

**THE EXTRAORDINARY VIDEO SUMMIT OF THE TURKIC
COUNCIL ON THE THEME OF “COOPERATION AND
SOLIDARITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19
PANDEMIC”**

- 10 April 2020 -

SPEECH OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

H.E. BAGHDAD AMREYEV

Distinguished Presidents and Prime Minister,

It is a distinct pleasure for me to present my deepest respect to all of You. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev, who initiated our Summit meeting today.

The pandemic affects our Member and Observer States, but thankfully, the overall picture is not very grave Alhamdulillah when compared to the rest of the world. Of course, the precautionary measures taken by Your Excellencies and the firm steps taken in the fight against the virus are of great importance in this outcome.

In this process, our countries also supported each other with medical equipment, including face masks, safety glasses, gloves and test kits, among others. These aids were accepted by public opinion very positively.

Cooperation in the field of Health

I am of the opinion that this crisis has made it quite necessary to initiate a cooperation process in the field of health within the framework of the Turkic Council.

1. It is very important to exchange information and experience among our countries on their national pandemic action plans; to enable our healthcare professionals to discuss, share clinical cases, expertise and treatment methods; to make assessment on the need for further supply

of essential laboratory equipment and life supporting medical equipment;

2. It is also crucial to evaluate the need for the deployment of qualified teams of medical personnel across the Turkic Council member and observer states or the need for a joint effort for vaccine development.

3. Collaboration on issues such as hospital management, pharmacy, training of doctors, and preparation of special software infrastructures for the health sector will enable us to realize significant achievements in the upcoming period.

Post Crisis Collaboration

Your Excellencies, as You have stated today, it is obvious that there will be a grim economic picture left behind. This situation requires us, as the Turkic Council countries, to carry out joint efforts and take common measures for the post-crisis period.

First. In the Turkic Council - 2025 Vision Paper that we are preparing according the decision of the last Baku Summit in addition to short term and long term strategy of cooperation, within the framework the Turkic Council agenda we will now reflect how we should cooperate and coordinate to overcome the political, economic and social impacts of the current crisis.

Three days ago, we convened the Heads of Turkic Chambers of Commerce and Industry in a video conference format to jointly form a set of recommendations for your today's meeting to ensure uninterrupted conduct of commercial ties through open lines of transportation in times of global crises as well as the quick recovery of business relations in the post-pandemic stage. Some of these recommendations were included in the Declaration.

I would like to bring into your kind attention that due to the pandemic the transit trade turned to the Trans-Caspian Corridor. Hence, taking this opportunity, in the upcoming period, our business community requests You to increase the capacity of Ro-Ro transportation and

decrease the transit costs at the Caspian Sea, which will considerably help our countries to overcome the negative effects of Corona virus on our economies.

Second. I would like to present to Your high opinion the proposal to dedicate the theme of the next regular Summit to “Cooperation in times of Regional and Global Crisis”. This theme will allow us to elaborate at our highest platform on the effects not only of the global pandemic, particularly in health but in economic, financial, social and international spheres as well.

Ensuring food security and unhindered passage of essential goods among the Member States was regarded as one of the most pressing issues to be tackled in the fight against the global pandemic and in the post-pandemic period.

Third. In line with this, it may be beneficial to establish an “Crisis Management Committee” of the Turkic Council, at the level of Deputy Prime Ministers for rapid and effective coordination and cooperation among the Turkic Council countries during various regional and global crises periods.

Fourth. I believe that in order to overcome the economic side effects of the crisis, the ongoing cooperation mechanisms in the fields such as economy, trade, transport, customs, and tourism among our countries will need to be re-evaluated and necessarily elevated to a further level of cooperation. I firmly believe that we can only overcome the negative situation that this crisis will create in our economies with a strengthened cooperation and deepened integration.

Fifth. At this point, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that the “Joint Turkic Investment Fund” we are working to establish nowadays also based on the decision of the Baku Summit will be extremely beneficial for our countries during such crises periods too, especially to support small medium size enterprises

I believe our countries and the world will overcome this testing period and its negative effects as soon as possible. In this process, we have full confidence in your wise and strong leadership.

I thank you.