

Organization of Turkic States

Statement of the Council of Heads of States on Afghanistan

We, the Heads of State of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS),

Expressing that Afghanistan is a neighboring and fraternal country for the Turkic World, connected by centuries-old bonds of friendship, common history, religion, customs and traditions,

Highly appreciating the multiethnic composition of Afghanistan that also includes the Turkic groups who not only contribute to the rich diversity of the country, but also constitute a unique bridge for stronger and closer relations of Afghanistan with the Member States and Observers of the OTS,

Reaffirming the respect of their States for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan in accordance with the provisions of the UN Charter,

Stressing the importance of establishing a form of governance that serves and engages all Afghan citizens, and respects human rights of all without any distinction,

Emphasizing the importance of eliminating the menace of terrorism and strengthening coordination in countering terrorism, while noting the efforts of the de facto authorities in improving the security in Afghanistan,

Noting the significant progress in the implementation of the ban introduced on opium cultivation and reiterating the need for further efforts to curb production, trade and trafficking of narcotics in Afghanistan.

Expressing their grave concern over the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and underlining the urgent need for the continuation of humanitarian assistance by the international community,

Noting that improving economic conditions in the country will benefit the Afghan people including through facilitating voluntary repatriation of displaced Afghans and their sustainable reintegration.

Expressing that coherent, coordinated, and structured engagement of the international community with Afghanistan is critical to prevent the challenges of this country to lead to undesirable consequences,

Recalling the recommendations of the independent assessment pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2679 (2023),

Recalling the Statement of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States made in Istanbul on 27 September 2021 on the situation in Afghanistan,

Declare hereby that they:

1. Support the increased and sustainable humanitarian efforts of the international community to address immediate needs of the people of Afghanistan leading to stabilization in the country,

2. Continue to contribute to the efforts to assist the de facto authorities and the Afghan people to achieve lasting peace, national reconciliation, stability and development,
3. Encourage the establishment of a representative administration reflecting the diversity of the Afghan nation,
4. Call for respecting human rights, including restoring and ensuring the fundamental rights of all citizens of Afghanistan without any distinction,
5. Urge enhancing cooperation and taking stronger and more resolute measures in countering terrorism so that the territory of Afghanistan will not be used to threaten or attack any country by terrorist organizations,
6. Underline the need to completely eradicate illegal production and trafficking of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan and call for increased support to Afghanistan, including through provision of alternative livelihoods,
7. Encourage increased trade and enhanced economic ties with Afghanistan in order to support the development in a sustainable manner,
8. Stress the importance of returning Afghanistan's frozen financial assets, reintegration of the Afghan banking sector in the international financial system, institution of fiscal transparency measures and relevant legal guarantees to facilitate the economic restoration of the country,
9. Urge further efforts to implement and finalize major infrastructure and connectivity projects, such as the Trans-Afghan railway, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the Turkmenistan- Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP-500) electricity transmission project, the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railroad construction project, the Surkhan-Pul-e-Khumri Electricity Transmission Project, the Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route Agreement, in and around Afghanistan that will contribute not only to the country's integration into regional processes, but also to the recovery of its economy, and call for the support of international financial institutions to such projects,
10. Call for continued international assistance in helping the challenges faced by the displaced Afghans in and outside of the country,
11. Express their support for enhancing engagement of the international community with Afghanistan through the performance-based road map in a coherent, coordinated and structured manner, with a view to reaching the vision of an Afghanistan that is at peace with its people, its neighbors, its region and beyond as a full-fledged member of the international community,
12. Take note of the national, regional, and international initiatives and engagements of the OTS Member States with respect to Afghanistan, such as the UN Regional Centre on Sustainable Development for Central Asia and Afghanistan in Almaty, Termez International Trade Center and Termez Multi-functional Transport Logistics Hub, UN Doha Process Working Groups, among others,
13. In this context, encourage the exploration of the potential for joint activities by the OTS Member States in such areas as economy, trade, humanitarian assistance, and education,

among others, with a view to promoting engagement with Afghanistan and contributing to the efforts of addressing the challenges that Afghanistan and the region face,

14. Task their Ministers of Foreign Affairs to remain seized of the situation in Afghanistan, including through the OTS Working Group on Afghanistan.

Budapest, 21 May 2025