

**THE ANKARA DECLARATION
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC-SPEAKING
COUNTRIES**

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TÜRKPA)
THE FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
ANKARA DECLARATION

The Fourth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries was held on June 10-12, 2013 in Ankara with participation of the members of Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

The Participants of the Fourth Plenary Session,

- *Expressing* their determination to deepen the cooperation amongst the parliaments and in this regard referring to the Istanbul Agreement on the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries of 21 November 2008 and Nakhchivan Agreement on the establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States of 3 October 2009 and other relevant declarations and documents;
- *noting* the special role of parliaments in developing close and multifaceted cooperation among Turkic Speaking Countries based on common history, language and culture;
- *emphasizing* that cooperation among the parliaments of brotherly countries contributes to the development and strengthening of democratic values, rule of law, market economy and fundamental rights and freedoms in member countries;
- *stating* that existing and intensifying relations among Turkic Speaking Countries strengthens regional and international cooperation and serves for enhancing stability and security both in the region and in the world.

Declare the following:

- 1) The Parliamentary Assembly is an important instrument for establishing and developing peace and stability both among Turkic Republics and at the regional and global level.
- 2) The Parliamentary Assembly firmly supports any initiatives aimed at promoting the unity of history, culture and language and in this context the Parliamentary Assembly appreciates the efforts of Kazakhstan to convert to the Latin Alphabet.
- 3) The Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms the principles of democracy, respect to human rights, development of market economy, and superiority of law as well as the importance of achieving national and regional security, stability, and peace.
- 4) The Parliamentary Assembly supports dialog, mutual understanding and compromise efforts instead of conflicts among different cultures and religions. In this respect, it acknowledges the important role of the second World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held in Baku on 29 May-1 June, 2013.

- 5) The Parliamentary Assembly acknowledges that, the economic cooperation among Turkic Speaking Countries is the main driving force of the regional integration of them and in this regard, the Parliamentary Assembly calls on its member countries to provide participation of the business communities in the Plenary Sessions.
- 6) In accordance with the numerous recommendations of the Permanent Commission on Legal Affairs and in conformity with the purpose of harmonization of the legislations of the member states, the Parliamentary Assembly instructs the TURKPA International Secretariat to provide the administrative and technical assistance required for sharing information and cooperation among the specialized commissions within the parliaments of the member states and urges the specialized commissions to hold meetings periodically among them.
- 7) The Parliamentary Assembly encourages exchange of information and experience among parliament administrative organizations of member states, exchange of personnel, cooperation, and in this context carrying relations to the highest level and institutionalization of these relations. The Parliamentary Assembly prompts the Secretariat to take a more active role in this process.
- 8) The Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms that one of its primary objectives is to support the harmonization of the legislation of the member states in the fields of economy and trade as mentioned in the 2011 report of the Permanent Commission on Economy, Trade and Financial Affairs.
- 9) In accordance with the objective of sharing experience and developing partnership in legal field among the member states, the Parliamentary Assembly instructs the Permanent Commission on Legal Affairs to take necessary actions for information exchange among supreme courts and relevant institutions of the judges, and prosecutors, and institutionalization of this interaction in the long term.
- 10) The Parliamentary Assembly strongly condemns terrorism in any form and emphasizes the importance of cooperation of the member states against terrorism. It reaffirms its commitment to strengthen cooperation and coordination among member states in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations, transnational organized crime, trafficking in narcotics, arms and persons and migrant smuggling.
- 11) The Parliamentary Assembly expresses the importance of 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.

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- 12) Confirming their strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed settlement in Cyprus under the auspices of the United Nations based on political equality of the two peoples in the Island, 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.
- 13) As mentioned in the reports of the Permanent Commission on International Relations, the Parliamentary Assembly emphasizes once more the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation on energy resources and developing transit routes. The Parliamentary Assembly recognizes parliamentary diplomacy as a significant tool of our communities' struggle for peace and prosperity.
- 14) The Parliamentary Assembly encourages social, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation and solidarity among Turkic Speaking Countries and institutionalization of this cooperation.
- 15) The Parliamentary Assembly supports cooperation and exchange programs among educational institutions, particularly academic institutions, and hereby, education of Turkic languages and implementing selective courses of Turkic languages in primary and secondary educational institutions, within the countries' facilities.
- 16) The Parliamentary Assembly recommends member states to support the Republic of Turkey during the candidacy process for non-permanent membership of the United Nations' Security Council in the period of 2015-2016, and the Republic of Kazakhstan in the period 2017-2018.
- 17) The Parliamentary Assembly commends the International Exhibition EXPO 2017 in Astana and considers the candidacy of Izmir for EXPO 2020 and Istanbul for 2020 Olympic Games as a favorable progress for the Turkic World and calls the member states to support Turkey in these candidacy processes.
- 18) The Parliamentary Assembly appreciates the traditional hospitality of Turkish people as well as the successful and perfect organization of the Fourth Plenary Session of TÜRKPA by the Republic of Turkey.
- 19) The Parliamentary Assembly decided to hold its Fifth Plenary Session on June 2014 in Baku – Gabala in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

11 June 2013, Ankara.