

NAKHCHIVAN AGREEMENT
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES

Turkic Speaking States, hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”;

based on historical ties, common language, culture and traditions of their peoples;

aiming at further deepening the comprehensive cooperation;

desiring to jointly contribute to strengthening peace, ensuring security and stability, in the region and in the world as a whole, in terms of development of processes of political multipolarity, economic and informational globalization;

considering that the interaction within the common structure facilitates the disclosure of huge potential for good-neighborhood, unity and cooperation among states and their peoples;

proceeding from the spirit of mutual confidence, mutual benefit, equality, mutual consultations and aspiration towards common development established at the Summits of the Heads of Turkic Speaking States;

reaffirming their adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of states, as well as those related to the maintenance of international peace, security and development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations and the cooperation among states;

have agreed as follows:

Article 1
Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

The Parties hereby establish a cooperation mechanism in the form of an international establishment – “Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” (hereinafter referred to as “CCTS”).

Article 2 **Purposes and tasks**

The main purposes and tasks of CCTS are:

strengthening mutual confidence, friendship and good neighbourhood among the Parties;

maintaining peace, strengthening security and confidence in the region and in the world as a whole;

search for common positions on foreign policy issues of mutual interest, including those in the framework of international organizations and at international fora;

coordination of actions to combat international terrorism and separatism, extremism, trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, as well as the assistance to international policy on control over illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

promotion of effective regional and bilateral cooperation in political, trade and economic, law enforcement, environmental, cultural, scientific-technical, military-technical, educational, energy, transportation, credit, and finance areas and other areas of common interest;

creation of favourable conditions for trade and investment, further simplification of customs and transit procedures aiming at facilitation of movement of goods, capital, services and technologies, and simplification of financial and banking operations;

aiming for the comprehensive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development in the region through joint actions on the basis of equal partnership in order to steadily increase and improve the living conditions of the peoples of the Parties;

discussing the questions of ensuring rule of law and good governance and guarantying human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with generally recognized principles and norms of international law,

expansion of interaction in the field of science and technology, education, health, culture, sports and tourism;

encouragement of interaction of the mass media and communication of the Parties in promoting, popularizing and disseminating the great cultural and historical heritage of the Turkic peoples;

discussing questions of exchange of legal information for the development of interaction and mutual legal assistance, and cooperation in various spheres of law.

Article 3 **Structure**

In order to fulfil the purposes and tasks of the present Agreement the following is established:

The Council of Heads of States;
The Council of Foreign Ministers;
The Senior Officials Committee;
The Council of Elders of Turkic Speaking States;
The Secretariat.

Article 4 **Other forms of cooperation**

To deepen the cooperation amongst the parliaments of the Turkic speaking countries the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic speaking countries is functioning pursuant to the Istanbul Agreement of 21 November 2008.

With a view of developing cooperation in the field of science, education, culture and art, dissemination and popularization of the common values of the Turkic world at international level, deepening cultural ties amongst the Turkic Speaking States, the Parties are cooperating in the framework of TURKSOY.

Article 5 **The Council of Heads of States**

The Council of Heads of States (CHS) is conducting its activity in the form of regular meetings of the Heads of Parties, in the framework of which, there shall be:

- considered the questions of interactions of Parties on the settlement of actual international problems;
- defined the priority directions of cooperation of Parties within the CCTS;
- held the review of activity of CCTS.

The meetings of CHS shall be held once a year. The venue of the next meeting of CHS is determined, as a rule, in accordance with the English alphabetical order of the official names of the Parties.

Extraordinary CHS meetings may be convened based on the consent of Parties. The venue of the extraordinary meeting of the CHS is determined by consent of the Parties.

Article 6 **The Council of Foreign Ministers**

- The Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) within its competence shall:
- consider the issues of current activities of the CCTS,
 - define more actual international issues for their discussion in the frame of CHS meetings;
 - approve Staff Matrix and financial report of the Secretariat.

The CFM may, if necessary, make statements on behalf of the CCTS.

The meetings of CFM, as a rule, shall take place before the meetings of CHS at the venue of CHS meetings.

Extraordinary CFM meetings may be convened based on the consent of Parties. The venue of the extraordinary meeting of the CFM is determined by consent of the Parties.

Article 7 **The Senior Officials Committee**

The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) consists of, at least, one representative from each Party.

SOC, within its competence, shall:

- coordinate activity of the Secretariat;
- consider and endorse draft documents, worked up by the Secretariat before their adoption by the CFM and approval by the CHS.

The SOC meetings are convened, as a rule, prior to the meetings of the CFM.

Article 8 **Chairmanship**

Party hosting the regular meeting of the CHS shall be CCTS Chairman until the next regular meeting of the CHS.

Article 9
The Council of Elders

The Council of Elders of the Turkic Speaking States (Council of Elders) is a permanent advisory-consultative institution, functioning under the auspices of CCTS.

Detailed aspects of the activity of the Council of Elders, including financial matters, should be defined by a separate document titled Regulation of the Council of Elders, which shall be adopted (accepted) by CFM.

The Council of Elders in its activities is guided by the present Agreement and the afore-mentioned Regulation.

Article 10
Secretariat

To facilitate the implementation of the purposes and tasks of the CCTS, the Parties establish a Secretariat, which is a permanent executive body of the CCTS.

The Secretariat within its competence shall:

- take necessary administrative, organizational, protocol and technical measures for holding meetings of CHS, CFM and SOC, as well as other meetings under the auspices of CCTS;
- prepare draft documents;
- establish and ensure archiving of documents;
- act as clearing house of documents and information, submitted by the Parties and received from other international organizations and fora;
- disseminate common information on CCTS;
- implement other tasks and duties, defined by CHS, CFM and SOC;
- prepares draft Staff Matrix and submits it to the SOC for approval;
- submits to the SOC its financial activities report.

The Secretariat shall be lead by the Secretary-General, who shall be approved by the CHS upon the CFM proposal. The Secretary-General has deputies from each Party except from the Party of his/her nationality.

The Secretary-General is appointed from among the citizens of the Parties on a rotational basis in accordance with the English alphabetical order of the official names of the Parties for a period of three years without the right to prolongation of the term of office.

The Deputies of Secretary-General are appointed from among the citizens of the Parties by the CHS decision for a period of three years without the right of prolongation for the next term.

The officials of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Parties in accordance with their national legislations from among their citizens.

In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General, his deputies and other officials of the Secretariat shall not seek or receive instructions from any Party, as well as third parties. They shall refrain from any actions which might influence their position as international officials responsible only to the CHS.

The Parties undertake to respect the international character of the duties of Secretary-General, his deputies and other officials of the Secretariat and not to influence them while performing their duties.

The location of the Secretariat is the city of Istanbul (Republic of Turkey).

The Parties endows the Secretariat with the right to conclude an international treaty with the Government of the Republic of Turkey on the conditions of Secretariat's location in the territory of the Republic of Turkey, draft of which should be initially approved by the CFM.

The Secretariat of the CCTS shall enjoy in the territory of each Party such legal capacity as necessary for the implementation of purposes and tasks of the CCTS.

The Secretariat shall enjoy international legal capacity to implement purposes and tasks of CCTS, in particular:

- conclude treaties with the consent of all Parties;
- acquire and dispose the property;
- act in the courts as plaintiff or defendant;
- open accounts and make transactions in cash assets.

Article 11

Financing

The Secretariat has its own budget, which is formed and executed in accordance with a separate international treaty concluded among the Parties.

The Parties themselves shall bear the expenses for the participation of their representatives and experts in the events within the frame of CCTS.

Article 12

Privileges and immunities

Members of delegations and officials of the Secretariat for the period of participation in the work of meetings of CHS, CMF, SOC and Council of Elders shall enjoy in the territory of Host Party privileges and immunities that

are accorded by international law to the personnel of accredited diplomatic missions.

Article 13
Permanent representatives

In accordance with their national legislations the Parties shall appoint their permanent representatives to the Secretariat.

Article 14
Other meetings

The Parties may agree to convene the meetings of heads of relevant ministries, agencies and organizations of the Parties to discuss the specific and/or technical issues.

Article 15
Relations with international organizations and fora

The CCTS can enter into interaction and dialogue, including on specific areas of cooperation, with international organizations and fora.

Article 16
Observers

The observer status with the CCTS may be granted to the states, international organizations and international fora.

The order and procedure for granting such status shall be established by the Rules of Procedure of the CCTS.

Article 17
Languages

The working languages of the CCTS are the state languages of the Parties and the English language.

Article 18
Rules of Procedure

Procedural issues shall be defined by the CCTS Rules of Procedure, which shall be adopted by the CFM and approved by the CHS.

Article 19
Relations with other treaties

The present Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties under other international treaties which they are parties to.

Article 20
Settlement of disagreements

In case of disagreements concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, the Parties shall settle them through consultations and negotiations.

Article 21
Amendments and additions

By mutual consent of the Parties amendments and additions may be made to the present Agreement in the form of separate protocols being an integral part of the present Agreement and entering into force in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 22 of the present Agreement.

Article 22
Validity, entry into force and accession

This Agreement is concluded for an indefinite period of time.

This Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the receipt of the third written notification by the depositary on the completion of domestic procedures required for its entry into force.

After its entry into force this Agreement is open to accession by Turkic Speaking States.

This Agreement shall enter into force for the acceding State on the thirtieth day after the receipt by the depositary of its instrument of accession.

Article 23
The depositary

The depositary of the present Agreement is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey.

Done in the city of Nakhchivan, on the 3rd day of October 2009 in a single original copy in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkish and English languages. All texts are equally authentic.

The original copy of the present Agreement shall be kept by the depositary, which shall send to each signatory Party a certified copy.



For the Republic of Azerbaijan



For the Republic of Kazakhstan



For the Kyrgyz Republic



For the Republic of Turkey