Honourable Participants,

My name is Mustafa CANBEY and I’m a member of Grand National Assembly Of Turkey. I’m here on behalf of Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries – TÜRKPA. I would like to present a brief info about TÜRKPA’s involvement in the migration issues and the importance of regional cooperation organisations.

In order to prevent crisis and tragedy resulting from migration, we have to build strong cross border partnerships and regional cooperation mechanisms. In this regard, regional institutions can have a role and contribute international efforts.

TÜRKPA is a regional organisation in the heart of Eurasia and it’s ten years old. TÜRKPA was established by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey. Hungary is an observer to TÜRKPA. Uzbekistan is also attending TÜRKPA as a guest.

Migration has a significant place in the scope of TÜRKPA. One of the permanent commissions of TÜRKPA is titled social and humanitarian affairs and migration is in the field of this commission. I am a member of this commission. But TÜRKPA’s works about migration are not limited to this commission.

TÜRKPA has been developing initiatives about migration, refugees and internally displaced persons. For example, we have organised a special meeting about migration in 2014 in Azerbaijan with cooperation of UN International Organization for Migration (regional office). Works in TÜRKPA commissions and other activities indicate the priority of the subject for TÜRKPA itself and its member countries.

I believe “Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration” is an important step to move forward. A few days later it will be signed in Marrakesh. I hope that it will be followed by progressive actions. We are notified about a few countries’ decision to leave the Global Compact Migration. Nevertheless, the Compact is a significant level to achieve.

International organisations can make the process easier to craft the required cooperation. Therefore, cooperation and interaction between international organisations is also crucial and in particular regional organisations are in the forefront. Countries should collaborate, international bodies should collaborate. This is an obvious and factual point.

Of course, there are many issues about migration. It is not possible to just erase the hardships related to migration. But if we identify the problems evidently and act together, we can cultivate solutions.

Human history is a history of migration. We can not simply consider migration in a perspective of security and prevention. And there comes the humanitarian challenge. If an area has become so poor that people are running away from it, where did its wealth go? Probably the same destination those migrants are trying to reach. I think that we need to focus on the reasons that cause migration.

As an MP from Turkey, a country that deals with very difficult migration challenges, I’m happy to be here. I would like to thank the organisers of this event, all the participants, the technical staff and translators.

Thank you very much.

(*) Recently TÜRKPA representatives have visited the new restoration project for the I. D. P.’s in Azerbaijan.