THE BAKU DECLARATION
OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES
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The Ninth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA) was held on 18 December 2019 in Baku with the 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 among 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 historical, linguistic and cultural links;

• *Emphasizing* that interaction among the parliaments of brotherly countries contributes to their sustainable development and facilitates Turkic integration processes;

• *Welcoming* the remarkable advancement of cooperation within the Assembly’s framework since the Eighth Plenary Session held on 20-21 November 2018 in İzmir;

• *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 harmonize national legislation of the member countries through developing model legislation and, in general, to render legislative support to the initiatives and undertakings within the Turkic cooperation;

• Underscoring that the 10th anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States (Turkic Council) is a turning point for Turkic cooperation organizations in defining future objectives and tasks aimed at increasing efficiency of institutional cooperation in the Turkic world;

• 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;

• Recalling its Strategy Paper adopted at the Eighth Plenary Session, which held on 20-21 November 2018 in Izmir, setting out a long-term vision of the Assembly’s activities in the forthcoming years;

• Highlighting the increasing role of parliamentary diplomacy in the world, as a favorable mechanism for promoting dialogue, mutual understanding and confidence-building measures;

Declarations the following:

1. Highly appreciates the activities of Turkey’s Chairmanship of TURKPA, particularly its new efforts aimed at deepening cooperation between the member countries in various fields, as well as its contribution to the further institutional development of TURKPA and the work done in developing model legislation in several areas of cooperation;

2. Commends the progress towards the implementation of the Strategy Paper adopted at the 8th Plenary Session, including the work conducted on the improvement of the Assembly’s statutory framework and elaboration of the first model laws within the TURKPA framework;

3. Reaffirms its commitment to shaping a common legislative space in the priority fields of Turkic cooperation and encourages the member countries to take an active part in conducting the work regarding the creation of a single database 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 Grand National Assembly of Turkey and Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic in organizing the visit of the parliamentary staffers of the member countries on 22-26 July and 14-18 October 2019 accordingly in Ankara and Bishkek; calls on the member parliaments to take into consideration the initiatives set forth during the experience exchange programs and discuss the possibilities on their implementation;

5. Highly appreciates the successful organization of the Fourth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments on 23-24 September 2019 in Nur-Sultan under the auspices of the Parliament of Kazakhstan and notes with satisfaction the consistent development of inter-parliamentary relations among the Eurasian countries, as well as welcomes the holding of the Fifth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries’ Parliaments in the Republic of Indonesia in 2020; expresses gratitude to the member countries for supporting participation of the Secretariat’s delegation in the Meetings of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments and providing opportunities to raise awareness of TURKPA within various inter-parliamentary platforms;

6. Underline the importance of inter-parliamentary cooperation in addressing the issues put on the 2030 Global Agenda of Sustainable Development and, in this regard, positively assesses the outcomes of the International Conference on "Role of Turkic World Women in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals" organized jointly with Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 14-15 June 2019 in Baku; invites the member countries, other countries and international organizations to take an active part in the work of a newly established TURKPA Women Parliamentarians Group as a systematic mechanism of dialogue in the field of gender equality and women empowerment;

7. Congratulates the Grand National Assembly of Turkey on its centenarian anniversary to be marked by solemn meeting on 23 April 2020 in Ankara;

8. Congratulates the Kyrgyz Republic on election to the UNESCO Executive Board for the period 2019-2023 at the 40th Session of the UNESCO General Conference held on 20 November 2019 in Paris, France;
9. Congratulates the Republic of Kazakhstan with completion of its successful non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council and notes a rich experience of Kazakhstan in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peace diplomacy;

10. Welcomes the nomination of the candidacy of the Kyrgyz Republic for non-permanent membership at the UN Security Council for the period 2027-2028;

11. Highly values the organization of the First Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the Turkic world on «Values of Youth and Parliaments Solidarity» held in Nur-Sultan on 27 November 2019 and expresses readiness to hold the next meeting in Turkey in the framework of centenary of the inauguration of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey;

12. Welcomes the strengthening of relationships with the Parliament of Uzbekistan and commends the consistent participation of the Uzbekistani delegation in the TURKPA Plenary Sessions;

13. Expresses satisfaction with the development of cooperation with regional and international organizations and welcomes the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), as a new observer in TURKPA; urge the continuation of cooperation with other inter-parliamentary organizations in order to increase the visibility of TURKPA in the international fora;

14. Appreciates the interaction of the Turkic-speaking countries within the framework of leading international organizations and praise the member countries in pursuing common positions on foreign policy issues based also on the concept of “like-minded countries”;

15. Appreciates the Turkic Council and TURKPA on observing elections in the member countries;

16. Commends the activities of its election observation missions jointly with the Turkic Council’s missions and call on them to develop a common methodology of the election observation in line with newly adopted TURKPA Regulations on Election Observation;
17. Notes the activities of its election observation mission during the early presidential elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan held on 9 June 2019 and positively assesses the outcomes of elections;

18. Congratulates the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) with the 10th anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement and highly appreciates the outcomes of the Seventh Summit of the Turkic Council held on 15 October 2019 in Baku; congratulates the Republic of Uzbekistan on becoming a full-fledged member of the Turkic Council on this remarkable date; expresses its confidence in further strengthening of solidarity of Turkic-speaking states for the prosperity of their people;

19. Highly values the indispensable role of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev for his historic contribution to the establishment of Turkic Cooperation Organizations and the unity of the Turkic World, and congratulate him on holding the status of Honorary Chairman of the Turkic Council and receiving the Supreme Order of the Turkic World;

20. Supports the initiatives of the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev raised at the Seventh Summit of Turkic Council on preparing a program called “Turkic vision-2040” and changing the name of Turkic Council to the “Organization of the Turkic States”;

21. Praises the role of TURKPA and Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the successful organization of the international conference dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Nakhchivan Agreement on 10 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan’;

22. Welcomes the establishment of the Coordination Committee of the Turkic Cooperation Organizations in order to ensure the coordination among the Turkic cooperation organizations in different fields of their activities engaged in promoting and furthering links among the countries of the Turkic world and calls all Turkic cooperation organizations to actively participate at the meetings of the Coordination Committee; calls for further enhancement of interaction among Turkic cooperation institutions through the said Committee based on the principle of institutional complementarity and independence of the executive and legislative functions of Turkic cooperation platform;

23. Highly values the establishment of Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) as a new and robust mechanism to enhance trade and investment cooperation among the Member States;
24. Welcomes the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Information and Experience Sharing Among Various Types of Economic Zones” aiming at a sustainable multilateral cooperation among the Member States through holding regular consultations and engaging in multilateral activities;

25. Welcomes the development of cooperation between the member countries in the field of technologies and emphasizes the necessity to enhance relationships among the business and academic communities of the member countries in the field of innovations;

26. Encourages the member countries to further deepen their cooperation on environmental issues, in particular on those related to sustainable utilization of natural resources, protection of forests, glaciers and sustainable use of water resources;

27. Notes that development of transport corridors is central in boosting international trade and deepening economic ties among the member countries and reaffirms its commitment to support infrastructural projects as a part of the Great Silk Road;

28. Commends the organization of the Turkic Council Logistic Forum on the margins of the 1st Caspian Ports and Shipping Forum organized by the Government of Kazakhstan on 13-15 May 2019 in Aktau; and highlight the importance of promoting the Trans-Caspian International East-West Middle Corridor by organizing such high-level international forums and conferences in the Member States;

29. Encourages the member countries to facilitate the equivalence processes of higher education and conduct deliberations on providing necessary legislative support to the recognition practices, procedural harmonization and mutual assessment of human resources’ qualifications;

30. Invites to finalize of the “Common Turkic History from 15th to 21st century” textbook, as well as the preparation of the common geography and literature textbooks;

31. Supports the development of youth programmes within the Turkic cooperation organizations, including projects related to students’ exchange, participation of young volunteers and involvement of young generation in the work of the member parliaments; welcomes the initiative on the establishment of the exchange programme in the Turkic cooperation organizations with the view to promoting them among university students;
32. Supports the dedication of the year 2020 to the commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the birthday of the Kazakh poet Abay Kunanbayuly and the 1150th anniversary of the birthday of scientist and philosopher Abu Nasr al-Farabi;


34. Congratulates the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation with the opening of its premises in Baku allocated by the Republic of Azerbaijan and wishes every success in Foundation’s future activities;

35. Commends the opening of the Representation Office of the Turkic Council in Hungary on 19 September 2019 and express the readiness to support the efficient work of the Representation Office;

36. Reaffirms their intention to promote interests of Turkic World in international arena;

37. Underlines the necessity to reach a negotiated and mutually agreed political settlement in Cyprus based on existing realities, 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;

38. Reiterates the strongest support for 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;

39. Highlights the importance of the fight against terrorism and positively assesses the initiatives of the member countries in establishing a common position on the anti-terrorism legislation and call on the Member States to increase their efforts in fighting against all kinds and forms of terrorism, separatism, extremism, discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia and in this context urges the relevant authorities of the Member States to coordinate their endeavors in international fora;
40. Reiterates the position stated by the Heads of brotherly member states during the 7th Summit of the Turkic Council on 15 October 2019 as regards Turkey’s Operation “Peace Spring”, the result of Turkey’s determination to fight against terrorism and respect to the Syrian territorial integrity and calls for the continuation of the dialogue in the framework of the “Astana Process” for the lasting political settlement in Syria;

41. Highly appreciates the outcomes of the 18th Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held on 25-26 October 2019 in Baku and congratulates the Republic of Azerbaijan with the assumption of Chairmanship in NAM for the period of 2019-2022;

42. Commends proclamation of the city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan, as the Cultural Capital of the Turkic World in 2018 within the context of preserving culture, spiritual values, peaceful ideas, unity and solidarity, cultural diversity and tolerance;

43. Highly appreciates the decision of TURKSOY on declaring the city of Khiva, Uzbekistan as Cultural Capital of the Turkic World 2020, the ancient and unique city with 2500 years of history, where many Turkic states were founded;

44. Highly appreciate the organization of joint events with Turkic cooperation organizations to be dedicated to the 1500th anniversary of Orkhon Yenisey inscriptions in 2020 and, in this context, emphasizes the necessity of preservation and promotion of historical and cultural values of the Turkic world;

45. Expresses the congratulations on the occasion of the anniversaries of the prominent personalities of the Turkic world, such as the 650th anniversary of Azerbaijani hurufi poet Imameddin Nasimi and the 125th anniversary of Ashik Veysel;

46. Appreciates the efforts of the Kyrgyz Republic in founding, establishing and promoting the World Nomad Games held in 2014, 2016 and 2018 in Issyk-Kul lake of the Kyrgyz Republic, which contribute to the development of ethno-historical sports, inter-civilizational and inter-cultural dialogue, and calls upon all Member States to participate at the highest level at the next World Nomad Games to be held in 2020 in Turkey;
47. Highly appreciates the cordial hospitality of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan extended in Baku and the outstanding organization of the Ninth Plenary Session of TURKPA;

48. Decides to hold the Tenth Plenary Session in 2020 in the Republic of Kazakhstan.