THE İZMİR DECLARATION
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Izmir
2018
The Eighth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA) was held on 21 November 2018 in Izmir with participation of the members of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey.

The Parliamentary Assembly

- **Expressing** their will to deepen cooperation amongst the parliaments and in this regard referring to the İstanbul Agreement on the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries of 21 November 2008 and previous TURKPA declarations;
- **Noting** the special role of parliaments in developing close and multifaceted cooperation among Turkic-speaking countries based on common historic, linguistic and cultural links;
- **Emphasizing** that interaction among the parliaments of brotherly countries contributes to sustainable development of the member countries;
- **Welcoming** the remarkable advancement of cooperation within the Assembly’s framework since the Seventh Plenary Session held on 7-8 December 2017 in Bishkek;
- **Being aware** that comprehensive and deepening relations among Turkic-speaking countries strengthen dialogue and facilitates stability and security both in the region and in the world;
- **Stressing** the importance of the development of practical result-oriented cooperation between the TURKPA member countries and the need to render a legislative support to the initiatives and undertakings within the Turkic cooperation;
• Underscoring that the 10th anniversary of TURKPA is a turning point for the organization in defining future priority objectives and tasks aimed at increasing efficiency of Turkic cooperation;

• Reaffirming its commitments to the norms and principles of international law, in particular the respect of and support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders, non-interference in internal affairs;

• Reiterating their adherence to the purposes and principles of the Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council);

Declares the following:

1. Highly appreciates the activities of Kyrgyzstan’s Chairmanship of TURKPA, particularly its new efforts aimed at deepening cooperation between the member countries in economic, cultural and social fields as well as on accumulating expert potential in order to develop a practical cooperation between the member countries;

2. Highly appreciates the successful organization of the Third Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, which took place in Antalya on 8-11 October 2018 under the auspices of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and notes with satisfaction the consistent development of inter-parliamentary relations among the Eurasian countries, as well as welcomes the holding of the Fourth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries’ Parliaments in Kazakhstan in 2019;

3. Reaffirms its commitment to shaping a common legislative space in the relevant fields of Turkic cooperation and encourages the member countries to take an active part in conducting the work regarding creation of a single data base on national legislation of the member countries and further deliberations on drafting model laws with the participation of experts;

4. Notes with satisfaction the process of exchange of experience between the parliamentary administrations of the member countries and, in this framework, expresses a gratitude to the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan in organizing the visit of the parliamentary staffers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey to Baku held on 2-6 July 2018 that featured a close study of the working principles and practices of Milli Mejlis as regards the development of national legislation;
5. Congratulates the Republic of Azerbaijan on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first democratic and secular state in the Muslim and Turkic world, as well as on the 100th anniversary of the Parliament of Azerbaijan marked by a solemn meeting held on 21 September 2018 in Baku;

6. Congratulates the Kyrgyz Republic on the 80th anniversary of the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic and positively assesses the results of the scientific-practical conference on the theme - “80 years of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic: analysis and prospects for legislative activity”;

7. Highly appreciates the outcomes of the 17th Autumn Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCEPA) hosted by Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic took place on 3-6 October 2018 in Bishkek and reiterates the need to further develop cooperation with the OSCEPA and other relevant inter-parliamentary organizations in order to increase the visibility of TURKPA on the international scene;

8. Highly appreciates the outcomes of the Sixth Summit of the Heads of State of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) held on 3 September 2018 in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyz Republic; congratulates Hungary for its obtaining the observer status at the Turkic Council, as well as the International Turkic Academy, and welcomes the participation of the President of Uzbekistan in the Summit as an official guest;

9. Welcomes the decision of the Council of Heads of States of the Turkic Council on preparing a Concept Paper regarding the “Reforming of the cooperation organizations of the Turkic Speaking States”, which will be submitted to the Seventh Summit of the Turkic Council for consideration;

10. Commends the outcomes of the Fourth Coordination Meeting among TURKPA, the Turkic Council, TURKSOY, the International Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation hosted by the TURKPA Secretariat on 8 February 2018; expresses satisfaction with the activities of TURKSOY, the International Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and calls for further enhancement of interaction among Turkic cooperation institutions;
11. Notes the activities of its international observation mission and positively assesses the results of the presidential elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan held on 11 April 2018, as well as presidential and parliamentary elections held in the Republic of Turkey on 24 June 2018. In this regard, the Assembly commends the joint activities of the observation missions of the TURKPA and Turkic Council during the elections in Azerbaijan and Turkey that contributed to forming common standards, principles and methodology of the election observation within the framework of Turkic cooperation;

12. Underlines the necessity to reach a negotiated settlement in Cyprus based on political equality of the two peoples and their co-ownership of the Island; and expresses its strong solidarity with Turkish Cypriots in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future;

13. Reiterates the importance of the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

14. Referring to the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/72/123 of 7 December 2017 and A/RES/72/284 of 26 June 2018, which noted the importance of continuing to strive towards achieving a world free of terrorism, confirms the need to adhere to the Code of Conduct Towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, adopted on 28 September 2018 in New York;

15. Highlights the importance of the fight against terrorism and positively assesses the initiatives of the member countries in establishing common position on the anti-terrorism legislation;

16. Takes note of the information provided by the Turkish side regarding FETÖ and its involvement in the coup attempt on 15 July 2016. Member parliaments have agreed to closely cooperate to prevent all types of terrorism, focus on allowing mutual legal assistance to produce concrete results and preventing the financing of terrorism;
17. Highly appreciates the results of the 5th Caspian Summit held on 12 August 2018 in Aktau and congratulates Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan on signing the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea, which opens new prospects for the development of transit and transport potential among the Turkic speaking countries;

18. Notes that energy resources are crucial in achieving sustainable development in Member States and therefore encourages the cooperation and investment in energy sector via new projects based on common interest;

19. Notes that increasing interconnectivity is central to enhancing economic, social and cultural cooperation as well as deepening trade ties between the Member States and reaffirms its commitment to continue its efforts to support projects at the national, regional and international level for infrastructural development, as well as customs and procedural harmonization;

20. Congratulates TURKSOY on its 25th anniversary and appreciates the substantial work done by TURKSOY in promoting cultural traditions of the Turkic-speaking nations in the world;

21. Welcomes the development of cooperation between the member countries in the field of innovative entrepreneurship and emphasizes the necessity to create a favourable investment climate for such business activities in the member countries that includes simplification of custom procedures and taxation;

22. Commends the efforts of the member countries in addressing environmental challenges, such as genetically modified organisms (GMO) and waste management, as well as in assessing regional risks in these fields and supports the member countries in developing joint scientific methods on the relevant issues;

23. Encourages the member states to further deepen their cooperation in the press and information field and welcomes all efforts to provide legal frameworks for possible bilateral or multilateral cooperation;
24. Highly appreciates and emphasizes the role of Kyrgyzstan as the founder of the World Nomad Games and congratulates the Kyrgyz Republic on the successful organization of the 3rd World Nomad Games held from 2 to 8 September 2018, which contribute to the development of ethno-historical sports, inter-civilizational and intercultural dialogue, and also welcomes the decision of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey to hold the IV World Nomad Games in the Republic of Turkey in 2020;

25. Underlines that cinema and animation is a significant part of the cultural heritage of the Turkic world and welcomes cooperation of the member countries in promoting joint cinema and animation production. Besides, expresses its gratitude to the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting the Days of Turkic Cinema that took place on 13 September 2018;

26. Invites the member countries to support the initiatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the World EXPO-2025 in Baku;

27. Invites the member countries to support the nomination of the candidacy of the Kyrgyz Republic for non-permanent membership at the UN Security Council for the period 2027-2028;

28. Commends Kazakhstan’s non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council for 2017-2018; and expresses satisfaction with the effective role of Kazakhstan with its rich experience in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peace diplomacy in successfully representing Central Asia region in the UN Security Council;

29. Appreciates the organization of the VI International Humanitarian Forum by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 25-26 October 2018, which has become a platform for advancing a global dialogue between the political, economic, scientific and cultural elites of the world community. Praises the contribution of the Republic of Azerbaijan in addressing current global challenges and promoting the values of multiculturalism and intercultural dialogue;

30. Appreciates the organization of the VI Congress of the leaders of world and traditional religions by the Republic of Kazakhstan on 10-11 October 2018, which has made a significant contribution to promotion and preservation of peacekeeping dialogue between religions and civilizations in the name of creating a conflict-free future for new generations;
31. Extends congratulations on the occasion of the anniversaries of the prominent personalities of the Turkic world, such as the 125th anniversary of Magzhan Zhumabayev, the 100th anniversary of Qara Qarayev, the 95th anniversary of Haydar Aliyev and the 90th anniversary of Chyngyz Aitmatov;

32. Highly appreciates the cordial hospitality of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey extended in Izmir and the outstanding organization of the Eighth Plenary Session of TURKPA;