequences of environmental disasters, the President of Uzbekistan suggested creating a structure in the Aral Sea region in cooperation with the United Nations for the environmental protection of the Turkic countries.

In addition, President of Uzbekistan suggested to create a permanent platform for experts and IT specialists on creation of «smart» cities, support for youth initiatives as well as to develop a «Road Map», which will include realization of tourism projects «Tourism of Turkic World» and "Tabarruk Ziyarat" holding exhibitions of handicrafts and ethnosport competitions, as well as the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage monuments.

President of Turkmenistan, H.E. **Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov** underlined that Turkmenistan considers the systematic and targeted strengthening of economic and trade relations within the Organization, particularly in the strategic areas as energy and transport.

He expressed the need to expand relations and cooperation of the Member States within the framework of the United Nations (UN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and other international and regional structures.

He proposed to intensify cooperation and begin the implementation of the Caspian Sea-Turkey-Europe power grid system project and transport and logistics corridors to revive the Great Silk Road, as well as to develop a common strategy of the Turkic States in this direction.

Prime Minister of Hungary, H.E. **Viktor Orbán** invited the President of the Republic of Turkey as the incumbent Chairman and Secretary General of the Organization of Turkic States to organize the “Visegrad 4 + Organization of Turkic States Summit” in Hungary with the valuable participation of all Presidents in the first half of 2022.

V.Orbán stated that the Hungarian government supports the establishment of the Turkic Investment Fund and expressed the readiness of Hungary to contribute to the fund's capital.

He assured that Hungary would not approve any European Union decision that ignores the security interests of the Turkic countries.

Prime Minister called the Turkic States to closely cooperate for drought prevention and expressed the readiness of Hungary to share its experience in this field.

In his address to the Summit, Secretary General of the Turkic Council H.E. **Baghdad Amreyev** extended his gratitude to the Heads of State for their strong support to the Turkic World and the Organization of Turkic States.

Secretary General noted that while 3 years ago there were only 4 Turkic States at the Organization, but now it has 7 members. He said that all independent and sovereign Turkic States in the world gathered under the umbrella of the Organization of Turkic States and for the first time in history, the Turkic world is seen as a one entity and as one united Turkic world.

Stressing the importance of the decisions taken at the historic Summit namely; changing the name of the Organization as “Organization of Turkic States”, adopting the “2040-Turkic World Vision” document, joining of Turkmenistan to the Organization as an Observer Member, establishment of the “Turkic Investment Fund” and regulating the relations of the Organization with third parties, B. Amreyev stated that the Turkic World stepped into a new era of cooperation.

Reporting to the Heads of State on the recent activities of the Organization, Secretary General underlined that within the 2 months before the Summit, a total of 15 Ministerial and nearly 50 working group preparation meetings were held, during which the Agenda of the Summit has been prepared.

Head of the Organization emphasized that, in addition to the decisions taken at the Summit the “Strategy Document-2026”- operational document containing concrete steps in the Vision-2040, will be prepared.

4. Conclusion

At the end of the Summit, Heads of States and Governments reiterated their satisfaction with the outcomes of the Summit.

They noted that the Eighth Summit of the Organization of Turkic States has been a historic event that will be remembered as a significant turning point for the Organization where the relations among the Member States entered a new era of a closer cooperation and deeper integration in the Turkic world.

Emphasizing the increasing role and the promising future of the Organization in addressing the regional and global challenges, the Leaders underlined the importance of common action and fruitful collaboration concerning the pressing topics of the regional and global agenda.

The Presidents highly commended the work of the Secretary General Mr. Baghdad Amreyev and the Secretariat in strengthening and deepening cooperation among the Member States.

During the Summit, the Chairmanship of the Organization was handed over from Azerbaijan to Turkey. The Heads of State agreed to convene the 9th Summit of the Organization in Uzbekistan in 2022.