

**DECLARATION OF THE THIRD SUMMIT OF THE COOPERATION
COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES
Gabala, Azerbaijan**

The Council of Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (hereinafter referred to as the Turkic Council) met on 16 August 2013 in Gabala, Azerbaijan. President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Almazbek Atambaev, President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül, and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Sapardurdy Toilyev attended the meeting, which was presided over by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev.

Heads of State:

Reiterating their intention to strengthen their solidarity rooted in the common history, language, identity and culture of the Turkic speaking peoples;

Reaffirming their resolve to further deepen their relations under the multilateral framework of the Turkic Council;

Reconfirming their adherence to decisions taken at the previous Summits of the Turkic Council;

Expressing satisfaction with the progress achieved in all fields of cooperation since the Almaty and Bishkek Summits;

Aiming at strengthening political and economic security of the States in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders, non-interference in internal affairs;

have declared the following:

Cultural Cooperation:

1. Welcoming the improvement achieved so far in cultural field and emphasizing on furthering cooperation in cultural affairs:

a) noted the importance of the prompt completion of ratification processes of the Charter of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation;

b) supported the initiative of holding of the International Congress “Chyngyz Aitmatov and his Issyk-Kul Forum” in 2013 in honour of 85th birth anniversary of the son of the Kyrgyz nation – the great writer of the Turkic speaking nations Chyngyz Aitmatov;

c) commended the achievements of TURKSOY during its 20 years of activity;

Cooperation in Sports:

2. Instructed the Secretariat and relevant ministries and institutions of the Member States to start preparations for the First Turkic Universiade with participation of Council Members as well as other Turkic Speaking States;

Cooperation in Science and Education:

3. Appreciating the improvement achieved so far in cooperation in the fields of science and education:

a) noted the importance of the prompt ratification of the Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Academy;

b) appreciated the first meeting of the Terminology Committee held on 16 November 2012 in Istanbul and the decisions taken in the meeting, especially creation of a common terminology, preparation of dictionaries of common terms, and an alphabet to be used for scientific purposes;

c) expressed the importance of continuing with the necessary steps to carry forward the agenda of enhanced cooperation in education, including common textbooks on Turkic history and literature; and encouraged teaching of each other's languages in educational establishments as elective courses;

d) welcomed the founding meetings of the Turkic Inter-University Union held in Istanbul and Bishkek, and instructed the relevant Ministries and state institutions to implement measures for realization of the goals of the Union;

Economic Cooperation:

4. Taking note of the report of the Third Meeting of the Ministers in charge of Economy of the Turkic Speaking States held in Istanbul on 28 June 2013;

a) expressed satisfaction with the increase of trade and investment volume among Turkic Council Member States and stated their commitments to support endeavors and activities to this end;

b) supported the active participation of private sector in the relevant Working Groups of Turkic Council;

c) called for support of Turkic Business Council to facilitate economic cooperation among its Member States;

d) expressed their satisfaction with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding amongst Azerbaijan Export and Investment Promotion Foundation, National Export and Investment Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency;

5. Welcoming the report of the First Meeting of the Ministers of Transport of the Turkic Council held in Baku on 3 July 2013:

- a) noted the importance of further strengthening regional cooperation in order to increase the efficiency of transportation among the member states and instructed the Secretariat and the relevant authorities to enhance such cooperation through holding regular meetings;
- b) welcomed the signing of the “Joint Cooperation Protocol on Development of Transport” by the Ministers of Transport of the Member States and of the “Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sister Seaport Relations and Cooperation among the Ports of Baku, Aktau and Samsun”;
- c) urged the relevant authorities to work for increasing the efficiency of utilization of existing transport infrastructures among the member states in order to enhance the capacity of transportation in the region;
- d) noted the importance of Central / East-West Corridor connecting Central Asia to Europe via Caspian and Marmara seas through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, the main element of which is Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway;
- e) in this respect also noted that the Silk Wind project (effectively connecting Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Sea of Marmara through Zhezkazgan – Beineu roads and Baku – Tbilisi – Kars railway, Aktau and Baku Seaports as well as Marmaray railway tunnel) to be the shortest, secure and economically efficient connection of existing transport infrastructure among Member States as well as Trans-Europe and Trans-Asia transport networks;

6. Welcoming the establishment of Working Group on Customs aiming to enhance customs cooperation amongst Turkic Speaking States and the conduct of the First and Second Meetings of the Heads of the Customs Administration and the Report submitted in that respect:

- a) highlighted the necessity to intensify efforts for facilitation of the passenger and freight transportation and increase the transit potential;
- b) encouraged the use of mechanisms for the simplification of export and import procedures and introduction of advance information exchange system, as well as modern and IT based transit procedures between customs authorities of the Member States;
- c) urged the Secretariat and Member States to cooperate with third parties, as well as international organizations in order to promote the projects of Turkic Council on customs issues.

Cooperation on Diaspora Affairs:

7. Welcoming the initiative of the Secretariat to start the project of the cooperation amongst Turkic Speaking Diasporas:

a) expressed their appreciation for the Turkic Council First Forum of Turkic Diaspora Organizations, hosted by the State Committee on Affairs with Diaspora, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 21 June 2013 in Baku, where the “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy of the Turkic Council” was endorsed by the Forum participants, which was adopted by the Heads of state bodies and institutions, in charge of Diaspora Affairs of the Member States of the Turkic Council on 14 May 2013 in Ankara;

b) urged Heads of state bodies and institutions, in charge of Diaspora Affairs to prepare annual Joint Action Plans based on “Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy of the Turkic Council”.

Cooperation on Foreign Policy and Security Issues:

8. Instructed Ministers of Foreign Affairs to continue regular consultations on international issues of common interest under the aegis of the Chairman-in-Office;

9. Called for support for each other’s candidacies to international organizations, including the UN and expressed their will to cooperate in their candidatures to international organizations and positions, as well as international events;

10. Welcoming the first meeting of Security Consultations among member states held on 11 April 2013 in Baku at the level of senior officials, urged the continuation of Security Consultations on a regular basis; to this end:

a) called for the Member States to convene another round of security consultations in Astana in the first quarter of 2014, as per invitation of Kazakhstan;

b) appreciated the decision taken by the Member States to develop a common view on Afghanistan at the first meeting of Security Consultations, which was expressed by the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Erlan Abdyldaev, as the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council, at the Ministerial Conference of Istanbul Process on Afghanistan held on 26 April 2013 in Almaty;

11. Emphasizing their support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan and expressing their readiness to further contribute to security, stability and development of the country through initiatives such as the Istanbul Process, for enhancement of regional cooperation not only during the transition period of pre-2014 but also during transformation decade of 2015-2024; urged the Secretariat of the Turkic Council to identify modes of cooperation to take on a more active role as a supporting international organization of the Istanbul Process and follow up the issue in the meetings of security consultations;

12. Welcomed the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic on holding the International Scientific Conference on Afghanistan in October 2013 in Bishkek with participation of the Afghan authorities;

13. Reiterating the importance they attach to the peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which is one of the main obstacles to lasting stability and regional cooperation on the basis of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan and reaffirmed their conviction that the resolution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be a significant progress in providing peace, stability and prosperity in Eurasian area;

14. To confirm their strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed just and lasting political settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations based on political equality of the two peoples in the Island, and expressed their solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future.

15. Expressing their grave concern with respect to ongoing crisis in Syria as well as its repercussions to regional security and stability, called for an immediate cessation of the conflict in accordance with the will and aspirations of the Syrian people to preserve the territorial integrity and national unity of Syria;

16. Encouraging further interaction between the Turkic Council and other international organizations:

a) welcomed the endorsement of observer status granted to Turkic Council by Economic Cooperation Organization and supported the official application of the Secretariat to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for an observer status,

b) tasked the Member States to invite the Secretariat of the Turkic Council to the relevant regional and international meetings, organized in their countries;

17. Emphasizing the importance of the inter-Parliamentary dimension in strengthening political dialogue among Turkic States, noted with satisfaction the outcome of the Fourth Plenary Session of TURKPA, held on 10-12 June 2013 in Ankara.

Other Issues

18. Expressing satisfaction with the general progress as presented by the Secretary General in his annual report, tasked the Secretary General to submit an additional mid-term review report by May 2014;

19. Having received the report of Kyrgyzstan as the outgoing Chairman of the Turkic Council, congratulated the Kyrgyz side for a successful Chairmanship;

20. Decided to hold the Fourth Summit of the Turkic Council in the Republic of Turkey in 2014;

The Heads of State expressed profound thanks to H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for steering the deliberations of the Third Summit of the Turkic Council to a successful conclusion and appreciated the warm hospitality of the Government and people of Azerbaijan. Finally, they welcomed the assumption of the Chairmanship-in-Office of the Turkic Council by the Republic of Azerbaijan for the term 2013-2014.

Signed on 16 August 2013 in Gabala in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Ilham Aliyev

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Nursultan Nazarbayev

President of the Kyrgyz Republic

Almazbek Atambaev

President of the Republic of Turkey

Abdullah Gül