



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



The year of 2016 was marked in the world history as a year that proved the need of taking further concrete efforts to sustain peace, security, stability and development in all parts of the world including Eurasia. However, the Turkic Council will remember this year with its devotion to the 25th anniversary of independence of Five Turkic Speaking States. In such a short period of time, taking their strength from their common historical and cultural Turkic heritage Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan prevailed in the international arena as influential political and economic actors with their irreversible achievements. Thus, in the course of 2016, all Turkic Speaking States including Turkey continued to shape the geo-strategic equations in Eurasia and beyond with their firm commitment to surmount the regional and global threats.

As a regional organization and a responsible international actor, during the past year, the Turkic Council carried on with its efforts to

contribute to the deepening cooperation not only among the Turkic Speaking States but also in the wider region. With its inclusive, comprehensive and result-oriented approach, following closely the rising issues in the global agenda, from foreign policy, sustainable development, tourism, transportation, education, diaspora to youth and sports, the Turkic Council materialized its regular Ministerial and Working Group meetings on the abovementioned areas.

Taking their pressing significance for the Turkic Council Member States as well as for the region, the topics of information and communication technologies and renewable energy were added in the cooperation kit of the Council. On the other hand, the continuation of security consultations touching upon specifically the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters was a visionary maneuver of the Council to generate discussions on one of the rampant problems in our region.

The Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Elders and the Senior Officials Committee lasted to be regularly convened in 2016 to take up the issues about the Turkic Council and its affiliated organizations such as TURKSOY, International Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, and Center of Nomadic Civilizations that will become operational soon. Meanwhile, the Turkic Council was pleased to support the outstanding activities carried out during the year by TURKSOY and International Turkic Academy as well as by our regional partners to celebrate the 25th anniversary of independence of Five Turkic Speaking States.



On the other hand, it was more than a pleasure for the Turkic Council to co-organize with the Kyrgyz Government, in this historical year, the 2nd World Nomadic Games that constituted a remarkable celebration of diversity, culture and inter-cultural dialogue with the participation of over 1.400 athletes from 62 countries. Furthermore, taking into account that the topic of the next Turkic Council's Heads of States Summit is "youth and sports", the Turkic Council attributed a special emphasis on the activities in these areas throughout the year.

As in the case of previous years, the Turkic Council was always present in a supportive manner at the international activities and undertakings gloriously carried out by our Member States. The first ever World Humanitarian Summit hosted by the Republic of Turkey and the 7th United National Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) Global Forum hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan were among these events that reminded us the power of "tolerance, mutual respect and dialogue" to unite our strengths and to overcome our differences. Meanwhile, the success of the Republic of Kazakhstan to secure a non-permanent seat for 2017-2018 at the UN Security Council was a source of common honour for the Turkic Speaking States and the institutions of the Turkic cooperation.

2016 was also significant in the sense that the Turkic Council furthered cooperation with its regional and international partners. Through the signing of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the UNDP, UN Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and UNAOC, the Council reiterated its commitment to the motto of "think regionally and act globally". In this regard, we co-hosted on 20-21 October 2016 with the UNAOC in Istanbul a timely international conference entitled "the Role of Youth Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: Holistic Approaches from Education to De-radicalization". The conference, where UNDP, UNOSSC, International Center for Sport Security (ICSS) and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) were our partners, was attended by more than 300 young leaders and experts coming from 40 different countries from Africa to Asia. Hence, topic and institution-wise, this international conference was a true testimony to the effective collaboration between the relevant regional and international actors working hand in hand to prepare a better future for young generations. Because we cordially believe that young people are "the game-changers" in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, boosting south-south cooperation and thus preparing a better future for all of us, leaving no one behind.

On the other hand, during 2016, we continued to extend our efforts for tapping the tremendous touristic and economic potential of the historical Silk Road where the Turkic Speaking States are located. This is attested by the finalization of preparations with regard to the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package and the support we extended for the realization of the Second Meeting of the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform on 9 -12 June 2016 in Valencia, Spain.

In addition to our continuous efforts to attain observer status at the UN General Assembly, we also initialized and signed MoUs with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in 2016. At the same time, we deepened our collaborative ties with the Secretariat of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and attended the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg. The steps taken to mainstream the inter-regional cooperation were enriched by our enhanced relations



with UN World Tourism Organization, World Customs Organization, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) throughout the year.

This report is aimed at providing some snapshots on the activities of the Council, amounting to 296 events at various levels, during 2016. Thus, it furnishes a comprehensive picture about what the Turkic Council achieved during the last year projecting its enormous potential to be further revealed in the period ahead.

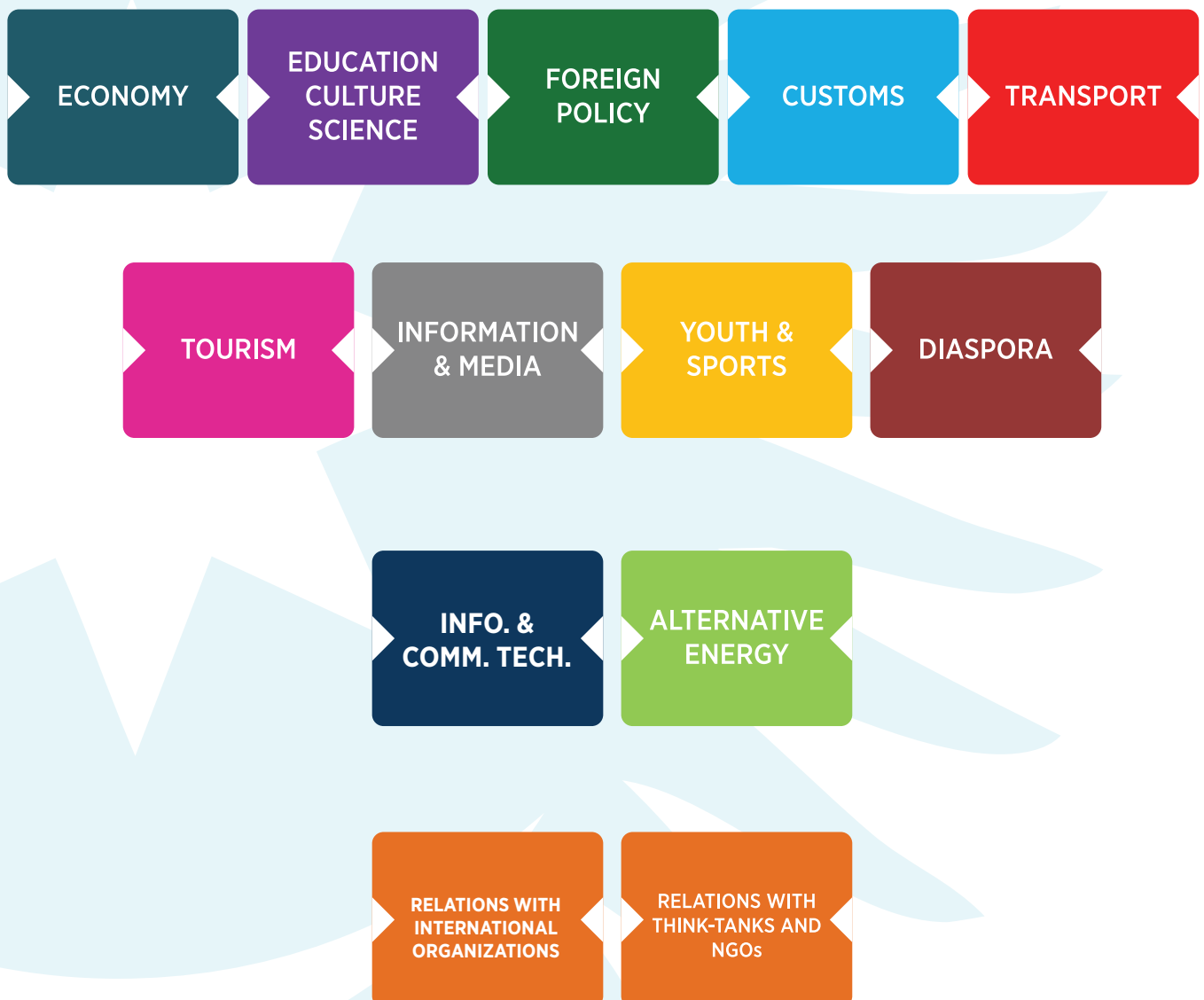
As the Secretariat, we are grateful to first and foremost our Member States for their steady support and to our regional and international partners for their collaboration in fulfilling our goals to expand the spirit of regional and global cooperation. Therefore, I would like to sincerely thank our Presidents, our Ministers and the relevant authorities of our Member States as well as our partners, and the Secretariat's international staff, for their tireless contributions to the efforts of the Council in this direction.

Taking the opportunity, I wish 2017 to be the year that we will remember with concrete achievements for more peace, stability and prosperity in our region and around the world.

Ambassador Ramil Hasanov
Secretary General



AREAS OF COOPERATION





SUMMARY OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES IN 2016



I. OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL



A. Objectives and Structure of the Turkic Council



Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States (the Turkic Council) is an intergovernmental organization, whose overarching aim is to promote comprehensive cooperation among Turkic Speaking States. The organization was established by the Nakhchivan Agreement on Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, which was signed at the Summit of the Heads of Turkic Speaking States held in Nakhchivan in 2009. The founding and current members are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey.

The Turkic Council reflects the common political will that emanates from the Process of Summits of the Heads of States of the Turkic Speaking States. The process began at the very first Summit of the Heads of Turkic Speaking States held in Ankara in 1992, which brought together the leaders of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Turkey. Subsequent summits were: Istanbul Summit in 1994; Bishkek Summit in 1995; Tashkent Summit in 1996; Astana Summit in 1998; Baku Summit in 2000; Istanbul Summit in 2001; Antalya Summit in 2006; Nakhchivan Summit in 2009 and Istanbul Summit in 2010.



The Nakhchivan Agreement entered into force in November 2010. At the Istanbul Summit of 2010 the Turkic Council began its activities with a Secretariat headquartered in Istanbul.

These summits, after the establishment of the Turkic Council were renamed as “Summits of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”. Five Summits have been held in Almaty, Bishkek, Gabala, Bodrum and Astana since the establishment of the Council and the next one will be hosted by Kyrgyzstan in 2017. These major annual

events are convened with the participation of the Presidents of Member States, Foreign Ministers and other Ministers as appropriate.



THE WORKING PRINCIPLES OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL

Nakhchivan Agreement sets out the main purposes and tasks of the Organization as follows:

- Strengthening mutual confidence among the Parties;
- Maintaining peace in the region and beyond;
- Promoting common positions on foreign policy issues;
- Coordinating actions to combat international terrorism, separatism, extremism and trans-border crimes;
- Promoting effective regional and bilateral cooperation in all areas of common interest;
- Creating favorable conditions for trade and investment;
- Aiming for comprehensive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development;
- Discussing questions of ensuring rule of law, good governance and protection of human rights;
- Expanding interaction in the fields of science, technology, education and culture;
- Encouraging interaction of the mass media and wider communication;
- Promoting exchange of legal information and enhancing legal cooperation.

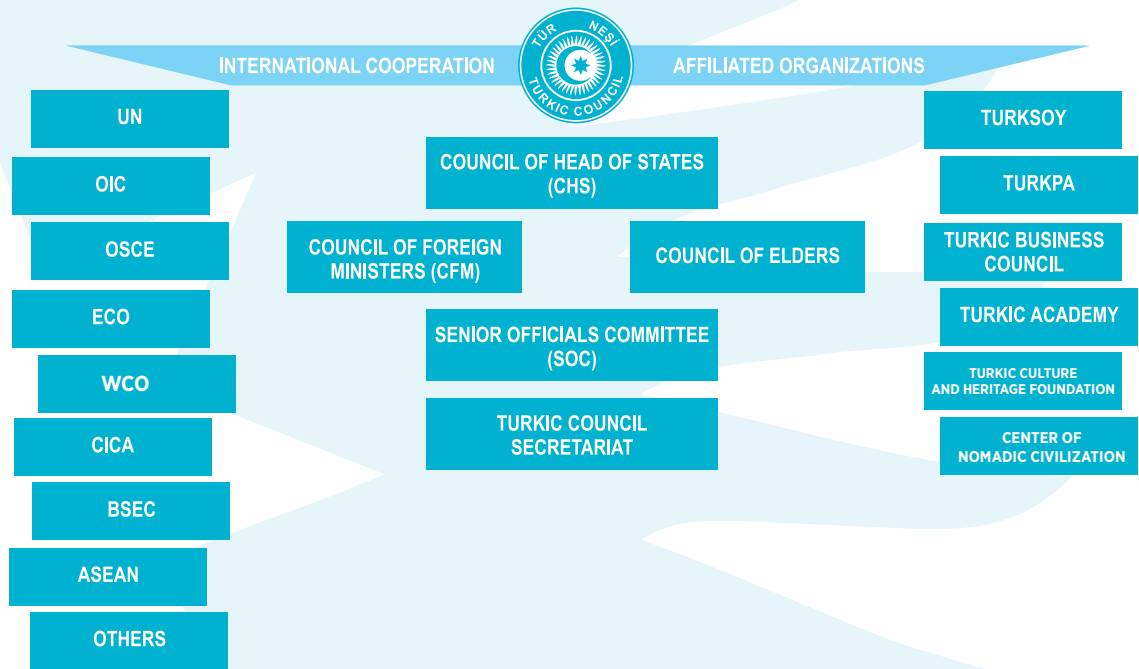
In order to fulfill the objectives and tasks of the Turkic Council, following structures were established:

- Council of Heads of States;
- Council of Foreign Ministers;
- Council of Elders;
- Senior Officials Committee;
- Secretariat.

The state that hosts the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of States assumes the chairmanship of the Turkic Council until the next summit.



The Working Mechanism of the Turkic Council



I. Council of Heads of States

The main mechanism of the political cooperation among Turkic Speaking States is the annual Summits where the Council of Heads of States (CHS) convenes. The CHS embodies the highest political will behind the Turkic Council and is the utmost organ guiding its primary motivations and activities. The CHS, through adopting Summit Declarations, reviews the past work and brings in new instructions for the following year.

First Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 20-21 October 2011 in Almaty under a specific topic: “Economic Cooperation”. During the Summit the complementary documents setting out institutional framework of the Secretariat were adopted and approved. In order to reach more tangible results, the coordination mechanism as annual ministerial and working groups meetings was settled.



Second Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev on 22-23 August 2012 in Bishkek. This Summit was dedicated to the topic of “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”. During the Summit “Agreement on the Financial Rules of the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”, “Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Academy” and “Charter of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation” were signed. Among other outcomes of this Summit were approval of the flag and logo of the Turkic Council.



The Third Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on 15-16 August 2013 in Gabala. This Summit was first summit where Turkmenistan had participated. The main theme of this Summit was “Transport and Connectivity”. In the framework of the Summit, the “Protocol of Cooperation among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Turkic Council” was signed and the 20th Anniversary of TURKSOY was celebrated. Furthermore, the CHS adopted the “Joint Cooperation Protocol on the Development of Transport”.





The Fourth Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Turkey Abdullah Gül on 4-5 June 2014 in Bodrum. This Summit was organized under the topic of “Cooperation in Tourism”. It was agreed to join efforts in order to launch a “Turkic Council - Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package”, which will play a role to strengthen the brand of the Silk Road and contribute to the development of tourism in Turkic Council States.





The Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council was hosted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 11 September 2015 in Astana. During the summit entitled “Cooperation in Information and Media” the “Concept Paper for the Establishment of the International Turkic TV Channel” was approved as well as complementary documents of the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation were approved and signed. Furthermore, a decision on the establishment of a new affiliated organization of the Turkic Council named Centre of Nomadic Civilization was taken and its complementary documents were signed.





II. Council of Foreign Ministers

Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) considers the issues of current activities of the Turkic Council, brings international issues for discussion in the frame of the CHS meetings, and approves the staff matrix and financial report of the Secretariat. The CFM meets on a regular basis on the sidelines of the Summits. To discuss issues relating to the work of the Council and of common concern, Foreign Ministers also meet at informal CFM meetings every year in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

III. Council of Elders

In addition to the conventional structures of contemporary international organizations, the Turkic Council has a distinct and unique entity, the Council of Elders (CoE), which equips it with the guidance of esteemed notables from the Turkic communities. Bearing in mind that wisdom, knowledge and experience of statesmen, academics and intellectuals constitute a significant source in dealing with rampant problems faced in the region, this unique entity represents a major innovative approach in addressing today's regional and global challenges. As the permanent advisory body to the Turkic Council, the CoE convenes semi-annually and submits its opinions, proposals and practical recommendations to the CFM and the CHS.

IV. Senior Officials Committee

The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) is an authorized decision making body of the Turkic Council. The main purpose of this body is to coordinate the activities of the Secretariat as well as to consider and endorse draft documents, worked up by the Secretariat before their submission for adoption by the CFM and approval by the CHS.



B. Affiliated Organizations

The Turkic Council is designed as an umbrella organization for the cooperation mechanisms among the Turkic Speaking States. The affiliated organizations of the Turkic Council are as follows:

- **TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture)**, established in 1993 in Ankara, aims at enhancing cooperation on the issues of education, science, culture and art; introducing and promoting the common values of the Turkic World on the international level; as well as deepening the cultural relations among Turkic Speaking States and peoples.
- **TURKPA (Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries)**, became operational in 2008, headquartered in Baku, operates with the purpose of deepening inter-parliamentary cooperation among Turkic Speaking States.
- **Turkic Business Council**, established in 2011, aims at enhancing economic cooperation among Turkic countries through business events, forums and entities of Turkic Council Member States.
- **Turkic Academy** became an international organization in 2012, based in Astana, conducts academic research in the field of history, culture, geography, archeology, languages, literature, and ethnography of Turkic peoples.
- **Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation**, established in 2012, located in Baku, aims at providing assistance in the protection, study and promotion of Turkic culture and heritage through funding various activities, projects and programs.
- **Center of Nomadic Civilization**, to be based in Bishkek, aims to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation among the Turkic speaking peoples and other communities through organizing sport events and promoting the heritage of nomadic culture.

The Turkic Council attaches great importance to overseeing the activities of and the coordination among the affiliated institutions.

II.MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Turks have a long and tumultuous history on world stage during which Turkic integration had been an elusive goal - until recently. Turkic Council is the most committed and dedicated attempt at achieving this long-awaited and almost sacred goal. The integration process that has been going on in the Turkic world for over 25 years is bearing fruit in many areas.

The establishment of the Turkic Council as a permanent and institutionalized cooperation mechanism among its Member States is, undoubtedly, the most important milestone of Turkic integration. The integration process under the Turkic Council, which is the first voluntary alliance of the Turkic states in history, is being carried out in a coolheaded, pragmatic, and businesslike manner, with main emphasis is placed on the economic improvement of the Member States through solid cooperation projects. This tendency constitutes the *raison d'être* of the organization.

The Summits Process of the 1990s which saw 10 summit meetings over 18 years proved that without an institutional structure, these Summit meetings produced little more than sincere expressions of intentions to work together. Hence, the Turkic Council, for the first time in history, has become the embodiment of the will of the Turkic states that wished to transform their fraternal ties into an institutionalized, planned and sustainable cooperation with a permanent secretariat tasked to follow up decisions taken by the Member States.

First and foremost, the annual Summit meetings of the Presidents are the ultimate platforms where this common political will is unequivocally expressed at the highest level. Each Summit meeting is convened with a specific theme, such as economic cooperation; culture, education and science; transport and connectivity; tourism; and information and media. Such an approach has guided the collective efforts of the Member States to a specific target without ignoring the other ongoing cooperation areas and helped them achieve their desired outcomes.

The multi-lateral diplomacy under the Turkic Council has so far been capable of carrying the existing bilateral relations among the Member States in various areas onto a multi-lateral framework, thus opening new avenues of collaboration. Turkic Council Secretariat is currently undertaking the multilateral cooperation among its Member States in 14 different areas ranging from political to economic to cultural and educational topics.

The Foreign Ministers have also had 11 formal and informal meetings, since the establishment of the Turkic Council, to exchange views on matters of common interest in a fast changing world. As a result, they are taking more coordinated action at the international organizations. They have made joint declarations and issued statements at several international meetings against certain developments taking place in the region showing their unified stance to the world. The voting patterns of the Member States at the UN are also converging. Member States have launched a process of security consultations within the Turkic Council where they discuss security issues of common concern.



Other than the gatherings of the Foreign Ministers, 30 Ministerial meetings in all cooperation areas have so far been held under the Turkic Council. This has been underpinned by a total of (105) expert level meetings. This institutionalized process has resulted in the creation of various valuable ideas and decisions that have been transformed into concrete projects. Such practical projects have elevated the cooperation among the Member States to a further level while producing beneficial outcomes for the regional countries. Concrete and result-oriented cooperation projects undertaken by the Turkic Council has lured the attention of certain regional countries. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Hungary, Georgia and Qatar have so far attended various meetings and activities of the Council.

In this process, deepened cooperation and coordination among the institutions of the Member States, as well as with credible international organizations have been intensified. Turkic Council has hitherto established entrenched relations with 19 International organizations and bodies, first and foremost with the United Nations and its institutions, and has become a trusted partner. The number of the MoUs signed with such dignified international organizations has totaled 10. The score rose up to as many as 30 with the MoUs and Protocols signed among the institutions of the Member States. So far, Turkic Council organized 7 high-level conferences, forums, workshops and round-tables with credible international partners and qualified attendance. It has become an observer member of ECO and has a pending observer status process at UN General Assembly and OIC.

We see a functional cooperation, initiated and coordinated by the Turkic Council, among the joint institutions of the Turkic world; -TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation. The institutions are coming together periodically, under the Turkic Council, to coordinate the cooperation among themselves, lend rigorous support to one another in international area, and act in unison as parts of the same body. Establishment of the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation with specific set of tasks as related organs of the Turkic Council has also deepened and intensified the ongoing cooperation among the Member States.

Moreover, stronger cooperation among the Turkic States benefits our region and the world as much as the Turkic peoples themselves. Together, they have a greater capacity to contribute to regional stability. Turkic States (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) account for a population of around 150 million, cover an area of over 4.5 million square kilometers, and have a total GDP of exceeding 1.3 trillion Dollars, ranking the 13th as a whole in the world. Their untapped collective potential is too valuable to overlook. However, such a potential can only be utilized through sound intellectual groundwork, effective structures, and appropriately educated and motivated domestic and international bureaucracies embodied as the Turkic Council.

Turkic Council's endeavors over the last five years are just a glimpse of Turkic world acting in unison and an indication of what we are capable of doing in terms of enhanced structural cooperation.



In a decade from now, we will see a Turkic world which will thrive economically with increased mutual trade thanks to coordinated and facilitated custom procedures; streamlined transport operations; a visa free region allowing our people to get to better know each other; and a young generation, more conscious of their roots and culture. Turkic Council will continue to work hard to remain as the primary engine of this transformation.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL





III. COOPERATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES AND IN THE REGION

A. Political Cooperation

As to regular platforms the CHS and the CFM form the backbone for political motivation among the Member States. Furthermore, Member States deepen political cooperation through other means, such as Senior Officials Committee meetings, Regular Security Consultations, Junior Diplomats Joint Training Programs, meetings of Official Foreign Policy Research Centers, and Election Observer Missions. Coordinating the activities of Turkic Speaking Diasporas is also among the issues on the agenda of the Turkic Council. Last but not least, Turkic Council Foreign Ministers, when necessary, issue a common view of the Turkic Council with respect to the developments taking place in the world. Expression of common views by the Turkic Council Foreign Ministers is a testament to the intense political cooperation that the Member States have endured within the framework of the Turkic Council.



I. Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers

In line with the customary practice of convening the informal CFM on the margins of the UN General Assembly, the Sixth Informal Meeting of the CFM was hosted on 20 September 2016 in New York by Erlan Idrissov, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in his capacity as the Foreign Minister of the chair country of the Turkic Council. Secretary General Ambassador Ramil Hasanov briefed the CFM on the enhancement of fruitful relations of the Turkic Council with the UN, its specialized agencies, the OIC and

the OSCE. At the meeting, the Ministers discussed the overall work of the Council as well as the other pressing issues of common concern.

The Foreign Ministers expressed their appreciation for the steps taken by the Secretariat with regard to the progress achieved for its deepening relations with the relevant international organizations and reiterated their support to further this progress.



The Foreign Ministers congratulated the Republic of Kazakhstan for its election to the UN Security Council for the term 2017-2018 as a non-permanent member and the Kyrgyz Republic for successfully hosting the Second World Nomad Games on 3-8 September 2016.

II. Council of Elders

11th meeting of the Council of Elders (CoE) of the Turkic Council was held on 18-19 August 2016 in Astana. At the meeting the issues such as Second World Nomad Games, Common Turkic History Book, the activities of the affiliated organizations of the Turkic Council, 6th Summit of the Turkic Council and other relevant issues were discussed.



III. Senior Officials Committee

In 2016 18th and 19th meetings of the SOC were held in Istanbul on 18-19 February and 10-11 October respectively in Istanbul. During the meetings, implementation of the instructions of the CHS; issues related to the activity of the Turkic Council and other affiliated organizations were discussed and draft documents of the affiliated organizations were endorsed and submitted for the adoption to the Council of Foreign Ministers.





IV. Security Consultations

Taking into account the indivisibility of security, Member States regularly hold security consultations to discuss the issues of common concern in the field of security. The Third Round of Security Consultations was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on 9 February 2016 in Ankara.

In addition to the senior officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Member States, Uzbekistan was represented in the meeting at the level of Ambassador.

The regional developments on the security issues, the fight against terrorism, the problems in the Middle East, the situation in Afghanistan and the ways to prevent and counter the phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) were the prevailing subjects discussed at the meeting.

One of the outcomes of the meeting was that the FTFs phenomenon should be handled in a wider security perspective with an enhanced approach and the participants were committed to join their efforts to this end.





V. Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program

Junior Diplomats Joint Training Programs have been implemented annually in accordance with the Cooperation Protocol among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs signed at the Third Summit of the Turkic Council. The main purpose of this program is to get acquainted young diplomats with the foreign policies and the commonalities of history, culture and language of the Member States, as well as to establish friendly ties with one another. The content of the training program annually is generated by the Secretariat taking into consideration the aim of the program as well as the priorities of the Turkic Council and the Host Country, based on the experience and comments of the participants of the previous programs. Throughout the programs, junior diplomats attend two-week training in one of the Member States, which consists of lectures by competent academicians, top government officials and high ranking diplomats; cultural tours to historical places and official visits.

The Third Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program was held on 25 May – 5 June 2016 in Kazakhstan. Hungary, as the first non-member country, also took part in the Program. The next training program is planned to be held in Kyrgyzstan in 2017.





VI. International Election Observation Missions

Election observation primarily aims to assess the conduct of an election process on the basis of national legislation and international election standards. Since 2011, eleven Turkic Council election observation missions (TC EOMs) have been deployed to the Member States, following a short-term observation methodology to assess election processes according to international standards, national legislations and best practices for genuine democratic elections. In 2016, TC EOMs were deployed to monitor Early

Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan and Referendum on the amendments to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic.





VII. Cooperation among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers

The Third Meeting among the Official Foreign Policy Research Centers was held on 25 May 2016 in Astana. In the framework of this cooperation a special academic publication dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Turkic Speaking States was decided to be prepared by the Centers. The Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan launched the internship for the researchers from other Research Centers.





B. Economic Cooperation

The Turkic Council Member States engage in economic cooperation in order to facilitate development and implementation of various measures that promote trade, investment and sustainable growth. Thus a number of events and activities have been organized by the Secretariat this year to support implementation of those activities as tasked by the ministers. Furthermore, the Secretariat prioritizes the following directions: development and strengthening SMEs, developing human capital through capacity building, use of effective tools for research, and regional economic policies that are directed to a closer cooperation among its members.

In view of the above, the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Economy and the Eighth Meeting of the Working Group on Economic Cooperation were held on 20-21 December 2016 in Baku. Numerous matters enhancing the cooperation in economy were tabled at the said meetings. Parties also reviewed previously signed memoranda and proposed concrete actions in realizing them.

At the meeting, Research Paper on investment climate and international trade complementarities of the Member States, technical visits for investors/businessmen, Fifth Business Forum and Fifth meeting of Turkic Business Council, round Tables for the Businessmen, establishment of the Common Fund of Turkic Integration and other issues were discussed.





I. Turkic Business Council Meeting and Business Forum

The Fourth Turkic Business Council Meeting was held on 28 April 2016 in Bishkek. The issues such as familiarization programs for the model of compulsory membership to national unions of chambers of the Member States for private sector development, round tables for the businessmen in each Member State, general challenges faced by investors, training seminars and others were discussed at the meeting.

The Fourth Turkic Council Business Forum was convened on 28 April 2016, in Bishkek. Approximately 100 businessmen from Member States representing the fields of mining industry, energy, tourism, agriculture, food processing and light industry participated in the Forum.



II. Joint Investment Portal

The Joint Investment Portal of the Turkic Council (available at www.turkicbusiness.com) was launched in 2015 with a view to contributing to the development of the economies by bolstering investments and increasing business ties among the Member States and in the region. Turkic Business Portal aims at providing information on the markets, economic developments, business opportunities, fairs, exhibitions, training programs and other events in the Turkic speaking countries. As of the end of 2016, more than 220 companies were registered to the portal system.





C. Customs Cooperation

Today, customs administrations play as the key facilitators of trade flows. With this in mind, at the Second Summit on 23 August 2012, the Heads of States urged the heads of customs authorities of the Member States to hold regular meetings to increase cooperation in the field of customs. In order to tackle issues related to customs cooperation we have introduced a high-level mechanism of improving cooperation in the field.



The Fifth Meeting of the Heads of Customs Administrations and Seventh Meeting of Working Group took place on 30 June-1 July 2016 in Baku.

Within the context of the Silk Road Initiative and in order to promote joint actions and projects strengthening customs cooperation among the Silk Road countries through concrete steps, visits

by the delegations from Azerbaijan, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkic Council Secretariat to Kyrgyz-Chinese Torugart and Kazakh-Chinese Altynkol border crossing points (BCPs) together with Khorgoz Free Trade Zone located in Kazakh-Chinese border were held on 27-29 September 2016. Moreover, the Secretariat attended the 7th International Forum on the Role of Customs Administrations in Promoting and Facilitating Trade among Silk Road Countries on 23 November 2016 in Aktau. Delegations from the Member States, as well as from Georgia and China also took part in the Forum.



On 26-27 October 2016, the delegation of the Turkic Council consisting of the customs officials of the Member States visited Kapikule BCP located in Edirne province. The aim of the visit was to get familiarized with the Built-Operate-Transfer system of building and modernizing BCPs around Turkey that were realized within the public-private partnership framework.

Furthermore, Turkic Council Risk Analysis training seminar was organized by the Ministry of Customs and Trade of Turkey in Ankara for the Member States and Georgia on 4-5 October 2016.

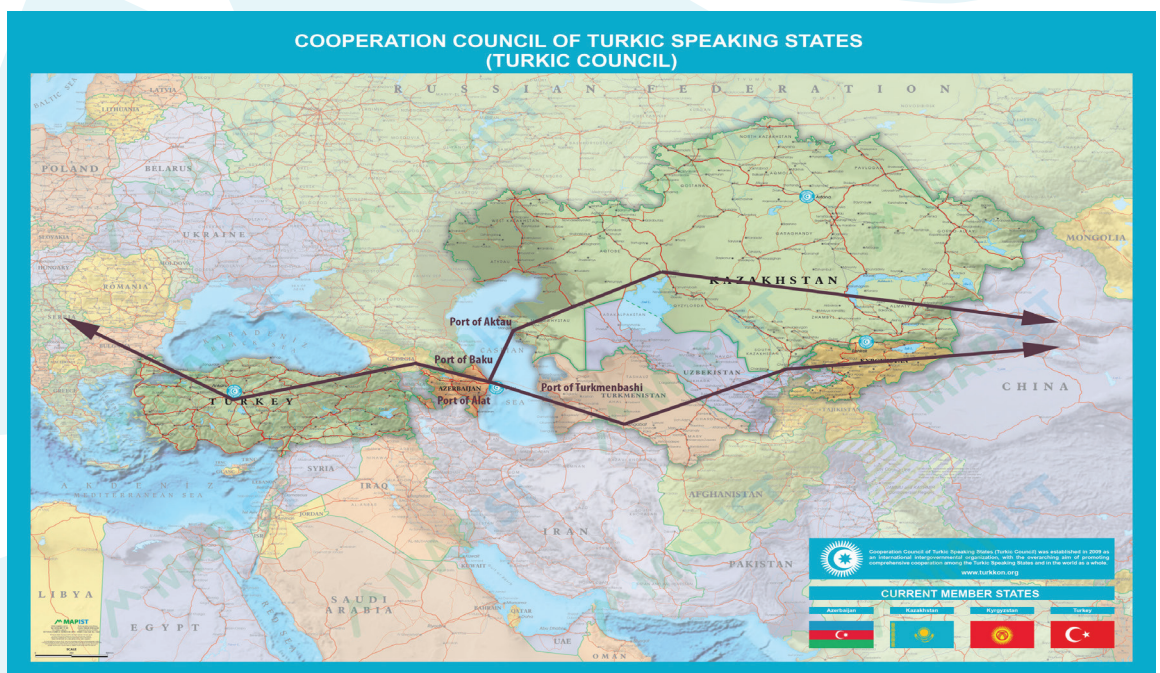


D. Transport Cooperation

2016 saw some significant developments on the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor. Logistical expenses, which have been the main impediments to the lucrative trade and enhanced economic relations among the Member States, went down due to the decrease in the costs of transit passage and Caspian crossings in Azerbaijan. Led by the efforts of the Coordinating Council of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Transit Freight (Transit Şura), the transit passage costs fell down by %40 and Caspian crossings by %20 making the corridor more competitive and hence preferable for the transporters. Similarly, the developments in Kazakhstan were also promising. The customs procedures in Aktau Port have been streamlined due to Single Window system and port charges were reduced, making the transport operations faster and cheaper.

Before 2016, the ferries operating between Baku and Aktau Ports were carrying around 500 trucks annually. This number increased by %1.300 reaching approximately to 7.000 trucks in the period of January-October 2016. A similar trend holds true for Baku-Turkmenbashi crossings as well. With the finalization of Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Project in 2017 and conclusion of the Road Transportation Agreement between Turkey and China, the cargo flow passing through the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor is expected to boost considerably.

Finalization of Marmaray rail tunnel, Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge and Eurasia road tunnel, three giant projects bridging the Asia and European continents over and under Bosphorus in Istanbul, has added a great value to the infrastructural capacity of the Central Transport Corridor.





“The true potential of the Turkic Council must be exploited”
Binali Yıldırım, Then Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey, 3rd meeting of Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council, 9 March 2016, Istanbul

“Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway is the central element of the Central Transport Corridor”
Ahmet Arslan, Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey



In light of the abovementioned developments and of the directions of the Heads of States at Summit meetings, the Secretariat has concentrated its efforts in the field of transport to facilitate the positive developments in the Trans-Caspian Corridor.



On 8 March 2016, Secretariat, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey organized a Workshop on Trans-Caspian Intermodal Route in Istanbul with the participation of high level bureaucrats and experts as well as representatives of the private companies from the Member States. In the Outcome Paper of the workshop, experts highlighted the importance of the corridor for the economic gains of our countries and stressed the corridor's efficiency for East-West transport. The following day, on 9 March 2016, the Third meeting of Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council was held. Ministers expressed their will to continue to work to make the corridor stable, competitive and sustainable, and underlined that Member States should exploit the true potential of the Turkic Council in order to activate the untapped capacity zipped in our geography.





On the margins of the ministerial meeting, Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic acceded to the Turkic Council Joint Cooperation Protocol on the Development of Transport.



The Secretariat also co-organized the Round table on development of Trans-Caspian International Transport Route with the Coordination Committee on the Development of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR) on 19 November 2015 in Istanbul Expo Centre on the occasion of International Logitrans Transport Logistics Exhibition. Attended by the top railway, seaport and transport authorities of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Turkey, the Round Table provided updated information regarding the ongoing projects, facilities and opportunities that TITR would create for freight forwarders in the Trans-Caspian corridor.





E. Tourism Cooperation

Pursuant to the Fourth Summit with the theme of Tourism Cooperation, the efforts of the Turkic Council to increase cooperation among its Member States in this field and to render the historical Silk Road an attractive tourism destination continued in the course of 2016.

The Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Meetings of the Working Group on Tourism were held on 18-19 January 2016 in Istanbul, on 23 March 2016 in Shymkent, on 12 May 2016 in Baku and on 5-6 June 2016, Cholpan-Ata (Issyk-Kul), respectively.

The Third Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Tourism Affairs was hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic on 7 June 2016 in Cholpan Ata (Issyk-Kul). Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) attended the Ministerial Meeting as the guest of honor.





At the meeting, the Ministers endorsed the MoU for the Establishment of the Consortium Among the Tour Operators that will implement the Turkic Council-Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package. They also approved the Turkic Council-Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Initial Road Map of Communication Strategy for 2016-2017. They urged all national stakeholders to provide necessary support to implement the said project.



They also instructed the continuation of vocational trainings on service sector conducted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey for other Member States, as well as of info tours and joint photo exhibitions. At the meeting, 11 participating tour operators signed the Global Code of Ethics of the UNWTO.



Global Code of Ethics
for Tourism
For Responsible Tourism

As a fundamental frame of reference for responsible and sustainable tourism, the **Global Code of Ethics for Tourism** (GCET) is a comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key-players in tourism development. The Turkic Council and the UNWTO join hands for the expansion of these global principles.



Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package Project

The Joint Tour Package's destination is designed to follow the landmarks of the cultural and historical heritage of the Silk Road in four Member States. Through the 14 day-trip, tourists would have a unique and adventurous experience. 1 million tourists are expected to visit the Modern Silk Road destination until 2023.





After the field analysis in Kyrgyzstan in 2015, the field visit to Kazakhstan to analyze the potential of the Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package was carried out on 21-24 March 2016 with the representatives of media, relevant ministries and tour operators from the Member States. The delegation visited the destination from Almaty, Turkestan, Otyrar, Shymkent to Taraz. As the visit coincided with the Nowruz Celebrations in the South Kazakhstan, the delegation also participated in the events of the said celebrations.



The field visit to Azerbaijan was conducted on 9-12 May 2016. The delegation visited the destination of Ganja-Sheki-Shemakha-Baku and analyzed the touristic facilities. Both visits were shot by TRT AVAZ and broadcasted at their News Bulletins.





The Secretariat presented the Joint Tour Package at the international fairs and exhibitions such as International Tourism Fair in Spain-FITUR on 20-24 January 2016 in Madrid and during the major events such as the Second Meeting of the International Network for the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform on 8-12 June 2016 in Valencia. Furthermore, the articles on the activities of the Turkic Council in the field of tourism and specifically on the Joint Tour Package were published in foreign publications.

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EL CONSEJO TÚRQUICO Y SU NUEVA OFERTA CONJUNTA SILK ROAD TOUR: UN ENFOQUE DINÁMICO PARA LA COOPERACIÓN TURÍSTICA

La ruta de la seda moderna con su rico patrimonio histórico y cultural, así como la diversidad natural y geográfica presenta un legendario destino turístico y de aventura. El Consejo de Cooperación de los Estados de Habla Turca (Consejo Turco) atribuye una gran importancia a revelar el verdadero potencial de este destino para una experiencia de viaje inolvidable a través de las huellas de la tradicional ruta de la seda.

Creado en 2009, el Consejo Turco pretende profundizar en la cooperación, no sólo entre sus Estados Miembros (República de Azerbaiyán, República de Kazajistán, Kirguistán y la República de Turquía), sino también en la región. El Consejo funciona de acuerdo con el Acuerdo Fundamental de Nacshiván y está comprometido con los propósitos y principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y otros principios y normas del derecho internacional universalmente reconocidos. En este sentido, promueve la cooperación integral e inclusiva entre los miembros de habla turca a través de proyectos orientados a los resultados, además de contribuir a la paz, la estabilidad y el desarrollo sostenible en la región. Se valora los conceptos de "participación a nivel regional" y la "cooperación inteligente" en el ejercicio de sus actividades en beneficio de su región.

Bajo la cobertura de las instituciones coordinadoras de la cooperación turca (incluidas las organizaciones hermanas TURKSOV, TURKPA, Academia Turca, Fundación Cultura y Patrimonio Turca y Normadic Civilization Center), con su mecanismo de cumbres anuales de Jefes de Estado, el Consejo de Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores, Consejo de Ancianos, Comité de Alto Nivel y la Secretaría, el Consejo opera en una amplia gama de áreas de tecnologías de economía, transporte, aduanas, turismo, información y comunicación, energías alternativas, la policía exterior, la juventud y el deporte. Kazajistán es el actual Presidente en ejercicio del Consejo Turco.

El tema de la Cuarta Cumbre Consejo Turco a nivel de Jefes de Estado celebrada en Bodrum, Turquía en 2014 se dedicó a la cooperación en el área de turismo. Consideramos que el turismo como un componente significativo para construir puentes entre personas, culturas y vidas para preparar el terreno necesario para disfrutar de todas las bellezas del mundo. Su carácter de ser uno de los principales motores del desarrollo socio-económico hace que este sector sea más valioso como un elemento para impulsar la cooperación regional. Con esta perspectiva, los ministros encargados de asuntos turísticos de nuestros Estados miembros, así como el grupo de trabajo sobre turismo se reúnen regularmente y presentan las formas y medios para mejorar la cooperación regional en este campo. Desde la Cuarta Cumbre Consejo Turco, hemos estado trabajando en la preparación del "Consejo Turco en la Nueva Ruta de la Seda como oferta conjunta" como un proyecto para compartir con los turistas aventureros y curiosos. Por lo tanto, permitámonos subrayar que con este paquete de viaje, usted experimentará un viaje inolvidable.

Dentro de dicho proyecto, un touraje conjunto estaría de viaje de Turquía, Azerbaiyán, Kazajistán y Kirguistán para seguir las huellas de la histórica ruta de la seda. El folleto y vídeo promocional del paquete

han sido ya preparados. Los análisis de campo del Tour oferta conjunta se realizaron en Kirguistán, Kazajistán y Azerbaiyán hasta ahora. El primer viaje de la línea para el paquete del viaje Conjunto está previsto que se lleva a cabo a principios de septiembre el año 2016 a partir de Kirguistán que será sede de los Juegos del Tercer Mundo Nómadas. Después de la materialización del proyecto, la Secretaría también se centrará en trabajar en proyectos de desarrollo aquí en nuestros Estados miembros a través de los medios de sector del turismo, junto con socios como el PNUD y el Banco Islámico de Desarrollo.

En cuanto a la cooperación en el ámbito del turismo, el grupo de trabajo correspondiente del Consejo Turco fue convocado ocho veces hasta ahora. Los representantes del sector privado de los Estados miembros participaron en las reuniones del Grupo de Trabajo. Los ministros de turismo de los Estados miembros del Consejo Turco se reunieron dos veces en Estambul y en Bakú durante los últimos dos años. La Tercera Reunión Ministerial será presentada el 7 de junio de 2016 en Isayk Kul, Kirguistán. El Secretario General de la Organización Mundial del Turismo presidirá dicha reunión.

Los conjuntos de exposiciones fotográficas de los Estados miembros a lo largo de la ruta de la seda constituye otro elemento importante del programa. La primera exposición conjunta de fotos fue organizada en el marco de la Feria Internacional de Viajes y Turismo de Azerbaiyán en 2014, la segunda y la tercera programación de exposiciones fotográficas fueron llevadas a cabo, respectivamente, en la Feria Internacional de Turquía en 2014 y en la

Internacional de Turismo y Viajes de Turquía en Estambul en 2015. Mientras tanto, entre los países socios a nuestros Estados miembros con la perspectiva de los medios de comunicación y representaciones del sector privado también se han organizado hasta ahora.

La realización de cursos de formación profesional conjuntos constituye un importante punto en la agenda en este ámbito de la cooperación. Más de 900 agentes de turismo (50% eran mujeres) fueron formados hasta ahora a través de las capacitaciones vocacionales en el sector turístico llevadas a cabo por el Ministerio de Cultura y Turismo de Turquía por los demás Estados miembros. Los cursos de formación tendrán continuidad en el próximo periodo y la formación continua en la educación de los guías y la gestión de los tour operadores se pondrán en marcha en el año 2016.

Consejo Turco también ha profundizado en las relaciones con la Organización Mundial del Turismo de las Naciones Unidas (UNWTO). La Secretaría participó en actividades de la OMT incluyendo reuniones de los Ministros de la Ruta de la Seda y otros eventos regionales. En la segunda visita del Secretario General del Consejo Turco a la sede de la OMT, se impulsó "Memorandum de Entendimiento para la cooperación entre las dos organizaciones" y se firmó el 26 de junio de 2015 en Madrid. El documento constituye el primer memorando de entendimiento firmado entre la Secretaría y el Consejo Turco con un organismo especializado de las Naciones Unidas. Los dos partes acordaron la participación en las actividades pertinentes de los demás y la organización de actos conjuntos con el fin de promover el turismo ruta de la seda



RAMIL HASANOV
Embajador

En el Consejo Turco, creemos que la ruta de la seda es el patrimonio único de la humanidad. Por lo tanto, tenemos que respetar, proteger y hacer revivir este patrimonio que es generoso en términos de cultura, el turismo y los valores humanos. Estamos comprometidos a tomar las medidas necesarias en este sentido. Por lo tanto te invitamos a experimentar un viaje único en el nuevo producto turístico común SILK ROAD TOUR.

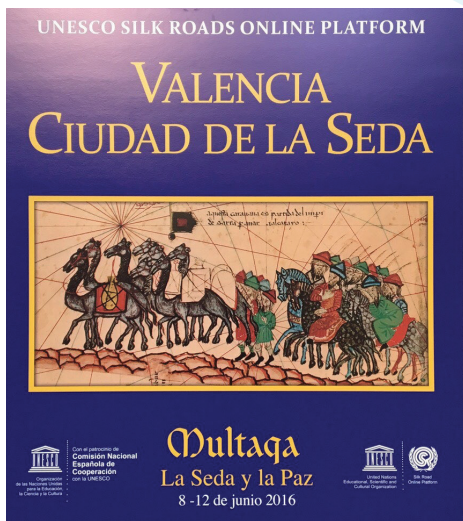
"We believe that the Silk Road is the unique heritage of the humankind. Therefore, we need to respect, protect and revive this heritage that is generous in terms of culture, tourism and human values. As the Turkic Council, we are committed to take the necessary actions in this direction. Therefore we invite you to experience the unique journey of the Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package"

Secretary General Hasanov "The Turkic Council and Its Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package: A Dynamic Approach For Tourism Cooperation", Catalogue of the Second Meeting of the International Network for the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform, 8-12 June 2016, Valencia.



I. Supporting Silk Road Events

The Silk Road presents an important tourism destination with untapped potential. The Turkic Council cooperates with international actors to reveal this rich potential. In this regard, in 2016, the Council started to support significant international events which aimed at turning the Silk Road into a tourism brand. Therefore, the Council was among the main sponsors of the Second Meeting of UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform that took place on 8-12 June 2016 in Valencia.



Secretary General Hasanov addressed the diplomatic session entitled Silk and Peace: the Diplomatic Way on 10 June 2016 in Valencia at the Museum of Fine Arts in the framework of the aforementioned UNESCO event and briefed on the efforts of the Council to revitalize the Silk Road as a well-known tourism destination.



II. Joint Photo Exhibition on the Silk Road Heritage of the Member States

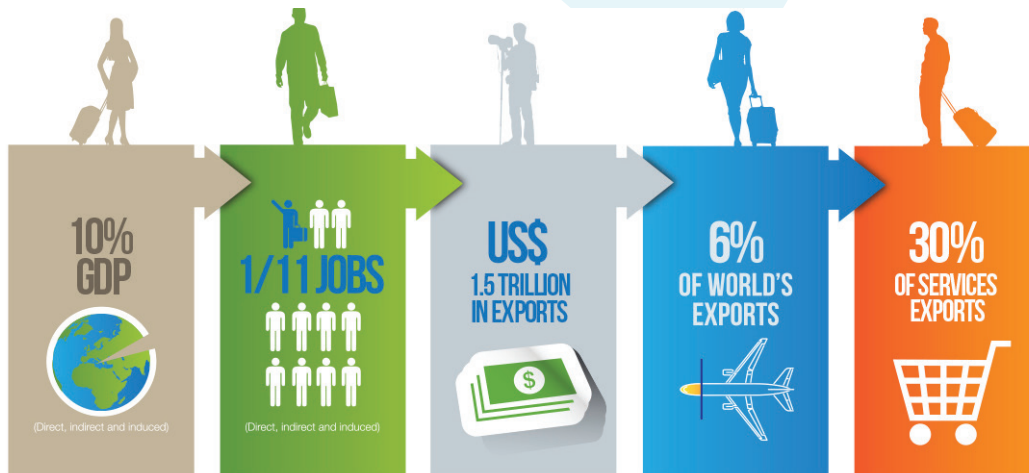
The Joint Photo Exhibition on the Silk Road heritage of the Member States started to be exhibited in the international arena. In this regard, the First Joint Photo Exhibition in a non-member country staged on 10 June 2016 in Spain in the framework of the Second Meeting of the International Network for the UNESCO Silk Road Online Platform at the Museum of Arts of Valencia.





III. Vocational Trainings

Taking into account the significant role of the tourism sector in the world economy, the Turkic Council attributes utmost importance to knowledge and experience sharing through the vocational trainings.



WHY TOURISM MATTERS

©World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) 2016

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey continued to train the tourism employees of the other Member States on service sector in 2016. The training for the Kazakh tourism employees was conducted on 22-29 May 2016 in Antalya with the participation of 59 trainees. The last training was held on 22 November-5 December 2016 in Shymkent with 59 trainees. The trainings were carried out by the trainers from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, Association of Turkish Travel Agencies (TURSAB) and Turkish Hoteliers Federation (TUROFED). Over 1000 tourism employees, half of whom were women, have benefited from such trainings since 2014.



The trainings provided a useful occasion for the trainees to access decent work opportunities in the tourism sector contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through generating well-trained and skillful workforce in the Member States.

F. Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation

The sound basis for the cooperation in science and education is the affinity of culture, language and history. Consequently, the Second Turkic Council Summit was dedicated to the theme of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation.



One of the concrete results in the sphere of education is the common Turkic history textbook covering the history of the Turkic people until the 15th century. During the Fifth Summit in Astana Heads of State of the Turkic Council praised the work done by the Member States and the Turkic Academy on the preparation of the common history textbook and called on the relevant authorities of the Member States to take necessary steps to include it in national school curricula. The draft of the textbook will be presented at the Sixth Summit. Similar to the history textbook, it was also decided to initiate the preparation of the common Turkic geography textbook and common Turkic literature textbook. Furthermore, the CoE proposed the preparation of a reference book on the History of the Turkic World by the Turkic Academy.



I. High and Secondary School Level Student Exchange Program

Another domain in the field of education and science is the student exchange program at high and secondary school levels. In this context, the First Turkic Council Student Exchange Program was successfully implemented by the National Ministry of Education of the Republic of Turkey on 4-14 April 2016. Hosted by Turkey, the said program provided the students with the opportunity to learn each other's traditions, culture, history and educational process, as well as to develop a sense of brotherhood and friendship among each other.



II. General Assembly of the Turkic University Union

In order to establish the Turkic University Union several meetings at the level of rectors and vice rectors had been held and the Directive for the Establishment of the Turkic University Union and its Higher Education Areas was adopted. Based on the Directive, the Union aims at enhancing cooperation in the field of higher education among 15 Universities of the Member States. The exchange programs of students and academic staff, named Orkhun Process, are among the notable projects carried out within the scope of the Union. Furthermore, several initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen cooperation among the university students of the Member States within the Union with the establishment of the Student Council of the Turkic University Union.

During the Second General Assembly of the Turkic University Union which was hosted by Atatürk University on 12 April 2016 in Erzurum, the accession of Bitlis Eren University to the Union was approved. Another major outcome of the Assembly was the election of the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University as the new Chair of the Union.





III. Orkhun Process

At the Experts Meeting on Orkhun Process held on the margins of the Second General Assembly on 11 April 2016, the experts reviewed the steps for the realization of the Orkhun Process and discussed the issues related to the European Credit Transfer System as well as recognition and equivalence of diplomas. Furthermore, a technical committee with the purpose of analyzing the educational system and infrastructure of the member universities of the Union was formed for the implementation of the Orkhun Process. In this direction, the committee carried out technical visits to these universities in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the course of 2016.



IV. Turkic University Union Student Council

The First and Second Meetings of the Student Council of the Turkic University Union were held in April and November 2016, respectively in Erzurum and Bishkek. At the second meeting, the Student Council agreed on a range of topics such as organizing Sports Games, Student Camps and competitions on poetry and literature. The students also prepared recommendations to promote interaction among students of the Turkic world.





G.Information and Media Cooperation

Taking into account the role of media and information in the current world and stressing the importance of developing cooperation in this field among the Member States the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council held on 11 September 2015 in Astana was devoted to the Cooperation in Information and Media sphere.

Pursuant to the decisions made during the 5th Meeting of the Working Group on cooperation in information and media sphere held on 10-11 March 2016 in Istanbul, the Contact Group was established on the basis of the national TV channels of the Member States, consisting of technical, financial and news programs specialists which concentrate on education, culture, sport and news themes in order to accelerate the process of exchanging of information and creating joint projects.

In this framework, the Public TV of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyz TV Channel and TRT TV Channel of Turkey allocated time frames in their broadcasts on 16 December 2016 for the 25th Anniversary of the Independence of Kazakhstan and screened the films about Kazakhstan provided by national TV Channel of Kazakhstan. Similar film screenings devoted to the each member country will be done during 2017 by the mentioned national TV Channels. Furthermore, on the basis of cooperation among these national TV Channels it is planned to establish International Turkic News Channel.

The official News Agencies of the Member States also continued cooperation within the framework of the Turkic Council and published in their official websites the news about the international activities of the Turkic Council and its affiliated institutions.

At the same time, the implementation of the Plan of Events on development of cooperation in the sphere of information and media among the Member States was carried on.





H. Diaspora Cooperation

The vital role of diasporas in promoting the image of their motherlands and influencing in countries where they reside is well recognized by the Turkic Council. In this regard, this year, a Panel titled “The Role of the Turkic Council in Deepening Cooperation among the Turkic Speaking Diaspora” was convened on 5 October 2016 in the Turkic Council Kiev Regional Diaspora Centre with the participation of sixty delegates from the various diaspora organizations in Ukraine. Participants discussed the ways to promote the culture and values of the Turkic Speaking States and people in Ukraine.

Meeting of the Executive body of the Kiev Diaspora Regional Centre was convened on 26 December 2016 in Kiev where the ways how to create more effective diaspora organization to adapt the Turkic Speaking Diaspora to the changing conditions in Ukraine and the plan of activities for 2017 were discussed.



I. ICT Cooperation

In accordance with the instructions of the Heads of State laid out in the Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council a cooperation process in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) was initiated in 2016. The first Meeting of the Turkic Council Ministers in Charge of ICT was hosted by the Ministry of High Technologies and Communications of Azerbaijan on 29 November 2016 in Baku. The Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the First Working Group on ICT on 28 November 2016. In the said meetings, Member States agreed to instigate cooperation on cyber security, e-government, development of Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway (TASIM) project and fiber infrastructure as well as Satellite services.



J. Youth and Sports Cooperation

In today's world youth policies and sport have become important instruments of our lives. They have the power to change the lives of people, especially the youth if true mechanisms are to be generated. Youth policies and sport have the potential to touch the lives of millions and successfully integrate the youth from all walks of life into society.

With this understanding and with a sizable young population, Turkic Council Member States emphasize the importance of policies on Youth and Sport considering their educational, cultural and economic role, as well as their ability to promote cooperation by building strong ties among themselves. Based on this motivation and on relevant instructions of the Heads of State given at the Summit meetings, Turkic Council Member States continued the cooperation process in the field of Youth and Sport in 2016.

After last year's experts and ministerial level meetings laying the basis of cooperation in the field and motivated by the fact that the year 2016 and the upcoming summit was dedicated to the theme of Youth and National Sports, several crucial youth and sports projects and activities were put in action.



I. First Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports

First Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Youth and Sports of the Turkic Council was hosted by Turkey on 4 March 2016 in Istanbul.

At the meeting Parties approved the “Regulations of the Second World Nomad Games” of Kyrgyzstan to be held in September 2016 and decided to organize the Turkic Council First Turkic University Sports Games (Turkic Universiade) in Azerbaijan in 2018. They also held decisions on Turkic Council International Youth Camp, Turkic Council Youth Festival; and establishment of a Youth Platform that will regularly convene representatives of National Youth Councils and Youth NGOs of the Member States.



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II. Second World Nomad Games

Building on the first experience, Member States decided to organize the Second World Nomad Games again in Kyrgyzstan in September 2016, this time with more rigorous intellectual and financial investment as well as larger participation across the world. The Games were staged on 3-8 September 2016 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan. 62 countries and over 1400 athletes attended the Games. Overall participants are estimated to have been over 20.000 including the spectators as well as high level state officials from all over the world. The Games that were staged in 23 different traditional disciplines were an incredible celebration of diversity and inter-cultural dialogue that highlighted the unique power of sport to bring different communities together under one banner. The Games were also very instrumental in introducing to the world the ancient culture and traditions of the Turkic Speaking peoples.



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III. Youth Festival

The First Turkic Council Youth Festival was staged on 27-30 September 2016 in Ganja, Azerbaijan, the European Youth Capital-2016, with the participation of over 100 people. Several countries including non-Member States, such as Uzbekistan and Qatar attended the event. The Festival served as an opportunity for the youth coming from different countries to get socialized and familiarize with one another. It also provided an opportunity with round table meetings and debates for discussions on the expectations and problems of the youth in our region.



IV. Relations with ICSS

As part of its intensified relations with relevant international organizations, Turkic Council continued to enhance its cooperation with the ICSS (International Centre for Sports Security) and the Save the Dream. ICSS and Save the Dream participated in the Second World Nomad Games and produced a promotional film of the Games. The film broadcasted in major sport platforms, social media and TV channels, along with articles published in reputable magazines, has been instrumental in introducing our culture and traditions to the world.

Similarly, Turkic Council and the ICSS organized a panel on the theme of Sports as a Means to Prevent Violent Extremism at the international conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) co-hosted by the Turkic Council and UNAOC on 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul. Turkic Council joined the Sports Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) in 7 April 2016, a global initiative rallied in defense of the purity and integrity of sport.



“Sport plays a role in encouraging social inclusion and cohesion, unites people and communities and gives people in the world’s toughest environments a chance to succeed.”

Muhammed Hanzab, President of the ICSS, International Conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE), 20 October 2016, Istanbul



It further paid two official visits to the headquarter of the ICSS in Doha to discuss future course of cooperation between the two organizations as well as met with influential Qatari officials such as the Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and Sports, Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



V. Meeting with UNOSDP

On the occasion of his official visit to New York for the opening of UN General Assembly, Secretary General also met with the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP), Wilfried Lemke, on 21 September 2016 in New York.



K. Alternative Energy Cooperation

Every year renewable energy theme becomes more and more important and discussed widely by public and private sectors. While many renewable energy projects are large-scale, renewable technologies are also suited to rural and remote areas and developing countries, where energy is often crucial in human development. All countries in the world have at least one abundant renewable resource and many countries have a portfolio of resources. There is huge potential existing in the Member States of Turkic Council with regards to renewable energy. In this regard, Heads of State of the Turkic Council stressed the importance of development of cooperation in the fields of alternative energy in their Declaration signed as a result of the Fifth Summit on 11 September 2015 in Astana.



The significance of the wind and solar energy development; conversion of public transport to environmental-friendly means; facilitation of the use of electro-mobiles; and development of requisite infrastructure for them were highlighted by the President Nazarbayev as necessary steps to launch cooperation in the field of alternative energy.

Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council 11 September 2016, Astana

IV. RELATIONS WITH RELATED AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS



In order to ensure efficient coordination among the Turkic Council and the affiliated organizations-TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation - with the purpose of strengthening cooperation in the Turkic world, the Secretariat initiated a process of consultation.

Third Coordination Meeting was organized on 3 October 2016 in Ankara among TURKSOY, TURKPA, Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation under the aegis of the Turkic Council.



Other than the coordination meetings that facilitate policy-level harmonization among the Turkic cooperation organizations, the Secretariat actively participates in and contributes to the projects and events of the affiliated organizations.



On 3 October 2016, the Secretariat of the Turkic Council participated in the Gala Concert of TURKSOY in Ankara dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Independence of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan celebrating “3 October-the Turkic Cooperation Day”.



The Secretariat attended the Turkic World Nowruz Festival on 19 March 2016 organized at Zeytinburnu Culture and Art Center in collaboration with TÜRKSOY, Zeytinburnu Municipality and the Association of Municipalities of the Turkic World.



Secretary General Hasanov and Prof. Darkhan Kydyrali, President of the Turkic Academy, co-hosted a reception on 28 March 2016 at the UN Headquarters. The event was held on the occasion of the High Level Symposium on the theme “Synergies along the Silk Road for Agenda 2030” and dedicated to the celebration of the 25th anniversary of independence of Turkic Speaking States was also celebrated. At the event, Nobel Prize Laureate Prof. Aziz Sançar, renowned historians Prof. Edward Allworth and Prof. Kemal Karpat was awarded with the gold medals of the Turkic Academy.





After the reception, TURKSOY organized a colorful cultural event to celebrate the International Day of Nowruz at the UNGA with the participation of the Permanent Representatives of the Turkic Council Member States to UN as well as more than 750 high level guests.



The Secretariat attended the Second Workshop on Legislation on 18 March 2016 in Ankara organized by TURKPA and a presentation was made on the activities and projects of the Turkic Council in the fields of culture, education, youth and sports.



The Secretariat participated in the 5th Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs of TÜRKPA held on 24 May 2016 at the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Astana. The Secretariat presented recommendations concerning the topic of the meeting which was “Cooperation among TÜRKPA Member Countries in Disaster and Crisis Management”.

The Secretariat participated in the 1st Social Sciences Forum organized by the Turkic Academy in honor of the 25th anniversary of independence of Turkic Speaking States on 23-25 May 2016 at Nazarbayev Center in Astana. Deputy Secretary General Kocaman moderated the first session of the Forum entitled “Scientific Cooperation in the Eurasian Space: Search for Modern Approaches”.



The Secretariat participated in the international archaeological expedition entitled “From Tian Shan to Otukan: Historical and Cultural Legacies of Nomads of the Great Steppe” organized by the Turkic Academy in Mongolia in August 2016. Members of the delegation visited in Otukan region, the monument of Kutlug Kaghan, “Şiveet-ulan” complex, monuments of Bilge Kaghan and Kultigin.

The work that has been carried out by the Turkic Academy in “Şiveet-ulan” was the first archaeological excavation project held in this complex. The stone sculpture of Kutlug Kaghan, the founder of 2nd Western Turkic Khanate, and the “Bengu Stone” with the stamps of 63 founding Turkic tribes, were exhibited in the complex. Furthermore, Deputy Secretary General Abzal Saparbekuly delivered a speech about the activities of the Turkic Council at the “2nd Steppe Seminar” organized by the Turkic Academy within the context of the expedition.



Deputies Secretary General Saparbekuly and Kocaman participated in the Turkic Academy Promotion and Award Ceremony held in Ankara on January 14, co-organized by the Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) and Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University with the support of the Turkish Language Association. Awards were presented to prominent figures for their significant contribution to and the valuable studies of the Turkic World.



V. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. UN and Its Specialized Agencies

The Turkic Council continued its efforts in 2016 to enhance its institutional relations with the UN and its specialized agencies, as well as bodies complementing the UN targets vis-à-vis the maintenance of international peace and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, as an applicant for observer status in the UN General Assembly (UNGA), while signing MoUs with the UNDP, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in the course of 2016, it deepened its ongoing relations with UNWTO, UNECE and UNESCO.



During his visit to New York on 20-24 September 2016, on the margins of the 71st Session of the UNGA, Secretary General Hasanov held bilateral meetings with Cihan Sultanoğlu, Assistant Secretary General to the UN, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, Jorge Chediek, Director of UNOSSC and Wilfried Lemke, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the UN on Sport for Development and Peace. Moreover, the Secretariat had a bilateral meeting with Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth, to discuss the issues of youth and its role in preventing and countering violent extremism.



The Secretariat's efforts to coordinate the developments about the Turkic Council's bid for observer status at the UNGA continued throughout the year. In this context, the Coordination Meeting of Deputy Permanent Representatives of the Turkic Council Member States to the UN was held on 29 March 2016 in New York.

I.UNDP

The relations between the Turkic Council and the UNDP deepened in 2016. With the joint commitment to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in the region and beyond, an MoU for cooperation between the two organizations was signed on 24 May 2016 in Istanbul.



“The MOU provides a road map for result oriented joint projects.”

Ambassador Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General of the Turkic Council

“After co-hosting the international conference on the role of ICT for Development in 2015 with the Turkic Council, our cooperation found a firm and healthy basis.”

Cihan Sultanoğlu, Assistant Secretary General to the UN, Deputy Administrator of UNDP and Director of UN RBEC



Secretary General Hasanov had several bilateral meetings with Assistant Secretary General Cihan Sultanoğlu in New York and Istanbul to explore the ways to translate the fruitful cooperation into regional projects to promote sustainable development.

As an outcome of the partnership between the two organizations, the UNDP became one of the partners of the International Conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) co-organized by the Turkic Council and the UNOAC on 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul. Ms. Sultanoğlu was one of the keynote speakers of the said conference. The Fifth Panel of the conference titled Framing Development Solutions and Urging South-South Cooperation for the Empowerment of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism co-organized by the UNDP in cooperation with the UNOSSC. Furthermore, the Secretariat and the UNDP RBEC participated in each other's meetings during the year.



II.UNOSSC

The Turkic Council furthered its ongoing cooperation with UNOSSC by an MoU signed on 4 April 2016 in Istanbul.



“In today’s world, we should think globally and enhance cooperation regionally. With this understanding, the Turkic Council is committed to act together with UNDP, UNOSSC and related UN agencies to take actions for the benefit of the Global South and to achieve SDGs.”

Secretary General Hasanov, MoU Signing Ceremony

“As the UNOSSC we are glad to develop our relations with the Turkic Council, a comprehensive and dynamic regional organization contributing significantly to the development of South-South Cooperation.”

Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director of UNOSSC, MoU Signing Ceremony

The Heads of both institutions had bilateral meetings in New York and Istanbul in the course of 2016 to discuss the ways and means to empower collaboration within the Global South. As a result of this mutually beneficial partnership, the UNOSSC became one of the partners of the International Conference on the Role of Youth in P/CVE co-organized by the Turkic Council and the UNOAC. Furthermore one of the brainstorming sessions in the conference was dedicated to the question of How the South-South Cooperation could be improved in P/CVE.

Secretary General Hasanov also attended the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo 2016 on 31 October-3 November 2016 in Dubai. He addressed the audience at the opening ceremony of the Directors-General Forum on 3 November 2016 and delivered a speech at the First Regional Forum on the Role of South-South Cooperation in Advancing the Achievement of National Development Priorities while Implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda on 4 November 2016.



“The Turkic Council, with the cooperative and result-oriented spirit, possesses the tools of human development, productive capacity-building, experience and knowledge-sharing, as well as exchange of good practices at the core of its activities in a wide range of areas.”
Secretary General Hasanov, GSSD Expo 2016, Dubai



The Secretariat participated in the training on UN Catalytic Support to South-South & Triangular Cooperation in Implementing the Agenda 2030, organized by the United Nations System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development in cooperation with the UNOSSC in December 2016 in Bonn.

The Secretariat attended the UNOSSC Capacity Building Workshop on 30-31 March 2016 in New York where a presentation on the activities of the Turkic Council for the benefit of the Global South was made.

The Secretariat also contributed to the preparation of the UNOSSC Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States where the Turkic Council is referred to as one of the key regional actors contributing to the expansion of the South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Secretariat launched relations with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO) and the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) in the course of 2016 with visits paid to the headquarters of these organizations.



III. UNAOC

The Secretariat established relations with the UNAOC in 2016 and this cooperation was translated into action. Secretary General Hasanov and Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, agreed to co-host the international event on the role of youth against violent extremism in their bilateral meeting held in April 2016 in Baku on the occasion of the 7th UNAOC Global Forum. Secretary General Hasanov also attended the UNAOC Group of Friends Ministerial meeting on 23 September 2016 in New York at UN Headquarters where the preparation for the conference was concluded.



“The timely international conference on “the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism” that the Turkic Council will co-host with the UNAOC on 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul will be instrumental in taking up the issue in a way to contribute to the peace and development in the region and beyond.”

Elmar Mammadyarov, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, UNAOC Group of Friends Meeting, 23 September, New York, UN Headquarters.



The Turkic Council and the UNAOC co-hosted the international conference entitled the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: Holistic Approaches from Education to De-radicalization on 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul with participation of more than 300 young leaders and experts coming from 40 different countries from Central Asia to Africa.



TURKIC COUNCIL



UNAOC
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

HOLISTIC APPROACHES FROM EDUCATION TO DE-RADICALIZATION

20-21 October 2016, İstanbul



“Young people are the game-changers and the agents of peace, the partners of today and leaders of tomorrow.”

Secretary General Hasanov, International Conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, 20-21 October, İstanbul



“Let us not just talk about youth. Let us work with youth in true solidarity”

Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, International Conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, 20-21 October, İstanbul



“The conference that views the youth as the part of solution rather than the source of the problem would contribute to the unification of the hearts and minds of the youth.”

Deputy Prime Minister Tuğrul Türkeş, International Conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, 20-21 October, Istanbul

Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) provided financial support for the realization of the event. The UNDP, the UNOSSC and ICSS were the partners of the conference. The conference was the demonstration of the true partnership among the institutions that are committed to join hands against violent extremism.



“The Turkic Council is committed to work with the youth through innovative, demand-driven and tailor-made projects in P/CVE in cooperation with relevant regional and international partners. We will continue to cooperate with the international community in this direction.”

Dr. Ömer Kocaman, International Conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, 20-21 October, Istanbul



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.





5 panels, 1 networking session and 4 simultaneous brainstorming sessions were held in two days conference with the participation of 50 speakers. Representatives of Turkic Council, UNAOC, UN, UNDP, UNOSSC, OSCE, governments as well as experts of non-governmental organizations, academia, sportsmen and young leaders were among the speakers.



Young leaders took the floor and raised their voice on preventing and countering violent extremism at the Third Panel entitled Preventing Violent Extremism through Education: UNAOC's Approach through Youth Projects.



The conference provided a platform to showcase the great potential and the contribution of youth to peace-building efforts and their commitment towards achieving the SDGs with concrete case studies on de-radicalization strategies and PVE programs through the use of innovative methods, including social media and sports.



The conference served as an opportunity for young leaders to exchange experiences and knowledge on P/CVE and to build South-South and triangular partnerships. The live tweeting system was implemented during the conference and the hashtag of the conference “#youthVSviolence” became one of the trending topics.



Within the framework of the international conference, an MoU between the Turkic Council and the UNAOC was signed as the basis of the solid cooperation.

IV. UNWTO

The Turkic Council and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) have been successfully implementing their cooperation based on the MoU signed in 2015. Throughout 2016, Secretaries General of both organizations came together to discuss new avenues for further cooperation.

Upon the invitation of Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the UNWTO, Secretary General Hasanov attended the opening reception of International Tourism Fair in Spain (FITUR) 2016 co-organized by UNWTO and FITUR on 20 January 2016 in Madrid.



At the reception, Secretary General Hasanov had a bilateral meeting with Secretary General Rifai and discussed the modalities of future projects to be jointly carried out by the two organizations to promote Silk Road tourism. He also participated in the 12th UNWTO Awards Ceremony of FITUR on 20 January 2016 in Madrid.

Furthermore, Secretary General Hasanov attended the opening session of the conference entitled Situation and prospects of Asian tourism in Spain on 21 January 2016 organized by Casa Asia in the framework of the FITUR. After the conference, he had bilateral meetings with Ignacio Ybanez, Secretary of State of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Kingdom of Spain and Ramon Maria Moreno, Director General of Casa Asia.



The Secretariat participated in the Sixth UNWTO Silk Road Ministers' Meeting held on 9 March 2016 in Berlin. Deputy Secretary General Kocaman delivered a statement on the activities implemented by the Turkic Council in the sphere of tourism and the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package project.

Secretary General of UNWTO Rifai participated as the guest of honor in the Third Meeting of Turkic Council Ministers in Charge of Tourism held on 7 June 2016 in Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyzstan. The Turkic Council facilitated the materialization of the first visit of Secretary General Rifai to Kyrgyzstan.



"I highly appreciate the contributions of the Turkic Council to the development of the Silk Road Tourism."

Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the UNWTO, Third Meeting of Turkic Council Ministers in Charge of Tourism, 7 June 2016, Cholpan Ata, Kyrgyzstan

Establishing legal relationship with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) with a view to obtaining an observer status has been one of the major initiatives of the Turkic Council.

In this context, based on the understanding reached in the last Informal Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers held on 26 September 2015 in New York, the Turkic Council Member States has stiffened their efforts during the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, which was organized in Istanbul on 14-15 April 2016 to push through the Turkic Council's pending OIC observer status bid. Subsequently, the relations between the Turkic Council and the OIC have been further enhanced throughout 2016.

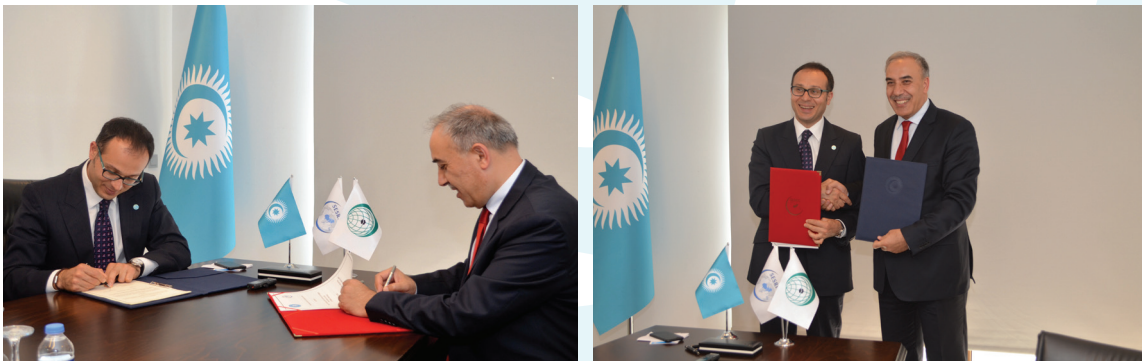


In the Final Communiqué of 13th Islamic Summit Conference, the article 201 was devoted to the relationship between the two organizations. In the Final Communiqué, the Conference welcomed the establishment of cooperation between the Council and the OIC with a view to creating a legal relation in the future.



Secretary General Hasanov attended the 13th Islamic Summit Conference and had bilateral meetings with the Secretaries General of ECO and PUIC as well as the Director General of SESRIC. Within the context of the summit, the Secretariat also attended the Conference entitled Enhancing Economic and Cultural Relations among OIC Member Countries: Opportunities and Challenges organized on 13 April 2016 in Istanbul by Strategic Research Center (SAM) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in collaboration with the OIC.

Following the Summit, on 18 April 2016, the Council signed an MoU with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), an affiliated organization of the OIC.



Furthermore, pursuant to the article 201 of the Final Communiqué of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference, Turkic Council Secretariat has initiated the process of signing an MoU with the Secretariat of the OIC. The MoU was initialized by the Deputy Secretaries General of the Turkic Council and the OIC on 22 November 2016 on the margins of the COMCEC Meeting in Istanbul.



Secretary General Hasanov signed the MoU on the following day and the texts were handed in the delegation of the OIC Secretariat for signature by the OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef A. Othaimen.



C. OSCE

The Turkic Council continued its efforts to add value to the development and prosperity of Eurasia through its growing institutional relations with the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). During 2016, the Secretariat has taken steps to further cooperation between the Turkic Council and the OSCE in line with the instructions of the Heads of State.



Secretary General Hasanov participated in the 23rd OSCE Hamburg Ministerial Council on 8-9 December 2016 as a special guest of the OSCE German Chairmanship. On the sidelines of the meeting, he had talks with the Foreign Ministers of the Turkic Council Member States, the Permanent Representatives to the OSCE, several attending delegations and representatives of international organizations.



On the margins of the OSCE Ministerial meeting, Secretary General Hasanov also met with Gong Jianwei, Executive Director of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

During the OSCE Hamburg Ministerial Meeting, Secretary General Hasanov participated in the side event OSCE Youth Speaking Up: Destination Security.



As a sign of solid cooperation between the two organizations, the OSCE was one of the partners of the international conference on the Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, co-organized by the Turkic Council and the UNAOC. During the conference, the Turkic Council also contributed to the campaign of the OSCE named United in Countering Violent Extremism.

The Secretariat attended the 2016 OSCE Asian Conference on Strengthening Comprehensive Security on 6-7 June 2016 in Bangkok; the OSCE Security Days focusing on migration and security on 4 March 2016 in Rome; and the OSCE business conference Connectivity for Commerce and Investment on 18-19 May 2016 in Berlin.



D. ECO

The relations with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) have been developing on the basis of the observer status of the Turkic Council obtained in 2012. The Council's observer status was extended for a second term of three years effective from 14 October 2015. The cooperation between the two organizations entered a new stage by the signing of an MoU. The Council participates, on a regular basis, in the Regional Planning Council meetings, ministerial meetings and summit meetings of the ECO. The Secretariat attended the 27th Meeting of the ECO Regional Planning Council held on 5-8 December 2016 in Tehran.



E. CICA

The Secretariat participated in the Fourth Business Forum & Founding Assembly of CICA Business Council held on 24-25 November 2015 in Beijing and had a bilateral meeting with Jianwei Gong, Executive Director of the Secretariat of CICA. The possible cooperation between two institutions and cooperation between both organizations' Business Councils were discussed. Moreover, the Secretariat had B2B meetings with leading Chinese companies interested in exploring joint investment opportunities in the Member States. It is planned to invite CICA Business Council to the Turkic Council Business Forums.





F. WCO

During 2016, relations with the World Customs Organization (WCO) have intensified through participation in some of the major events organized by the WCO and its partners.

In this context, the Secretariat attended the 5th Working Group meeting on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement on 29 February 2016 in Brussels. The meeting focused on the progress made in terms of implementation, accession, ratification and the entry into force of the Agreement.

Furthermore, Secretary General Hasanov held a bilateral meeting with the WCO Secretary General Mr. Kunio Mikuriya on the sidelines of the 3rd Global Conference on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) in Mexico on 11 May 2016.



During the meeting Secretary General Hasanov briefed on the recent efforts of the Turkic Council to enhance cooperation with the international organizations and proposed co-organizing regional and international events with a view to implementing the MoU signed by the two sides. It was agreed to continue to work on the details of prospective events at experts level.

The Secretariat also attended the 127th/128th Sessions of the Customs Co-operation Council of the WCO on 14 July 2016 in Brussels.



G. Others

Believing that development is among the key concepts to reach a more stable and prosperous world, the Turkic Council continued to work on the development issues together with leading international actors in the course of 2016.

In this regard, fruitful cooperation between the Turkic Council and Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) continued in 2016 on projects of mutual interest. The two organizations joined their efforts to contribute to the attainment of the SDGs for a more liveable planet. Thus, TİKA supported the materialization of the international conference on the Role of Youth in P/CVE by the Turkic Council and UNAOC.

Secretary General Hasanov visited Dr. Serdar Çam, President of TİKA on 21 June 2016 in Ankara where the parties discussed the joint projects to be carried out in the upcoming period.





VI. OTHER ACTIVITIES

A. Official Contacts

The Turkic Council kept its dynamism in 2016 in terms of actively engaging in the major events that shaped the year's global agenda.



Secretary General Hasanov was received on 5 August 2016 by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of the official visit of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. During the meeting, Secretary General Hasanov expressed that the Turkic Council always stood shoulder by shoulder with the Republic of Turkey following the attempted coup, taken place on 15 July 2016. Secretary General Hasanov has also conveyed the strong messages of solidarity from Member States following the nefarious coup attempt.



He also visited Ismail Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic Turkey, on 5 August 2016 in Ankara and expressed his sorrow for the heinous attack on the Grand National Assembly by the terrorists during the coup attempt.

He also stated that the Turkic Council would always be in shoulder to shoulder with the Republic of Turkey and its people while emphasizing with confidence that the solidarity among the Turkic States and Turkic people would continue to increase.



Secretary General Hasanov was received by Binali Yıldırım, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, in Istanbul on 27 August 2016. Secretary General Hasanov reiterated that the Turkic Council have been against the coup attempt and conveyed his sorrow.



On the other hand, Secretary General Hasanov participated in the award ceremony of “Distinguished Service Medal” conferred by the Union of Architects and Engineers of Turkic World on 5 April 2016 in Ankara to present the medal to Binali Yıldırım, the then Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of the Republic of Turkey.



Secretary General Hasanov visited Abdullah Gül, the 11th President of the Republic of Turkey, on 19 April 2016 in İstanbul. At the meeting, Secretary General Hasanov informed the 11th President, who witnessed the foundation of the Turkic Council, of the current position of the Turkic Council and its developing relations with other international organizations.



Secretary General Hasanov had talks with Bakytzhan Sagintayev, the then First Deputy Prime-Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 29 February 2016. During the meeting the main directions of multilateral cooperation, including



the strengthening of cultural exchanges, the development of relations in the field of education, tourism and transport were discussed. Bakhytzhan Sagintayev and Ramil Hasanov stressed the importance of further development of transit potential of Member States, particularly the Trans-Caspian international transport route.

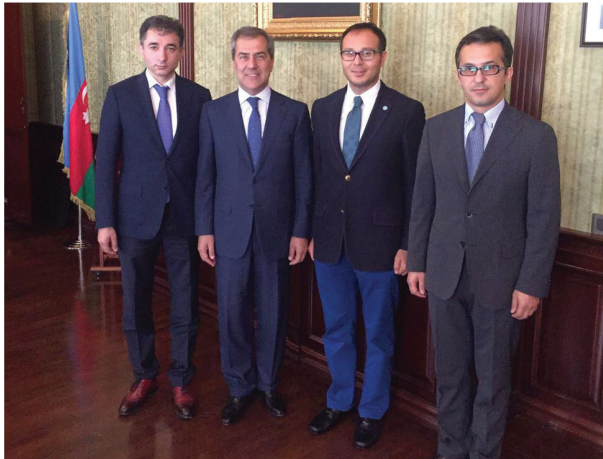


Besides meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Secretary General Hasanov had bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of the Member States – Elmar Mammadyarov, Yerlan Idrissov, Erlan Abdildaev and Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu - and informed them on the work done by the Secretariat.



Secretary General Hasanov had 85 meetings in total with the high level officials of the Member States in 2016 when the abovementioned occasions and his meetings with various Ministers put together. During these meetings, he informed the officials on the projects of the Turkic Council and further steps to be taken to enhance cooperation among the Member States.







On the other hand, during his visits to Doha upon the official invitation of Mohammed Hanzab, the President of International Center for Sport Security (ICSS), in 2016, Secretary General Hasanov met with Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Prime Minister of Qatar, and high level Qatari Officials including Salah Bin Ghanim Al Ali, Minister of Culture and Sport of Qatar.



Furthermore, Secretary General Hasanov and the Secretariat had 65 official visits to the Member States and abroad on various occasions.

On the other hand, Secretary General Hasanov had coordination meetings with the Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives and heads of relevant local authorities of the Member States during his visits abroad. In the coordination meetings, they exchanged views on the very subject of the official visits as well as brainstormed on the ways to increase awareness on the Turkic Council and its activities.



In addition to the Secretary General's official contacts, the Deputies Secretary General also held contacts with the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Ambassadors of the Member States as well as of partner countries and organizations to discuss the details of implementing the cooperation agenda of the Turkic Council.





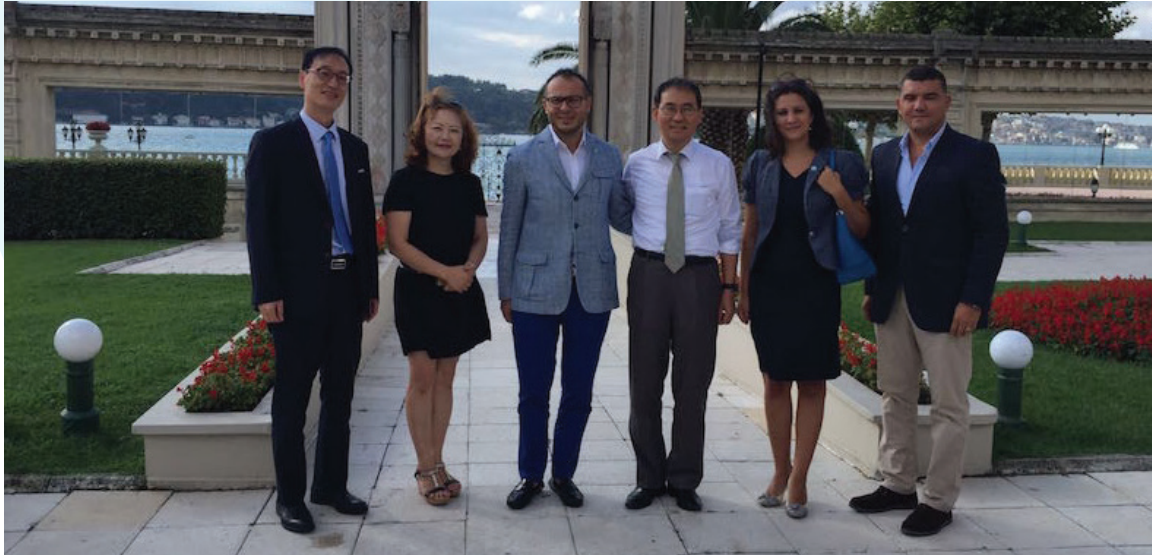
2016 was also an active year for the visits paid by high-level officials of the Member States and the partner countries to the Turkic Council Headquarters in Istanbul. In this regard, Raisa Atambaeva, First Lady of the Kyrgyz Republic, visited the headquarters of the Secretariat on 15 April 2016.



Besides meetings of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Secretary General Hasanov had bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of the Member States – Elmar Mammadyarov, Yerlan Idrissov, Erlan Abdildaev and Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu - and informed them on the work done by the Secretariat.



Prof. Musa Yıldız, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Khoja Akhmet Yassawi International Kazakh-Turkish University, was among the high level officials who visited Secretariat on 19 October 2016.



After the visit of Cha Young-cheol, the Consul General of the Republic of Korea to Istanbul, on 19 April 2016, Secretary General Hasanov met with Yun-soo Cho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Ankara, on 27 August 2016 in Istanbul and discussed the projects of the Turkic Council and the Republic of Korea in the fields of transport, tourism, sustainable development, youth and sports.





Asaf Hajiyeve, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, visited the Secretariat on 31 March 2016.



Within the framework of the First Student Exchange Programme of the Turkic Council hosted by the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey, students and teachers participating in the programme paid a visit to the Secretariat on 13 April 2016.



Secretary General Hasanov received İlyasDemirci, President of the Union of Architects and Engineers of Turkic World, on 3 March 2016; Közhan Yazgan, President of the Turkic World Research Foundatio; and Saadet Pinar Yıldırım, General Manager of the Turkic World Research Foundation on 23 February 2016.



The Secretariat was also visited by the delegations of International Transporters' Association (UND) and International Transport Association (ITA) in the course of 2016 to coordinate the efforts in transport cooperation.

Ambassador Marcel Pesko, Director of Conflict Prevention Center of OSCE visited the Secretariat on 14 April 2016.





B. Complementary Activities

After the finalization of its institutionalization process in the first six years of its establishment, the Turkic Council Secretariat continued its efforts to make its achievements and future projects known by public in 2016.



As a tradition the 3 October -Cooperation Day of the Turkic Speaking Countries was celebrated with a reception hosted by the Secretary General Hasanov at İstanbul Çırağan Palace. The reception held on 19 October 2016 was also dedicated to the International Conference on the Role of Youth in P/CVE co-hosted by the Turkic Council and the UNAOC.





Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations; Mohammed Hanzab, President of the ICSS; Prof. Bekir Karlığa, the Chairman of the Turkish National Committee for the UNAOC; Akkan Süver, President of Marmara Group Strategic And Social Research Foundation; Ambassador Hasan Ulusoy, Director General for Multilateral Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey; Kaya Mammadov, Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Firat Purtaş, Deputy Secretary General of TURKSOY as well as ambassadors of several countries in Ankara, representatives of the Consulates General in Istanbul, international organizations, businessmen and members of press attended the reception.

TURKSOY National Orchestra of Folk Instruments composed of the musicians from the Turkic Speaking States was staged at the reception.



2016 was also marked with the release of new publications and thematic promotional videos on our activities. Annual Report of the Turkic Council for 2015 was prepared and published by the Secretariat for the first time in 2016. The report provided a comprehensive insight about the mission, vision and activities of the Turkic Council. The Report was distributed to the high level officials of the Member States, partner countries and organizations in the course of 2016.



COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES (TURKIC COUNCIL)



On the other hand, the Secretariat prepared the Special Map of the Turkic Council Member States in 2016 and presented it to the Ministries and high level government officials.



Promotional video of the Second World Nomad Games produced in cooperation with the Turkic Council and the ICSS was released in English, Russian and Arabic languages in November 2016. Turkic Council and the ICSS joined forces to capture special images from the Games and held exclusive interviews at this one of the world's largest ethno-sports events. Games constitute an example showing the role of sports to encourage inclusion, diversity and inter-cultural dialogue between different peoples and communities.



**TURKIC
COUNCIL**



UNAOC
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

“October 3 - Turkic Speaking States Cooperation Day”
“Role of Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

10 October 2016, İSTANBUL

The video footage of the reception of the 3rd October – Cooperation Day of the Turkic Speaking Countries, as well as the International Conference on the Role of Youth in P/CVE was released in November 2016 at the official website of the Turkic Council.



The short film of the Turkic Council Junior Diplomats 3rd Training Program organized on 23 May-5 June 2016 in Kazakhstan was shared on the official site of the Turkic Council and on the web.



Secretary General Hasanov gave more than 50 interviews to mainstream TV channels and news agencies of the Member States such as AZTV, İçtimai TV, KHABAR TV, Kyrgyz State Television and Radio Corporation, TRT TÜRK, TRT AVAZ, TRT World, Anadolu Agency, AZARTAC and APA in the course of 2016.



Upon the invitation of Şenol Saka, General Manager of TRT, the Secretary General Hasanov attended the launching ceremony of the TRT World Channel which was organized with the participation of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey, on 15 November 2016 at the Nation Culture and Congress Center of the Presidential Complex in Ankara.



On the occasion of the opening ceremony of Second World Nomad Games, Secretary General Hasanov gave an interview to the Kyrgyz State Television and Radio Corporation on 1 September 2016



Secretary General Hasanov was the guest of Deday 13 TV program broadcasted live on TRT AVAZ on 23 June 2016. He held a press conference on 23 August 2016, made evaluations regarding the current agenda of the Turkic world and answered the questions of the press members.



Deputies Secretary General Abzal Saparbekuly and Dr. Ömer Kocaman participated in the TV News Programs and published articles to raise awareness on the activities of the Turkic Council contributing to the regional cooperation in Eurasia.



Moreover, numerous groups of journalists, specialists, experts and academicians visited the Secretariat during 2016. On the occasion of the Humanitarian Forum held in May 2016 in Istanbul a press delegation of 15 media representatives from the Central Asian countries paid a visit to the Secretariat on 20 May 2016. The journalists were briefed on the activities of the Turkic Council with regard to the media cooperation.



C. Relations with Think-Tanks, Research Centers, Universities and Local Authorities

The Turkic Council continued its efforts to deepen its relations with think-tanks and strategic research centers working on Eurasia as well as the universities of the Member States, spreading its message for empowerment of regional cooperation. In the course of 2016, the Secretariat participated in numerous round-table meetings, conferences and seminars organized by different think-tanks and research centers on topics related to its Member States and Eurasia.



Secretary General Hasanov delivered a speech during the conference entitled Turkic Council: Recent Developments and Cooperation in the Turkic World organized by İzmir Coordination Office of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities of the Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey and World Azerbaijanis Congress on 22 July 2016 in İzmir.

The Secretariat participated in the roundtable meeting organized by the Center for Eurasian Studies on 17 May 2016 in Ankara in the honor of Mr. Daniel N. Rosenblum, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Asia of USA.

The Secretariat attended the conference entitled International Migration and Diplomacy co-organized by Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Center for Strategic Research (SAM) and Koç University Migration Research Center (MiReKoc) on 18 May 2016 in Istanbul.



The Secretariat participated in several activities organized by Kyrgyzstan- Turkey Manas University, the current Chair University of the Turkic University Union. The Secretariat attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition organized on the occasion of Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University 20th Anniversary Program on 29 April 2016 in Bishkek. Yıldırım Tuğrul Türkeş, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, Metin Kılıç, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Bishkek, Prof. Sabahattin Balcı, Rector of Kyrgyzstan- Turkey Manas University and Members of the University Senate attended the event.





19. AVRASYA EKONOMİ ZİRVESİ EURASIAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT İSTANBUL 2016

The Secretariat participated in the 19th Eurasia Economic Summit organized by the Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation on 5-7 April 2016 in Istanbul and informed the participants about the renewable energy resources, strategies as well as the projects of the Turkic Council Member States in the field. The climate change and the current ecological situation of Aral Sea and the role of Turkic Council member countries in the revival of the Silk Road were also discussed during the summit.



The Deputies Secretary General Abzal Saparbekuly and Dr. Ömer Kocaman participated as speakers in the Conference on Cooperation of the Turkic World in 21st Century organized by Centre of Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on 14 March 2016 in Ankara.



Deputy Secretary General Kocaman participated in the Meeting entitled Rise of Silk Road and the Turkic World organized by Turkish Hearths on 3 March 2016 in Ankara and addressed the audience on the activities of the Turkic Council in transport, customs and Modern Silk Road Joint Tour Package.



Deputy Secretary General Saparbekuly met with Kylyshbay Bisenov, the Rector of Korkyt Ata State University, and attended the roundtable of the lecturers and students in March 2016 in Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan.



The Secretariat briefed the staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality in the framework of the training program entitled International and Regional Organizations on the Turkic Council and its activities.



Secretary General Hasanov launched the contacts with Nexos-Allianza, a Spanish research center working specifically on the issues related to the historical Silk Road on 26 April 2016 in Baku on the margins of UN Alliance of Civilizations` 7th Global Forum.

D. Participation in Major International, Regional and National Events

Apart from coordinating 50 meetings, including 7 ministerial-level, the Secretariat participated in 118 events organized by international organizations, government institutions, embassies, think-tanks and universities in and out of the Member States in 2016.



Secretary General Hasanov attended the reception and dinner hosted on 5 August 2016 by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey, on the occasion of official visit of Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to Turkey.



Secretary General Hasanov participated in the dinner organized by TÜRKEN Foundation on 22 September 2016 during his visit to New York for the 71st General Assembly of the UN and had various bilateral contacts with his counterparts. As the guest of honor of the dinner, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey, addressed the participants comprising several Ministers, diplomats and businessmen as well as representatives of media.

Secretary General Hasanov attended the opening ceremony of Northern Marmara Motorway and Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge on 26 August 2016 in Istanbul. The bridge constitutes an important asset to empower the Central Transport Corridor passing through the Member States on East-West trade line. The Ceremony was inaugurated by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım with the participation of international high level guests.



Yavuz Sultan Selim Bridge is the widest suspension bridge in the world with a width of 59 meters and the longest spanning one that has a rail system on it, with a main span of 1408 meters. Another first of the bridge is that it is the suspension bridge with the highest tower of the world, with a height of more than 322 meters.



Secretary General Hasanov participated in the 23rd World Energy Congress organized under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey on 10-11 October 2016 at Istanbul Congress Center. Deputy Secretary General Kocaman delivered a speech in the panel session entitled Regional Crossroads: Bringing Caspian Basin gas to World Markets of the Congress on the activities and projects of the Turkic Council in the fields of energy and transport as well as the cooperation potential of the countries in the region in respective fields.



Upon the invitation of Almazbek Atambaev, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Secretary General Hasanov attended on 2 September 2016 in Bishkek the Opening Ceremony of the Memorial Part of the “Ata Beyit Complex” dedicated to the Kyrgyz people who lost their lives for the independence and freedom during the tragic events of 1916.



Secretary General Hasanov attended the 4th Congress of the World Azerbaijanis hosted by the State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic on 3-4 June 2016 in Baku. A speech focusing on the activities of the Turkic Council in the area of diaspora cooperation was delivered.





The Secretariat also took part in the High-level Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Implementation of the İstanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Antalya on 27-29 May 2016. At the meeting, the İstanbul Programme of Action, adopted at the Fourth UN Conference on the LDCs in İstanbul in 2011, was reviewed.



Secretary General Hasanov attended the opening ceremony of the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit on 23 May 2016 in Istanbul, as the special guest of Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and had various bilateral contacts with the high level participants of the Summit. The Secretariat also attended the Academic Forum of the

World Humanitarian Summit hosted by Strategic Research Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey held on 21 May 2016 in İstanbul.



Secretary General Hasanov participated in the opening ceremony of the UNAOC 7th Global Forum on 26 April 2016 in Baku. At the ceremony, Ilham Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in his address underlined that multiculturalism was the state policy of Azerbaijan. At the end of ceremony, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of the Republic of Turkey, as the co-sponsor of UNAOC took the floor and highlighted the importance of concepts such as dialogue, mutual understanding, multiculturalism and harmony in diversity to eradicate the root causes of terrorism, radicalization and xenophobia.





The Forum welcomed more than 4000 participants together with the world leaders coming from around 140 countries. During the Forum, Secretary General Hasanov had several bilateral meetings with the high level officials including UNAOC High Representative Al Nasser, Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Secretariat participated in the Youth Event and Business Symposium in the framework of the Forum.



The Secretariat participated in the OIC Young Leaders Summit with the theme of Unity in Action for Development, Peace and Justice organized within the framework of the official programme of the 13th Islamic Summit Conference of the OIC.



The Secretariat participated in the 4th National Youth Congress of Kyrgyzstan held on 15-16 November 2016 in Bishkek. A large number of Ministers, Deputy Ministers, bureaucrats, NGO members, youth representatives from all over the country and officials from international organizations took part in the Congress co-organized by the Kyrgyzstan Sports Agency and Kyrgyzstan National Youth Council. At the congress, the participants were briefed on the ongoing activities and projects of the Turkic Council in the field of youth.



Secretary General of Hasanov attended the 4th Global Baku Forum on 10-11 March 2016, upon the invitation of Nizami Ganjavi International Center in Baku. The Forum was attended by several current and former heads of State and Government, diplomats, leaders from the public sector and private sector, thinkers and representatives of youth.



The Secretariat participated in the World Tourism Forum organized in Istanbul on 4-6 February 2016. The Forum was attended by the leaders of tourism industry from the UK, France, UAE, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, China, Azerbaijan, Ghana and other countries. 123 speakers from different countries addressed 5000 audiences in various sessions.



The Turkic Council provided support for the organization of the Ontustik Tourism-2016 International Tourism Forum held on 6-7 October 2016 in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. At the Silk Road Session of the Forum, the Secretariat made a presentation on the Turkic Council Modern Silk Road Tour Package Project, impediments in the tourism sector and the steps to be taken to overcome them.



The Secretariat took part in Turkey-Kazakhstan Road Transport Joint Commission Meeting organized on 28-29 April 2016 in Astana with the participation of representatives of Ministries of Transport, Customs and Economy as well as private sectors from both sides. At the meeting, Parties reiterated their will to make Trans-Caspian Transportation Line an efficient route and agreed on many practices in order to increase the speed of transport operations on the route.

The Secretariat participated in the 5th Working Dinner with the Azerbaijani Businessmen Operating in Turkey organized by Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey (DEİK) and Pasha Bank on 7 June 2016, in Istanbul and informed the participants on the activities in the field of economy of the Turkic Council at the event.

The Secretariat participated in the Turkey-Kyrgyzstan Investment and Trade Forum organized in cooperation by the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB) and Kyrgyz Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 21 January 2016 in Ankara



The Secretariat attended the 19th Turkish Speaking Entrepreneurs Program hosted by the TOBB on 18 May 2016 in Istanbul. The Secretariat provided information to more than 50 entrepreneurs from 22 countries attending the program about the structure, mission and activities of the Turkic Council.

The Secretariat participated in the briefing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey to the diplomatic missions based in Turkey on 22 August 2016 in Ankara with regard to the recent steps taken concerning the struggle against the Fethullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETÖ) after the coup attempt on 15 July 2016 in Turkey.



Secretary General Hasanov participated in the Plenary Session of the Kyiv International Economic Forum with the theme Challenges and Prospects of the 21st Century Economy on 6 October 2016. The opening remarks of the Forum were made by Volodymyr Goysman, Prime Minister of Ukraine. The Secretariat addressed the Panel Session International cooperation: Ukraine-Asia.



The Secretariat took part in Crans Montana Forum devoted to the theme From Central to Far-Eastern Europe on 29 June-1 July 2016 in Vienna.



The Secretariat attended the 6th Kurultai, meeting of the Hun and Turkic rooted nations, and its festivals organized by the Macar-Turan Foundation on 11-13 August 2016 in Budapest and Bugac, Hungary.



The Secretariat attended the conferences on the role of youth in P/CVE on 22 September 2016 in New York organized by the EU and the US State Department and held talks with the participants on issues of mutual interest.

2016 was a special year for the Turkic world, as it marked the 25th anniversary of independence of Five Turkic Speaking States. In this regard, several activities supported by the Turkic Council were organized throughout the year. Secretary General Hasanov issued messages to celebrate this historical anniversary of Five Turkic Speaking States that achieved important political, economic and social transformations in such a short period of time.



The Secretariat took part in the Turkic States at the 25thYear of Independence Symposium on 6-7 October 2016 organized in honor of the UNESCO 2016 Khoja Akhmet Yassawi Year by the Khoja Ahmet Yesevi University. Secretariat made a presentation on the Turkic Council's activities at the panel Eternal Friendship Building During Quarter-Century Period of Independence: Multilateral Cooperation among the Turkic Republics.



The Secretariat participated in the reception organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Ankara on the occasion of the 25thAnniversary of Independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 1 December 2016.



The Secretariat continued to attend national day activities and receptions of the Member States as well as other important celebrations of the Turkic family.

As an example, the Secretariat participated in the National Day Celebrations of the Republic of Azerbaijan organized within the context of Expo 2016 Antalya – International Botanical Expo on 1 June 2016.



Besides, the Secretariat took part in the National Day celebration of Hungary, anniversaries of UN and its specialized organizations.



The Secretariat attended the commemorative days of the leaders and leading figures of the Turkic Council Member States with the determination to preserve their legacies.

VII. STAFF OF THE TURKIC COUNCIL







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