



AVİM

Türkmeneli İşbirliđi ve Kültür Vakfı
AVRASYA İNCELEMELERİ MERKEZİ
CENTER FOR EURASIAN STUDIES

TURKIC COUNCIL AND COOPERATION IN EURASIA IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE REGION



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ABOUT AVİM

The Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) is an independent, non-profit think tank based in Ankara. The mission of AVİM is to advise and educate researchers, journalists, policy makers and the broader community about the current political affairs in the regions, which are strategically important to Turkey such as the EU, the Balkans, the Wider Black Sea Region, the Caucasus and the Central Asia. With this mission, AVİM aims to contribute to the understanding of challenges and opportunities that Turkey faces within the changing global geopolitical context. The geopolitical position of Turkey requires great attention to the Eurasian Region with two hinges on the Balkans and the Caucasus. With this awareness, AVİM attributes particular attention to these two regions. Within this context, AVİM has a special interest in the controversial Turkish-Armenian relations.

Building a network of scholars and experts on the Eurasian Region to facilitate intellectual interchanges among diverse views and perspectives is one of the objectives of AVİM. Within this framework, AVİM collaborates with national and international governmental and non-governmental organizations, independent policy institutions and universities and aims to enhance those partnerships.

AVİM publishes books and reports based on original research, conference proceedings and policy briefs both in print and electronic format. AVİM shares news and commentaries related to its field of work on its website and distributes a daily bulletin via email. AVİM publishes the following three peer-reviewed academic journals.

- Ermeni Arařtırmaları (in Turkish; since 2001)
- Review of Armenian Studies (in English; since 2002)
- Uluslararası Suçlar ve Tarih (bilingual in English and Turkish; since 2005)

AVİM has been carrying on its activities within the scope of the above mentioned aims since 2009 with its Honorary President Ambassador (R) Ömer Engin LÜTEM, President Ambassador (R) Alev KILIÇ, experts and administrative personnel.

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INFORMATION NOTE ON THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF THE TURKIC SPEAKING STATES (TURKIC COUNCIL)

The Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) was established by the Nakhchivan Agreement, which was signed at the Turkic Summit of Heads of States held in Nakhchivan in 2009 with the overarching aim to promote comprehensive cooperation among Turkic Speaking States. The founding and current members are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.

The Turkic Council is an intergovernmental organization committed to the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (UN) and other universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of states, as well as the maintenance of international peace, security and development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations. Turkic Council is an organisation dedicated to strengthening peace and stability, promoting wide-ranging cooperation and disclosing the potential for common development amongst its member states. Bringing together a particular group of countries, the organization takes an inclusive approach with regard to the regional cooperation. Thus, by promoting deeper relations and solidarity amongst Turkic speaking countries, it aims to serve as a new regional instrument for advancing international cooperation in Eurasian continent, particularly in Central Asia and Caucasus.

Being constructed on four main pillars as common history, common language, common identity and common culture, the Turkic Council does not limit itself to the confines of these commonalities. Rather, it aims to broaden the existing bilateral cooperation areas such as economy, science, education, transportation, customs, tourism and other various fields between the Member States into multilateral cooperation for the benefit of the region. Also the Turkic Council does not limit itself within the frames of its Member States and willingly cooperates with its neighbour states in order to ensure peace and stability in its region particularly in the fields of transport, customs, tourism etc.

Furthermore, activities of the Turkic Council are also supported by its related and affiliated organizations as Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA), International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY), Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation and Turkic Business Council.

Attributing utmost importance to the regional and international cooperation, the Turkic Council, as observer to the Economic Cooperation Organization is in cooperation with numerous global initiatives and international organizations including OSCE, EU, World Customs Organization and relevant agencies of the UN.

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ABOUT SAM

Center for Strategic Research of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey (SAM) is a think-tank and a research center which is chartered by law and has been active since May 1995. SAM was established as a consultative body to provide Turkish Foreign Policy decision makers with scholarly and scientific assessments of relevant issues, and reviews Turkish foreign policy with a futuristic perspective.

SAM conducts research, organizes scholarly events relevant to the ever expanding spectrum of Turkish Foreign Policy in cooperation with both Turkish and foreign academicians, its counterparts from around the world as well as various universities and government agencies. SAM provides consultancy to the foreign ministry departments as well as some other state institutions in foreign policy issues while also establishing regional think-tank networks.

SAM has signed about 50 MoU with different institutions, from to governmental organizations, in 45 countries across to the world. SAM pays reciprocal visits to these think-tanks and organizes workshops/ round-table meetings in every year.

SAM employs undergraduates as well as graduate students in full-time and part-time internship throughout the year for those who want to gain knowledge and experience in Turkish- foreign policy. Over 120 students were enrolled in the internship program in 2014.

SAM organizes summer/winter school programs for young students interested in foreign policy and diplomacy to inform them about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the profession. A limited number of outstanding students, selected from among a large number of applicants, attend the lectures given by senior diplomats, top-level bureaucrats and academics on a wide range of issues related to international relations.

SAM has a widening range of publications. Along with its traditional publication, Perceptions, which is a quarterly English language journal that hosts distinguished Turkish and international scholars within its pages, SAM recently initiated Vision Papers which expresses the views of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu and SAM Papers that will cover the current debates of foreign policy by various scholars.


With its commitment to contribution to the body of knowledge and constructive debate particularly in Turkish Foreign Policy, SAM will continue to serve as an indispensable think-tank and research center given its role promoting interaction and mutual benefits among the MFA, NGOs, other think-tanks and the broader scientific community and hence strengthen the human and intellectual capital of Turkey.

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TURKIC COUNCIL AND COOPERATION IN EURASIA IN THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE REGION*



Ambassador Ramil HASANOV, Secretary General of the Turkic Council

Distinguished guests, we are pleased to greet you all of you at this meeting organized jointly by the Turkish Council, Center for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey (SAM) and Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM).

Our meeting today is a project prepared by the Turkic Council in cooperation with the think-tanks for the first time. As you are aware of it, the Turkic Council was established in Nakhichevan in 2009 by a joint decision of our Presidents. The Turkic Council has been materialized with the valuable initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev with the common consent of the Heads of State of Turkey, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. On this occasion, in your presence, I would like to convey once again my gratitude to our statesmen for the support they have provided to us for the last five years.

* The document is the report of the first meeting that was organized by the Turkic Council in cooperation with Strategic Research Center of the Ministry Affairs of the Republic of Turkey and Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) held on 24 February 2015 in Ankara.

As the Turkic Council, we attach utmost importance to the cooperation with the think-tanks and strategic research centers, which are important elements of the foreign policy-making process. Making analysis and exchanging ideas on projects shaping the future, gathering ideas together and putting forward relevant proposals to this end are a part of challenging job. Our distinguished scientists, ambassadors-in-office and retired ones, academicians and researchers put considerable effort in this direction. In this context, I would like to thank everyone who have contributed to both our joint initiative and to their individual work on their own field.

At the same time, I would like to extend my gratitude for the support provided to the Turkic Council by our Member States of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey along with other brotherly countries.

As you know, February 26 is a very important day for Azerbaijan. It is the anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre. On this occasion, in your presence, with all of you, I would like to wish God's mercy to all the martyrs of the Turkic world who have sacrificed their lives for their territory as well as for their homeland.

In fact, the work conducted by scientists, academics and diplomats serve the same purpose. Our goal is to ensure that our people continue their lives in a more peaceful and prosperous way. Every step we take in this direction will provide good results for peace and security in the world. Apart from the representatives of our Member States, we also invited to our meeting today the Ambassador of Hungary to Turkey with which we, as the Turkic Council, aim to establish close relations. Availing of this opportunity, I would like to thank Mr. Viktor Matis, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy, for his participation in this meeting.

Two of our very valuable Ambassadors are also here with us today. I would also like to thank them in person separately. Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Ankara H.E. Mr. Canseyit Tüymebayev and Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Ankara H.E. Mr. İbragim Yunusov never spare their valuable supports to our work. I would also like to thank them for their participation in our today's meeting.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Counsellor of the Embassy of Republic of Azerbaijan in Ankara attending our meeting, and through him also extending my gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan for its continuous contribution to our activities. I would like to thank particularly H.E. Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and Ambassador Ali Kemal Aydın, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, who honored our meeting with their participation. Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to Prof. Dr. Ali Resul Usul, Chairman of of Center for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey (SAM) and Ambassador Alev Kılıç, Director of the Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM) for the cooperation that they displayed in the preparation of our meeting.

We also invited to our meeting our esteemed senior, Founding Secretary General of the Turkic Council, Retired Ambassador H.E. Mr. Halil Akıncı, who will enlighten us with his

experience on the subject of today's event. Mr. Halil Akıncı has been within the process since the existence of the idea for the establishment of the Turkic Council. By assuming the position of Secretary General, he has pioneered in the implementation of many important projects for the last four years. In your presence, I would also like to express my gratitude to him for his valuable contributions to the Turkic World. Indeed, following the official opening of the meeting, Ambassador Akıncı will present to you a comprehensive explanation regarding the foundations on which the Council was established as well as its activities.

Secretary General of TURKSOY, Ambassador Dusen Kaseinov and the Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to TURKSOY, Mr. Elchin Gafarli are also among us today. Dinamic President of Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Farhad Mammadov is also attending our meeting. I also would like extend my thanks to him and I hope to see our Kazakh and Kyrgyz brothers and sisters at our upcoming meetings as well. I will appreciate to have support of our Ambassadors on the subject matter. I hope that we will carry out many result-oriented meetings in the future under the umbrella of the Turkic Council with their valuable support.

As you know, the Turkic Council has been operating for 5 years. We put these 5 years into 5 minutes and prepared an introductory film. Our introductory film is in three languages. Now, with your permission, I would like to introduce our film to you. Today's meeting has a special importance in that sense as the film is shared with the public opinion for the first time at this meeting. Then, I will leave the floor the distinguished speakers. Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey my thanks to Assoc. Prof. Kürşat Zorlu and his team for their efforts for the preparation of this introductory film.

Let me conclude my words here and now let's watch the introductory film together with the distinguished members of the press.





Ambassador Ali Kemal AYDIN, Deputy Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

Dear Secretary General, Dear Ambassadors, Distinguished Guests, Distinguished Members of the Press,

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone and in particular to the Turkic Council Secretariat for their contribution in organizing this meeting, and I wish this meeting will be successful and conduce to a productive exchange of views.

I additionally would like to express that I also find appropriate and meaningful that this meeting was organized for our country's select academicians and think-tank representatives. I believe that the discussions and brainstorming expected to take place today will lead to new ideas and proposals that will inspire the operations of the Secretariat.

Distinguished Guests, Eurasia, which was defined by the British geographer and geo-strategist Mackinder as the world-island at the beginning of the past century, contains 4,3 billion people equating to %60 of the world's population on an area of 55 million km². Taking into account that the European portion of Eurasia contains a population of 550 million and covers an area of 10 million km², Asia's importance stands out in terms of population and geography.

Besides its large geography and large population, political and economic developments also demonstrate the Asia's importance. The Turkic World has an indispensable importance in the large Eurasian geography. The economic and demographic potential of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in total is 9th with its population of 140 million, 7th with its area of 4,8 million square kilometers and 13th with its GNP of 1,5 trillion.

Central Asia, situated at the heart of Asia, is the cradle and birthplace of the Turkic identity. The reestablishment of relations between our country and the countries in the region following the end of the Cold War stood out as a new and valuable dimension of the Turkish foreign policy. As a matter of fact, special ties that we share form the basis of the relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan and Central Asian countries. Therefore, within the first 10 years following the dissolution of the USSR, this common history and shared cultural values formed the dynamics of Turkey's relations with Turkic Republics.

Turkey's approach to the region is shaped around contemporary and universal values such as the enhancement of independence of these countries which won their freedom, restoration of their political and economic stability, and supporting these states on being in cooperation among themselves and with their neighbors and embracing democratic values.

In this period of over 20 years since their independence, countries in the region made significant progress in political, economic and socio-cultural fields. The present situation today is important with regard to these countries which preserved their independence and sovereignty despite the challenges of the 90s.

In the 1990's, several strategists and political scientist were skeptical whether these countries could remain independent for a long time. There were people arguing that these brother countries would be set the examples of "failed states" along with economic and social breakdown.

Indeed, the 1990's were not easy for the Turkic Republics in many respects. Like Turkic people's source of pride and our world-renowned author, Chinghiz Aitmatov said, there were "days that lasted more than a hundred years." However, the ones who expected the Turkic people to be objects of history were mistaken. All of the brother republics managed to stand on their own feet in a very short time. We witnessed the Turkic World get through the first major challenge in this period of independence following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

In this period of over twenty years, relations and cooperation between Turkey and brother Republics developed in all areas, diversified and ultimately institutionalized under the umbrella of the Council. We gladly observe that the Turkic Council's operations, which are implemented with an inclusive view, contribute to the cooperation, stability and prosperity in our region.

To view the Turkic Council as a simple regional organization among member states is a lacking and narrow evaluation. The Turkic Council is a multifaceted and comprehensive organization that carries out its operations to improve cooperation, enhance mutual economic

dependence and collaboration, and strengthen socio-cultural interaction within the framework of regional ownership.

In its founding agreement, the primary targets of the Council are defined as; consolidation of mutual environment of trust within the Turkic World, strengthening of political solidarity, acceleration of opportunities for economic and technical cooperation, establishment of sound human relations and comprehensive recording of historical and cultural accumulations of the Turkic world.

Since its foundation, cooperation projects launched within a wide range of areas from economy to culture, from transportation to education, strengthened our faith in the Council each passing day. We gladly observe that contacts among our institutions are increasing and the meetings set goals towards concrete results. With the realization of the projects on our agenda, trade between member countries will expand, transportation services will develop, and relations in the fields of culture, education, science and sports will strengthen. Inasmuch as we succeed in this, the appeal and attraction for the Turkic Council will increase.

We see that the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TÜRKPA), International Organization of Turkic Culture (TÜRKSÖY), the Turkic Academy in Astana and Turkic Culture and Heritage Fund that is to be operationalized in Baku are complementary structures under the umbrella of the Turkic Council. The successes of these organizations will be the success of the Council.

Works and successes of the Turkic Council in the international arena are also important. Therefore, we prioritize the improvement of cooperation with regional and international organizations. Turkic Council's observer status at the Economic Cooperation was endorsed during the 20th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers held on 15 October 2012, in Baku. The Turkic Council was represented as observer in the 21th Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers held on 26 November 2013, in Tehran.

Turkic Council's invitation to the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the "Istanbul Process on Afghanistan", held on 31 October 2014, in Beijing, is also evidence of the important steps taken to prove itself as an organization. Gaining observer status at the UN is our primary international objective in the short-term.

Distinguished guests, despite the success stories of the countries in the region, it is a fact that the transition process still continues and stability remains fragile. There are many factors that can fuel the instability in Asia, which hosts many hot and frozen conflicts. Especially the existing border disputes between countries, the increasing rivalry on water and energy, the growing influence of the extremists, rising nationalism, historical animosities and wage gaps stand out as factors that could trigger potential conflicts.

The situation in Afghanistan and the country's future will directly affect the region. The developments in Syria, Foreign Terrorist Fighters from Central Asia going to the region and the developments in the Middle East could directly affect the region. Inadequate regional

partnership appears to be a weakness against all these threats and challenges. Turning these challenges into opportunities depends on the solidarity and cooperation of the Turkic Republics among themselves and the countries in the region.

When looked at history, we observe that the time Central Asian countries were the most powerful and effective was when the Silk Road was the main route of world trade. Regions and countries which lost their geo-economic existence and are out of the global economic integration processes and world trade routes lose their influence in the field of politics and civilization. Therefore, the Silk Road should be regarded as the lifeline of the political efficiency, economic integration and civilized life.

For this reason, we should strive to rebuild the historical Silk Road, this time through railway networks, highway networks, energy corridors, natural gas pipelines. With our Middle Corridor project, we aim to turn Central Asia into a central region of global economy again. Liberalization of land transport, lifting of quotas, and increase of the harbor capacities on the Caspian Sea will provide extra impetus to the economies of these countries.

Opening up the region's energy capacity to the world markets is another important pillar of cooperation. Within this framework, we added the Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TAHAP) to the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) and Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum (BTE) pipelines, which constitute the two key components of the East-West energy corridor. The completion of this project which will enable the transportation of Azerbaijani natural gas to the European markets is planned to be completed as soon as possible.

In the coming period, it is our greatest hope that our ties will strengthen and the Turkic world will become the subject of developments in international politics, instead of being the object. Our cooperation and solidarity under the roof of the Turkic Council will be our greatest advantage in this process. Naturally, we hope that Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan will join us.

President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's visit to the Summit held in our country last June was an important step in this regard. We are pleased with Turkmenistan's participation in meetings at various levels and the improving relations under the umbrella of the Council, along with our bilateral cooperation. We hope that the improving relations with Uzbekistan also will reflect positively on our relations within the framework of the Council.

Dear Friends, it is necessary to revive the language, belief and culture of Central Asia that is weakened in the past two centuries and thus, wanted to be liquidated through revitalization. In the past two centuries, Central Asia strived to protect its culture and finally succeeded. Today, we observe the emergence of an area of cultural integration in Central Asia and the Turkic world. A common language, a common concept and a common city culture are emerging. These are the first signs of a cultural revival. The foundation of Astana, the transformation of Almaty, Ashgabat and Tashkent into bright cities, the rise of Turkistan, Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva to their former glory are the signs of a cultural rebirth.

Looking to the future, the most important test before us is to secure the existence and continuity of the Turkic World and for this, leave behind a Turkic World which is integrated with the coming generations, developed and have strong brotherly ties. To this end, continuing the reforms without the fear of change, taking firm steps in the fields of democracy, economy, law and education are essential to further enhance the existing cooperation. The strength in unity will be the most important advantage of the Turkic world in this process.

Distinguished guests, the Turkic Council, which is attached great importance and cared by Turkey since its foundation, is not only valued by Turkey, but also by the whole the Turkic World. Our hope is that our Council will grow stronger and be institutionalized together with the Turkic World and guide this rich and strong legacy which is our duty to hand over to the coming generations. With these thoughts, I wish you a very successful meeting and I extend my greetings and regards to you all.



Prof. Ali Resul USUL, Chairman of Center for Strategic Research (SAM) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

Thank you Mr. Secretary General, Your Excellency Mr. Deputy Undersecretary, Distinguished Ambassadors and Dear Colleagues;

Firstly, let me express my respects to each of you and wish you a pleasant day. I would like to thank to the Turkic Council and Center for Eurasian Studies (AVİM). I think that this joint meeting is both important and timely. In my address, I would like to put forward precise approaches regarding the quest for cooperation for peace and security in Eurasia.

I would firstly state that we are experiencing an interesting period with regard to the global political dynamics in the first 15 years of the 21st century. I consider that we should primarily understand the nature of this period and develop new ideas on it. The quest for cooperation for peace and security in Eurasia and the geography covering the Turkic Council States will make sense in this effort.

I think that the nature of the political relations in the post-Cold War period is passing through a twilight. In the post-Cold War period, international political order has not institutionalized at the desired level. Quite the opposite, we witness centrifugal elements gaining weight at international politics. There are a lot of reasons behind it. One of them is the eroding of the global hegemonic structure. On one hand, centrifugal elements are gaining

weight and on the other hand, both regional and international threats are becoming more complex. Moreover, we see that international institutions fail to respond to these threats.

In this context, there are two concrete examples which are affecting Turkey. Among these, crises in the Middle East like in Iraq and Syria come first and Ukraine crisis comes second. Despite these crises result from a number of regional and domestic factors, we should not ignore the global context. It is hard to define and explain these crises within a limited time. However, with regards to our topic, which is Eurasian politics, I think that we have to stick to the aforementioned framework. In this sense, three international variants are important with respect to the future international political structure.

The first one is the question of whether the tension between Russia and Western powers will pour into other regions. The second one is whether the United States will return to the Eurasian region which was neglected before. This is very crucial because it can be easily seen in United States' national strategy documents that the United States focusing on Eurasian region. The third and last of these three international variants is China's changing global role. That is to say, Russia and China have developed great projects towards Eurasia from where America has partially withdrawn. The most well-known of these is the Silk Road Project. It has been mentioned here, as well. Of course, while mentioning the Silk Road Project, we should underline three different Silk Road Projects in Turkey's perspective. The first one is a project developed by China that has been given high importance recently. Turkey continues to closely follow this project. Besides, we see that both Europeans and Americans are striving for developing their own Silk Road versions. As a result, a Silk Road phenomenon will mark the forthcoming days. We should closely follow these developments also for our national interests. Certainly, being completely indifferent to the wheels of global politics is impossible. First and foremost, I would like to share my opinions and views about quest for cooperation for the countries in the region within the aforementioned framework.

Even if it is difficult to predict exactly how regional problems as well as the latest developments in global politics will affect the region, it is an undeniable fact that we have entered into a tenser and complicated period of international relations in the 21st century compared to the 1990s. This results from the fact that both actors and issues causing problems are more complicated. The instruments of global and regional instability are increasing and present a more complicated nature.

This situation drives the Eurasian countries to more cooperation for peace and security. That is to say, it is a well-known fact that various activities have been organized in order to ensure peace and security in the Eurasia until today, and many regional organizations were founded regarding this issue. One of these organizations is the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), of which Turkey was previously the chairman-in-office.

However, looking into the nature of these regional organizations founded on the basis of cooperation and integration among the Eurasian countries, we see that cooperation at the desired level has not been established yet. We observe that this cooperation has not been

established among the countries in the Central Asia in private. We should see that there is partially reluctance and partially mistrust in terms of carrying further the cooperation among the Eurasian countries. This reluctance and mistrust can be considered as the nature of international politics. Moreover, we see that the well-known "win-win" idea, which is a driving and mental factor in improvement of interstate cooperation, is useless from time to time. Because, states start to take into consideration relative gain in such circumstances.

I believe that in this situation it is very important to increase mutual trust at political and social levels in the relations among states and their quest for cooperation. It is very important to develop strategies regarding this issue. In addition to this, there is another issue we overlook. That is the insufficiency of transnational relations among social actors and civil society.

In the European integration, which is a successful example in cooperation and integration history of the world, there are many fields which will give inspiration about this issue. Of course, it is not possible to directly transfer the political integration in the political history of Europe to Eurasia. But, this does not mean that there will not be a source of inspiration.

Looking into the non-state transnational paraphernalia box, we see that two fields especially come to the forefront regarding this issue. The first one of these is increasing mutual trade. The other is social elements, transnational relations and the progress to be achieved in the region about this issue within the context of regional cooperation and integration.

Unfortunately, the concept of "transnational" or cross border" may evoke negative connotations. The most well-known of these is the issue of cross border and transnational crimes or criminal enterprises. In fact, these are great elements of threat in terms of instability of the region. We should take these into consideration. In addition to this, I think that the increasing social mobility in Eurasian region has the nature to break down socio-cultural prejudices that may be present in countries.

In this respect, it is certain that the states in the regions should have strong national identities. This is very important for domestic stability and peace. In my view, joint understanding may be useful to some extent among these strong national identities I mentioned within the scope of social mobility. For instance, a few moment ago Mr. Secretary General talked about "Orkhun Process". This is a significant development and should be continued. In addition, it is very important to have an academic exchange program like Erasmus, as well. In other words, I think that social, cultural, artistic and academic activities in region should be carried out in a cross border manner.

On the other hand, it is necessary that cultural ties that may be established by the aforementioned strong national identities in Eurasia for development of cooperation in Central Asia, as well. Namely, it goes without saying that one of the fundamental elements of the stability in Central Asia and Eurasia is strong national identities. However, the other element is the common ground to be established among these strong national identities.

Indeed , establishment of the Turkic Council shows us that this strategic insight is present.

As a cultural element, we have a common literature and it has to gain popularity. I would like to remind one thing. Popularization of common cultural elements is very crucial but these cultural elements must not be exclusionist, but inclusionary. In other words, the development of a common imagination for civilization is inherent in the quest for security and cooperation. This is a secret which is present in the Turkic Council. For example, Khoja Akhmet Yassawi, Fuzuli, Nasreddin Hodja, Dede Korkut, Koroghlu, Epic of Manas, Mevlana Jalāl ad-Dīn Rūmī, Ali Şir Nevai and others... These names I mentioned are the elements of this secret. These are very important values, but what is the popularity level of these values? That is quite indefinite. What is important here is the necessity of transferring the knowledge at the level of specialists to the nations.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to underline that the number of the centrifugal points and the security issues in the international and regional political environment has increased. Indeed, this topic is one of the most essential issues in Eurasia today. And wherever we go, we come across this issue. In this environment, it is essential that the states in Eurasia and Central Asia are involved in more cooperation than ever before. In this regard, I believe that international factors should be addressed as well. Thank you very much.



**Ambassador Alev KILIÇ,
Director of Center for Eurasian Studies**

Thank you Mr. General Secretary. First of all, on behalf of AVIM, I would like to thank Turkic Council for holding this meeting in collaboration with SAM.

Esteemed ambassadors, dear guests, we have listened to very valuable views. I would like to express that we are in full agreement with the approach of the Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey Ambassador Aydın and Director of SAM, Prof. Usul on the issues that they raised. Due to time constraints and to avoid repetition, I would like to briefly refer to some points. Our common ground is this: The importance of the Turkic Council, the necessity of cooperation and solidarity within the Council, and if possible, for the Turkic Council to reach its natural borders. In other words, our common wish is for the fulfillment of the expansion of the Council as indicated in the previous speeches.

The Turkic Council lies within the Eurasian geography. What is Eurasia? We are talking about %36 of world's total area. When we define Eurasia in general terms, what we mean is a land mass that stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and vice-versa. Of course, there are many sub-regions within this land mass. Then, we face the topic of political formations. We look at Europe. Europe has nearly completed its political formation. The European Union has come to encompass nearly the entirety of the European continent or the Europe section of Eurasia.

Besides this, what else is present in the Eurasian formation? We see the Eurasian Economic Union spearheaded by Russia. From today's outlook, this Eurasia is of course a different, more

limited Eurasia, and what we see is Russia aiming to establish an area that encompasses the former geography of the old Soviet Union.

Later on, we see China as an important player in Eurasia. The fact that the new President of China paid his first visits to the Central Asian Republics and that all these visits put for a single issue, the Silk Road, on the agenda is especially attention-grabbing. China incorporates both the land and the sea while mentioning the Silk Roads, as the previous speakers have mentioned. Thus, accordingly, it brings the concept of Silk Roads on our agenda.

From this perspective, we come to the following conclusion: There is a Eurasia according to China, there is also a Eurasia according to Russia, but amidst all of these is a large piece or area that we refer to as the Central Asian Republics or Turkic Republics. We are talking about a 5 million square kilometer area and a region with a population of 140-150 million people. We think that this region, foremost for our interests, is one that must be looked out for by Turkey, the Turkic Council, its Member States and all Turkic Republics.

In terms of new formations, we take a look at the way the Eurasian Union views Eurasia. In Eurasian Union's view of Eurasia, we see that cooperation, I mean trade and investment, is at the forefront. We see that Europe's general interest in Eurasia is in no way decreasing, on the contrary, it is increasing.

In this same respect, we take a look at the United States. We see a different situation in terms of the US. I would like to especially draw attention to this. We see that in recent times, the US has a different set of trade and investment partnership projects in the Atlantic and the Pacific. This is highly important. That is to say, there is a US that puts forth Asia and Europe as two different units. The US, instead of having the concept of Eurasia, wishes to pursue an Atlantic cooperation with Europe, and a Pacific cooperation with especially the geographically corner countries of Asia. This creates a gap in the Eurasia in the way we understand it.

From this view, I would like to briefly come to a point that I define as the dilemma of Turkey. I very much liked Prof. Usul's "we are passing through a twilight" expression. In a period in which we truly pass through a twilight, we question the following: What is the effect of Turkey in a period in which the economic and political power is shifting to the East, towards the Pacific, a period in which a new political and economic power is being formed in China? Turkey is both European and Asian. Nothing to the contrary has ever been said. One of our footings is in Europe, the other one is in Asia. In terms of the economic and global developments up until now, we were a country that more so took its place in the circle of the West, of Europe. Today, in terms of the power distribution that is expanding or shifting to the east, Turkey is becoming a central country in the Eurasian geography. In this respect, the Turkic Council is coming to have a central place.

As such, for us, the Eurasian formation carries importance in terms of us reaching the Central Asian or the Turkic Republics, for the closing of the gap between the East and the West through communication, and for the East and the West to be united through Turkey.

This view of Turkey is not very old. Here, I would like to briefly mention the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, which has an idea in its core. Furthermore, the Economic Cooperation Organization contains 10 countries, which includes all of the Turkic Council Member States and the Central Asian Republics. These can be qualified as initiatives that are to fill a gap, initiatives which will fill this gap in way that will balance the East and the West. But what do we see today? The other organization to which I wish to draw attention is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization may also be defined as such: Instead of conflict and competition, it is Russia's and China's initiative to form a union in Eurasia.

Here, we observe that Turkey's interest in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is sometimes wrongly interpreted in the Turkish press. That is to say, this organization is being shown almost as an alternative to the European Union. This is absolutely not the case. Turkey's place is no doubt the European Union. We have a Customs Union with the European Union and negotiations for full membership to the European Union is continuing. Turkey's expectation for the future is being a communication bridge in a central location in Eurasia, namely between the European Union and Asia.

Accordingly, Turkey's interest in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is understandable and legitimate. This is so because, as a country, Turkey is in a position in which it wishes to have an equal say alongside the Turkic Council countries -the Central Asian republics- in its geography, in the terms of Eurasia, as well as within the body of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Turkey has the vision in which the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is not solely an Asian formation, instead it is something that can be transformed into a cooperation that is in communication with the European Union.

Here, I would like to touch upon one final point. Is Turkey faced with a dilemma? If Turkey becomes left out in the Atlantic cooperation, which is the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement foreseen by the US with the European Union, then it would in one sense mean that its relations with the European Union is heading towards being ended. In this new formation, the European Union is heading towards direct integration with the Atlantic trade and cooperation. A Turkey that is left out of this will be one that loses all the gains it has made from the Customs Union. That is to say, Turkey's being left out of the Trans-Atlantic trade and investment cooperation should not happen. However, if this approach comes to go in a direction in which it will separate Asia and Europe and thus ceases to see Eurasia as a whole, Turkey will be faced with a dilemma in this context. Turkey does not want to break off from Asia. In other words, it does not want to break its relations with Asia and the Turkic Council.

In this sense, this is the gist of my words: the more the Turkic Council advances, the more it becomes stronger, it will reinforce the Eurasian imperative. It will be revealed and grasped even more globally than ever for the Eurasian Union and Turkey, relations with the European Union, with the Atlantic cooperation and with Central Asia are equally necessary and beneficial.



Ambassador Ramil HASANOV, Secretary General of Turkic Council

Distinguished friends, the Turkic Council takes really important steps for its region and union of the world, as our esteemed seniors and presidents of the research institutions have pointed out. In this context, the targets of our Heads of State and Foreign Ministries are prevalent. For the materialization of these targets, activities have been conducted within the Turkic Council as Deputy Undersecretary Ambassador Ali Kemal Aydın has stated.

As an international organization desiring peace, stability, economy and prosperity, we, for sure, are in normal contact with all of the countries in the region, even with the ones which are competing with each other.

In this regard, as the Turkic Council, we continue our contacts with both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation and the European Union. In the past few days, we made comprehensive consultations with Deputy Foreign Minister of Russian Federation and Senior Representatives of the European Union External Action Service thanks to the efforts of the common contributions of our Member States and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey as the current chairman-in-office. We are an international organization which is not against any party as Ambassador Aydın has just underlined, and we have an inclusive approach for cooperation rather than exclusivist as our esteemed seniors have pointed out. Hence, we are ready and open for cooperation with all institutions and states desiring peace and serenity.

As a matter of fact, we are currently in collaboration with many international institutions

and programs. For instance, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Customs Organization in Brussels, last week. Our endeavors for the same purpose with the UN World Tourism Organization are continuing, as well. That's to say; our contacts with the European Union and Russia as well as other several international organizations and processes all over the world are ongoing. In this regard, the Turkic Council has become an important organization that is paid attention by international society in a very short period of time.

Moreover, I would like talk a little bit more about the Young Diplomats Training Program. This is a very significant project signifying an investment in the future. Why? Today, we have four Member States but I hope we will be six-seven countries in the near future. Within the scope of the said program, young diplomats from our Member States come together and receive training on various subjects including protocol issues during 15 days and also they learn about their dialects and more importantly strengthen their friendship bonds. That is the most important thing. Because we consider this project, repeated every year as a staunch investment in the future. If our young diplomats become aware of the fact that they come from the same origin, same brother nationality; if they acknowledge that they have similarities and if they reinforce their personal ties, the relations between our countries and societies will be stronger within upcoming 20 years later.

I would like to thank to H.E. Mr. Canseyit Tüymebayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Ankara, on this occasion, as he accepted our invitation and will participate in the second project of Young Diplomats Training Program to be conducted in Baku. Ambassador Halil Akıncı will also participate in the program and will offer an insight to young diplomats with his deep knowledge on this issue. H.E. Hikmet Çetin, Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Hasan Hasanov, Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan will also attend this program as lecturers.

Furthermore, I find it necessary to inform you about the flag of the Turkic Council. The formation of this flag is a historical issue as well. Ambassador Halil Akıncı knows this better as during his term of office, in 2012, our flag was adopted. The color of this flag refers to the flag of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Also turquoise blue was also the color of the flag of Gokturk Empire, as you know. The figure of sun on the flag refers to the figure of the sun on the flag of the Kyrgyz Republic. The crescent refers to the crescent symbol on the Turkish flag and the octangular star refers to the star on the flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

We come up with the question what changes can be done on the flag when Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan become a member of the Council. While designing the flag we also paid attention to this fact and took into consideration their possible membership to the Council. Thus, both brother countries have crescents on their own flags. Furthermore, when they decide to join the Turkic Council, we will definitely find a way for their representation on this common flag.

I want to share also this information the following information with you. The Parliament of Hungary is officially an observer member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries-TÜRKPА. Moreover, the Turkic Council and TURKSOY (International Organization



of Turkic Culture) desire to enhance cooperation with Hungary. Currently, the Turkic Academy also works actively with Hungary. In parallel with this, we are pleased to have our Hungarian brothers and sisters with us today and wish to take joint measures in our upcoming activities.

Distinguished friends, I would like to thank once more to all guests spending their valuable time to attend this meeting on this occasion. Deputy Undersecretary Ambassador Ali Kemal Aydın needs to leave the meeting after a short time due to his busy schedule. Taking this opportunity, I would like to reiterate my gratitude to him not only for his participation in the meeting but also the support that he conveyed to the Turkic Council.

With your permission, let's continue. Now we will go on with the presentations. As I have mentioned before, Ambassador Halil Akıncı, first Secretary General of the Turkic Council is our main lecturer for today. Starting from the establishment period of the Turkic Council, he exhorted extensive efforts for 4 years for the implementation of several projects with regards to the Turkic World and then he handed over such a responsibility to us. He still provides his valuable support to us.

I would like to give the floor to the first Secretary General of the Turkic Council, Ambassador Halil Akıncı.



Ambassador Halil AKINCI, First Secretary General of the Turkic Council

Thank You Mr. Secretary General. If you allow me, I would like to touch on a few issues before I begin. One of the participants of the first Young Diplomats Program, Aija Tabaldiev is among us. She is currently working at the Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic in Ankara. Therefore, the Turkic Council is also serving to raise new generations working for the Turkic World. We have our first fruit with us today in this regard.

Secondly, I want to give additional information about the flag. Its colors are white and blue. Blue represents the East in among Turks, and white represents the West. The South is red, the North is black. These colors also indicate that the Turkic World extends from the East to the West and West to East. We have a flag story as such. This flag was adopted immediately without regard to much debate, and today, it is embraced by everyone.

Second issue is about a matter of terminology. We hear the word “Keneş” (Council) frequently. This word appears in the Diwan-u Lugat al-Turk (Compendium of the Languages of the Turks). If you look at our legal documents, our institution is referred to as Turkic Council, Türk Keneşi, Turkic Shura. You say Turkic but then you add a word with French origin such as “council” at the end of the name of the organization. I personally have found this inappropriate. After searching which word with Turkic origin may replace “council”, we have noticed that

“keneş” has the exact meaning of “council” as indicated in the Diwan-u Lugat al-Turk, and accordingly we started to use this term. It is a great pleasure for us that only our organization comes to mind when it is said “keneş”.

Mr. Secretary General, if you would allow me, now I would like to describe the process that led to the establishment of the Turkic Council.

In 1992, we held the first Turkic World Head of States Summit in Ankara. The picture you saw in the film of the Turkic World leaders on the balcony was taken at the second meeting held in Istanbul in 1993. Then subsequent Summits were held in a variety of countries in order. However, after a while, Uzbekistan started not to attend the Summits at the Head of State level. Afterwards, indeed, eventually, Uzbekistan stopped participation completely.

In the 2000s, Turkmenistan also started to not participate in the Summits at the Head of State level consistently. A debate started on whether to continue as it was or to wait for all the Turkic States to join in the Summit Process. Therefore, there was a short break in convening the Summit meetings. However, in the end, in 2006 Antalya Summit, a decision was taken to continue the meetings with those willing to attend with the sense that others would join once they see our success.

As Mr. Secretary General mentioned, Elbaşı (Father of the Nation) H.E. Nazarbayev has immense contributions in the founding of the Turkic Council and generally in the Turkic World. A look at the declarations of the Summits Process will show that many of the areas of cooperation that we are trying to achieve today were mentioned in these declarations. Therefore, no words were left unspoken. However, in the meantime, throughout the Summit Process, no considerable progress has been unfortunately made.

At the Tashkent Summit in 1996, there was an attempt to establish a Secretariat. However, this effort did not bear any results. Since 2006, these efforts picked up speed. Today, we have among us ambassadors who actively participated in these activities. The Turkic Council was founded by the decision taken in 2009 at the Nakhchivan Summit where the Nakhchivan Agreement was signed.

All right, what is the goal? What is the founding philosophy of the Turkic Council? What do we want to do? The independence of the Turkic States within the former Soviet geography was unexpected. Frankly, it was an abrupt development even for Turkey. In September 1991, before the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Turkey sent two delegations to the region to understand what was going on the ground. One of these delegations went to the Western Soviet Republics, non-Turkic Soviet Republics. The other delegation, of which I was a member, went to the Turkic Republics in the Caucasus and Central Asia. The delegation that went to the Turkic Republics later wrote a detailed report reflecting a positive stance on the issue of the recognizing the independence of these states. The rationale was the whole world would eventually recognize these states rich in natural resource and as Turkey we had a moral debt to these countries. Therefore, there was a material and a moral side of this issue. Within the last 20 years, these states have become truly indispensable parts of the world family. Although the state-building process has not been completed in all the Turkic World States, they each are now respected members of the international arena.

All right, what is the goal of the Turkic Council? There is an issue attributed utmost attention in the international arena: this is the issue of strategic weight. The strategic weight for Turkey during that period was to be NATO's outpost as a country bordering Russia. As a result, Turkey's strategic weight was determined according to the parameters of the situation it was in.

Now, our goal in establishing the Turkic Council is for the Council to have its own strategic weight. We would like to hear, for example, Afghanistan is next to the Turkic Council, so it has political weight oriented to the Turkic World. Likewise, we would like to hear, Iraq is beside the Turkic Council, so it has political weight in this geography. There is conviction in our ability to achieve this among the Turkic World leaders. All that matters is to accept the fact of pursuing this step by step with conviction.

Except Turkey, all current and future members have gained their independence recently. For this reason, the principle of sovereign equality in the functioning of the Council is extremely important. It is very normal for communities that have lived under the control of different states for years to be sensitive about their sovereignty. The Turkic Council was founded not only on the principle of sovereign equality but also the principle of recognition and acceptance of identities. If a Kyrgyz doesn't know his/her Kyrgyz identity, a Kazak doesn't know his/her Kazak identity, an Azerbaijani doesn't know his/her Azerbaijani identity, then s/he will not be able to know Turkic-ness as his/her common identity. Therefore, our goal is to strengthen our common identity based on the basis of sovereign equality principle.

Surely, we do not want the development of radical nationalism, but I personally do not see any drawbacks for that kind of nationalism I alluded to earlier to develop.

What kind of cooperation should we aim for? I had said that all types of cooperation were mentioned during the Summit Process. Our goal is concrete result-oriented cooperation. In this regard, our approach is as follows. First let's remove any obstacles in front of us, and then let's open up new areas of cooperation and deepening our cooperation.

Since the beginning of the Summit Process, we were not able to bring together all of the ministers together. Despite the conduct of meetings at the level of Heads of State, the related ministers were not able to meet.

With the establishment of the Turkic Council, the ministers for the area of cooperation concerned started to meet. However, I need to share with you, it was not easy. Finally, there is among us a representative of the Embassy of Hungary as a guest. Is it possible to count them as so foreign? Because we have common ancestors and the Hungarians are more knowledgeable than us on this issue. Furthermore, I heard that they even have schools. In this regard, they are not foreigners.

In line with our founding principles, we do not aim to block any regional cooperation. On the contrary, we would like to occupy the place we deserve within the framework of a larger regional cooperation.

Now, I mentioned the meeting of the ministers. Was this easy at the beginning? No, it was not so easy. Now, maybe you will regard it as gossip, but I want to share with you. The decision

was made to hold the Turkic Council's first Summit of 2011 in Almaty with the theme of economic cooperation. Before the summit, we needed to bring the Ministers of Economy together. However, this was not so easy. One minister said he had an important meeting in Madrid, another one said they did not have any allowance left. There were even some who said "what if we met?" We had to contact the Heads of State to be able to hold a ministerial meeting, but we brought them under duress.

Do you know that now the Ministers of Economy are working closely with the Secretariat of the Council about when the next meeting is going to be held? They are proposing new issues of cooperation in this field to the Secretariat. Indeed, the tangible benefits have been and continue to be obtained since the committees within the scope of the Ministers of Economy started to meet. We came a long way in a short period of time.

We think the main issue is to bring out the energy around this organization and then channeling this common energy to a particular path. When we get together, just as it appears in the Turkish, Turkic-Mongolian legends, when five or ten Turk gets together, we are able to break the unbreakable. When we unite our energies in the Turkic Council, we saw that we can achieve great successes.

Later on, we expanded our cooperation to other areas. For example, we founded the Turkic University Union consisting of 15 universities, we held a meeting of the Ministers of Education, and we started working towards a common alphabet. The alphabet issue is a problem. In 1926, at the Turcology Congress held in Baku, an alphabet suitable for all Turkic languages was adopted. However, later in 1929, the current alphabet of Turkey was adopted and some of the letters were removed to be parsimonious. However, it is hard to say that the alphabet currently used in Turkey corresponds to each sound. Therefore, there are some shortcomings. At the Terminology Committee of the Turkic Council, we accepted and started to use the Turkic alphabet accepted at the 1926 Baku Turcology Congress and at the International Contemporary Turkic Alphabet Symposium hosted by Marmara University in 1991. We put forth this alphabet, each state is free to adopt it or not. In fact, this is a logical alphabet. Naturally, Turkey would probably need to add some letters as well.

Then what have we done in the second Summit held in Bishkek? After starting the cooperation in the economic field, we dealt with the cultural cooperation in the Second Summit. What was the result? The founding treaties of the Turkish Academy currently operating in Astana as an international organization and the Turkish Culture and Heritage Fund that will start operating in Baku were signed. The complementary agreements of the Secretariat of the Turkic Council were also signed at this Summit. The Academy and the Fund are our two key institutions founded after the Turkic Council.

My personal opinion is that the Turkic Academy will make important contributions to the studies with regard to the Turkic World. Among the first one is the Common History Book project that is currently being worked on. Churchill says that "History will be kind to me, because I will write it myself". So far, we have not written our history ourselves, others always wrote it and we have copied it. We have not even found our own documents ourselves. With the establishment of the Turkic Academy we started to write our own history for the first time.

Indeed, these days you see some speculations put forth about World War I that do not reflect the truth. When our own historians start writing our history based on our own resources, this situation will be eliminated. When President H.E. Aliyev accepted me with regard to the Turkish Culture and Heritage Fund, I should never forget, he said that we should be able to do archaeological research in Tuva. Think about this, even Orkhon inscriptions were deciphered by a foreign expert. Therefore, our goal is to train thereafter our own experts at the international level.

On the other hand, TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture), the oldest common institutions of the Turkic World founded in 1993, continues its cooperation in the cultural field at present. Indeed TURKSOY, appeals to more countries than the Turkic Council covers now and will ever be able to cover. Today, all of the Autonomous Turkic Republics in the Russian Federation are participating actively in the work of TURKSOY. Thus, the Turkic Council as the umbrella organization of cooperation in the Turkic World is in close cooperation with TURKSOY as its affiliated institution. On the other hand, TURKPA which forms the pillar of parliamentary cooperation in the Turkic World as another affiliated organization of the Council is doing a lot of very important work in its field. In addition, the Turkic Business Council under the umbrella of the Turkic Council is also deepening the cooperation in the Turkic business world through its organizing business forums.

At the Third Summit, we addressed the issue of transportation that carries both challenges and opportunities. We highlighted the importance of integrated multi-modal transportation through the Caspian Sea. Before the Summit held in Gabala, Azerbaijan, in 2013, we first brought together the Ministers of Transport of the Member States. At this meeting, a Coordination Council for Transport was established at the level of Deputy Ministers. Now, the Ministers of Transportation, Deputy Ministers and Representatives of the Working Group in Transport are teaming up on a regular basis. In parallel with our work, Azerbaijan has ordered two ferries to operate in the Caspian Sea between Baku and Aktau ports and also new port facilities are being built in the Caspian Sea. Our goal is for ferries in the Caspian Sea to operate on a regular basis. While taking these steps our goal is to revive the section of the Silk Road passing through the Caspian. The historical Silk Road has one main path and a large number of capillaries. This path consists of geographical barriers as well. Now, thanks to container technology, when a container truck load leaving Kazakhstan would go all the way to Europe by passing through the Caspian Sea, using the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and passing through the Turkish Straits. Therefore, we support all efforts on this route.

The method we use when implementing our work is as follows. For every field of cooperation we start, we establish a Senior Officials Committee and a mechanism of Ministerial level Meeting. Senior Officials Committees make the necessary preparations and present them to the Ministers for approval. We connect absolutely every issue to a document. We always feel the political will of the Heads of State in support of our work.

Now, there is a feature of the Turks, and that is to fight each other. So, if you ask what a Turk does in his spare time, he wages war against another Turk. Under the umbrella of the Turkic Council, Turks are voluntarily coming together for the first time.

There have been important developments at both ends of the Turkic World following the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in Vienna and with the death of the last great Mughal Emperor in 1707. The Republic of Turkey was founded after a long struggle which started with the Balkan Wars in 1912 and lasted until 1922. The other Turkic Republics were able to win full independence at the beginning of the 1990s. When we transform the existing potential for conflict in the region into cooperation, our weight in the world will surely increase. Indeed, it is known at the UN that the Turkic states have started to vote in accordance.

I was stationed in Moscow in the 1990's when the Turkic States became independent and then I worked at the capital on Central Asian affairs. I would like to say frankly that it was a period dominated by great excitement in Central Asia and Turkey. When we were the only Turkic State, suddenly five siblings emerged. So we got rid of our loneliness. After a while, some dissenting voices started to emerge stating that the dialects of the newly independent Turkic States were different from Turkish. But unfortunately, these voices were not aware of this: Kazakh Turkish is closer to the Gök Turkish (Old Turkic language) than Anatolian Turkish. When examined carefully, a great similarity between the dialects can be found in essence. Indeed, from this perspective, it is possible to benefit from each other's vocabulary. The dialects have changed throughout history. Today, those in Turkey or Azerbaijan do not understand Sabir, one of the major pens of the Turkic world of the 19th century. However, Sabir was a Turk poet who was easily read in 19th century at the Ottoman Empire. Alisher Navoi, the 15th century Turk poet was easily read in Istanbul at that time. In fact, when we look at the root of all Turkish dialects there is a similarity. For example, a Kazakh says jol, when we say yol (road). When "J" is replaced with "Y" it becomes easy to understand what is said. Isn't it very difficult?

At the Young Diplomats Training Program, we separated those speaking the Kipchak dialect and those speaking the Oguz dialect into two groups. We wanted Oguz dialect speakers to learn the Kipchak dialect and the Kipchak dialect speakers to learn the Oguz dialect. Indeed, after a while our young diplomats began talking with one another easily. So, actually it is not that difficult to understand what the other says.

Together with bringing to light these issues, our goal is to refresh the Turk-ness consciousness. How can this be done? Through consciousness of history. So our youth should know our Turk heroes, Manas and Koroglu. Our goal is not to re-create history, but to be a vessel for the strengthening of Turkic consciousness. For this, we have also started our "Joint Television" project. Now, the Joint Television Working Group meets in Istanbul. What, for example? There is Al Jazeera, MIR, why should we not have a joint television? Our work in all areas is progressing at great speed. During this process, our Secretariat is working hard to fulfil the instructions of our Heads of State.

All organizations in the Turkic World under the coordination of the Turkic Council are complementing each other. During the last 5 years, we have gained momentum in enabling the Turkic World to become a center of gravity. Our field of activity has become vast, but due to time constraints, I cannot mention all of our work. You can get exhaustive information on all our events on our web-site. Thank you very much for your patience and your attention.



Ambassador Ramil HASANOV, Secretary General of Turkic Council

Dear friends, Ambassador Halil Akıncı has so many topics to tell you both due to his experience and his role as the first Secretary General of the Turkic Council; that without a doubt we could listen to him with pleasure for two, three days. Indeed, we are very fortunate.

I believe, we will have a great session with the participation of Mr. Akıncı and our valuable elders together with our dear friends at the question and answer portion of the meeting.

Ambassador Akıncı mentioned the project of common history book. I just want to add a point. The Ministers of Education of our Member States met last November. At the meeting, an agreement was reached on this project of common history book to be prepared by the Turkic Academy containing the common histories of the Turkic Republics until the 15th century. Our goal is to present this book to be taught in schools of our Member States to our Heads of State at the Summit to be held in Kazakhstan in September 2015. So, it will be a possibility for our common history to be taught at schools in Kazakhstan, in Azerbaijan, in Turkey, in Kyrgyzstan along with national histories. This essentially is a system available in the European Union. Let's say a French studies common European history along with French history.

In the widest sense, we are a nation that have endowed the world a strong culture. Until today, just as Ambassdor Akıncı has mentioned, Turkic Empires though having fought each other had always been tolerant. They have never ever attacked anyone's culture, language, national origin. What distinguishes the Turkic Empires in history -West-East Hun, GokTurk, does not matter, I am describing all- is this particular characteristics. It is for this reason, we are able to work together in this way for peace and tranquility.

Thank you very much Mr. Akıncı for sharing valuable information with the participants. Now I would like to give the floor to the Chairman of Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Azerbaijan, Dr. Farhad Mammadov.



(OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS)

DR. Farhad MAMMADOV, Chairman of the Presidential Center for Strategic Studies of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Thank you, Mr. Secretary General. Our countries are in cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields. Also, we are in deeper cooperation in the cultural field that is based on our deep-rooted history.

The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries- TURKPA, have created a new opportunity for the development of political cooperation between the Member States. Potential opportunities are available also in the field of economy. Our goal is political and economic co-operation, coordination of strategies and pursuing our common interests in the international arena.

Turkic speaking countries are represented at various military-political structures. Turkey is a member of NATO, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Turkey is applying the same customs rules with the European Union, and Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are within the Eurasian Economic Union. On this issue, each state is acting according to its own geographical conditions. Recent developments showed that these organizations where Turkic speaking countries are represented are in competition with each other. Hence, the Turkic speaking countries are members of the competing organizations. However, we can show with our own experience and our work that competing organizations

can come to a mutual agreement. At the same time, we can create an environment for the road leading to softening rather than to further hardening of this competition.

Turkish speaking countries can provide mutual support. For example, on the issue of the membership of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union, H.E. Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, stated after reading the letter to President of Azerbaijan H.E. Aliyev, that Armenia can be a member of the Union only with its internationally recognized borders. Likewise, Turkey's support for Azerbaijan on the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh and the border sanctions against Armenia, and President H.E. Aliyev's words at the European Union's Eastern Partnership Summit, against the President of Armenia's so-called genocide allegations against Turkey, "Turkey is not here , but I am" are each indicators of the current cooperation. It is very important for us to cooperate this year on the issue of the 100th anniversary of the so-called Armenian genocide. In this respect it is important to attend the ceremony in Turkey of the 100th anniversary of Çanakkale (Dardanelles) Naval War.

New formats of cooperation are on the agenda. Azerbaijan -Turkey- Turkmenistan trilateral talks are being held at the Foreign Ministers' level and work is being done to create a common vision for the future.

We must also take into account new trends in the region. In this context, China's "New Silk Road Economic Belt Project" has a particular significance. This project which covers all the Turkic speaking countries, can bring our historical and economic relations to a whole new level in terms of quality. The completion of infrastructure projects will enable increased trade and integration between our countries. These projects are essential for the development of economic cooperation. With these projects, we can create a common vision for both our countries interests and the common interests of the Turkic world.

We should also deepen cooperation between civil society organizations along with the fields of politics and economics. Information sharing, cooperation among academics and public diplomacy are very important. Turkey has much more experience in this regard. For example, Azerbaijani Elnur winning the "The voice of Turkey" TV show strengthened further ties between the two peoples. Cooperation of civil society can include not only Turkic speaking countries, but also include other Turkic speaking peoples.

To continue today's discussions, I am glad to invite you to an international conference that will be held on 7th of May entitled "South Caucasus and Central Asia in the Context of the New Silk Road Economic Zone" organized by SAM Azerbaijan in Baku. After the conference, on May 8, we hope to convene a meeting of foreign policy research official centers. We will later inform the Secretariat on this issue. Thank you.



**Ambassador Ramil HASANOV,
Secretary General of Turkic Council**

Mr. Farhad, I would like to extend my thanks for the kind invitation. I gave my instructions to the Project Directors of the Turkic Council Assen Mazhitov and Pelin Musabay Baki before coming. There is already an ongoing process to develop the cooperation among Foreign Policy Research Official Centers of the Member States started during Ambassador Akinci's term of office. We are planning to conclude this process a document and sign a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard at the meeting that will be held on 8th of May. There had been bilateral cooperation between these centers until now, but our goal is to make this cooperation multilateral. We would like to invite later on Hungary, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to this cooperation under the scope of this Memorandum.

Diplomats, scientists, and think tanks are working for the happiness and better livelihood of our states and peoples. With my belief in strength in unity, I fully support the proposals of Mr. Farhad and I gave the necessary instructions to Ms. Baki in this regard. I believe, our sibling states will be actively involved in the preparations in this matter.



QUESTION-ANSWER

Ambassador Ibragim YUNUSOV, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Turkey

Mr. President, all the participants, I would like to thank on behalf of myself and my Embassy the Turkic Council Secretariat for organizing this meeting. The Turkic Council has achieved very effective projects in a short period of time.

In a speech in 1923, Ataturk has said something like this: "Never forget our brothers and sisters in Central Asia. There are two reasons for us not to forget them and to establish a relationship with them, because they speak the Turkic language and Central Asia is our homeland. Therefore, if they cannot afford to come to us, we need to go to them". What Ataturk said in 1923 comes true today. Today, the work that TURKSOY, TÜRKPA and the Turkic Council are undertaking is very helpful to the development of cooperation in the Turkic World.

We did very important work with Ambassador Akıncı erstwhile in Kyrgyzstan. Since our history, the Turkic Speaking peoples' history is common, our future should be common too. For this reason, the Turkic Council's role is going to be much greater from now on. Thank you.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV- Dear Ambassador, Thank you very much. You shared your very sincere thoughts with us. Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of our friend and brother country Hungary in Ankara, Mr. Victor Matis is with us today. With your permission, I would like to give the floor to Mr. Matis.



Victor MATIS, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Hungary in Ankara

Dear Secretary General, Dear Ambassadors, Dear Presidents,

It is an honor for me to be here as Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Hungary in Ankara. I feel I am not an ordinary guest, I am one of you and for this I am grateful.

My Ambassador is not in Turkey this week, because today, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and 8 members of the Ministerial Commission accompanying him are conducting formal talks in Hungary and the second Hungarian-Turkish High Level Strategic Cooperation Council Meeting is taking place there at this moment.

I would like to apologize first. Turkish is a foreign language for me. However, it is the foreign language I can speak in the easiest way. Because if you look at its logic, it almost the same as Hungarian. This does not only mean friendship. This probably means kinship, brotherhood. At least, I think and accept as such.

Second, in a very simple way I want to express that the Hungarian Government, scientists, academics and people of culture are always open to collaboration with the Turkic Council, with the other Turkic institutions, and with the Member States of the Turkic Council.

Thirdly, I want to express this point in line with my work at the Embassy of Hungary in Ankara. Cooperation and active relations between Hungary and Turkey does not merely consist

of cooperation between two countries that view each other with sympathy. Again, kinship, brotherhood should be present. As I said, Prime Minister H.E. Davutoğlu is today in Hungary, President of Hungary will pay an official visit to Turkey in two weeks. Three weeks ago, the Hungarian Parliament Speaker was here. In the time ahead, we will continue our contacts at a high level. Of course, we also want to further strengthen our bilateral economic relationship and we have very intensive efforts on this issue. Thank you very much once again for the invitation.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV- I would like to thank Mr. Viktor Matis for his presence here and for his speech in fluent Anatolian Turkish.

The Hungarian Parliament was unanimously granted observer status at TURKPA with the approvals of the Chairmen of Parliament of Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Kyrgyzstan. This shows the direction of our cooperation. We also started working on the invitation of President of Hungary to be a formal guest at the Heads of State Summit to be held in September in Kazakhstan on the common consideration and approval of the Heads of State of our Member States. This matter will be communicated to the Hungarian side as soon as possible. I am pleased to share it with you here.

Therefore, what are we trying to tell in this context? We are ready to work with everyone who desires to walk with us, has a tolerant approach, and seeks to strengthen cooperation without discriminating based on religion or race for fraternal peace and economic stability. The best example is the inclusion of our Hungarian our brothers and sisters in this cooperation. Now, I would like to give the floor to Member of Parliament of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Dr. Sinan Oğan.



Dr. Sinan OĖAN, Member of Parliament, Chairman of International Relations and Strategic Analysis Center of Turkey (TÜRSAM)

Thank you.

I am here among you both as a chair of strategy center and as a member of parliament.

First, I would like to express that I was happy to see the Turkic World coming together. Secondly, I would like to express my further happiness on hearing the inclusion of one of the most important parts of the Turan, Hungary, in this ring. I wish Turan Congress held every year in Hungary, Mr. Secretary General, I do not know, could be organized within the Council, because what we have seen is far from all political thought.

The reason I wanted to speak was Mr. Secretary General, to ask you a question. You know that one of the bleeding wounds of the Turkic World is the Khojaly Massacre. Today, many activities are carried out in connection with Khojaly Massacre. On this occasion, an exhibition of pictures and goods will be held today at 5 pm at the Cultural Center of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Dear Ambassadors, especially Mr. Secretary General and all our friends are invited to this exhibition. Is there a joint statement on today's meaning and importance by the Council? This is my first question.

Secondly, many Turkmen brothers are living in Ankara, in many parts of Turkey, but in great

number in Ankara. Our Turkmen brothers living outside our borders are facing a humanitarian tragedy. Is there a step in this regard that the Turkic Council is intending to take? I offer my respects.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV- Thank you very much Dr. Sinan. With your permission, let me answer.

We had an exchange of ideas about the Khojaly Massacre at the beginning of the meeting, and we also wished all our friends who became martyrs a mercy from God. Of course, we do not see the Khojaly Massacre as a separate issue. Khojaly Massacre is part of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. There are already official statements accepted by our Heads of State on Nagorno-Karabakh. Numerous decisions have been adopted by the UN Security Council about the necessity of protecting the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. We convey our common thoughts of our Member States in this regard to all third parties.

Chairman of the Presidential Center for Strategic Studies of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Farhad just mentioned that President of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nazarbayev, has shown an example of precious brotherhood while issue of Armenia's application to the Eurasian Customs Union was being discussed. The Turkic Council is also serving as a vehicle for mutual sharing and accurate detection of the Turkic World's own sensitivities.

It is clear that as the Turkic Council, we are not an organization founded against anyone. Our top priority principle is mutual respect. Give value to us, so that we also give you value. There are legal frameworks within international law in line with the UN resolutions acceptable to everyone. Thus, Member States of the Turkic Council do not go outside of this frame.

The sustenance of our Turkmen brothers on strong foundations is among the issues of importance to us. In this regard, in line with our operating principles, I believe that our Member States' mechanisms at the level of Senior Officials and Ministers will be able to take the necessary steps within the framework of international legal norms. However, we all have a duty to inform and mobilize the international community about the drama our Turkmen brothers are living. We would like peace for all oppressed peoples whose human rights are withheld and strive for this end.

On the other hand, I think the current situation in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus should be resolved within the context of the good office mission of the UN Secretary General in the framework of UN parameters as soon as possible. Delivery of the legitimate rights of all peoples is a matter that can be realized in a long time. We will continue lending our support on this issue and other issues that fall within the scope of our mission. As a result, the Turkic Council is an international organization established after a struggle of 20 years, and continues its work in order for our brothers to live in peace regardless of how far or near they might be on behalf of humanity.

A PARTICIPANT: Although I do not know if it fits this organization's structure, but I think we need the establishment of an international humanitarian aid organization under the

umbrella of the Turkic Council. Because I think it would be a useful for this organization to take an initiative not only on political issues, but also in the field of humanitarian assistance. I must add one more sentence. Sir, you know, this year they are trying to bring a big obstacle in front of Turkey, they are trying to put a black stain on Turkey. This year is the 100th year of the allegations of so-called genocide. Of course, we as Turkey would like to see all our brothers and sisters alongside us today, this is a slander aimed not only at Turkey but the whole Turkic World. Thank you.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV – Please Ambassador Akıncı.

AMBASSADOR AKINCI- I will first refer to the issue of international aid agencies. We aim to bring together similar organizations in the Turkic World in each area of cooperation. Likewise, though not yet shared with the decision-making organs, the idea of bringing together the organizations of humanitarian assistance of our Member States under the umbrella of the Secretariat is also on the table. However, we need to put in order the additional steps we will take.

I need to mention this on the issue of 1915 events. Turkic diaspora reaches millions in number, but it is debatable whether its effect is at the same magnitude. To overcome this obstacle, we worked to bring together the diaspora within the framework of the Turkic Council and held a large congress in Baku. We connected all this to documents in accordance with our regular practice. On these documents, we put down our strategies for how the diaspora will cooperate, where centers of diaspora will be established. We also received instructions in this regard from our Heads of State upon the approval of the responsible Ministers. We established our first diaspora center in Kiev last December. We are working for the establishment of similar centers in Paris, Washington and Berlin.

So, what is the purpose of cooperation in the field of diaspora? You have to contend with the diaspora as the diaspora, we need to organize the diaspora. Why do we have difficulty in bringing together the Turkic diaspora? Because for example, there are 650 thousand associations for 500 thousand Turks. We are trying to prevent this through the diaspora centers.

How will these Diaspora centers operate? They will work with both the Member States related units and the Secretariat to ensure coordination. The problem is not just a matter of defending ourselves. At the same time, the goal is protecting the commitment of ethnic Turks' living abroad to their homeland through this framework. Hopefully, in the future we will have progress in this regard as well.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV- Thank you Ambassador Akıncı. Dear Friends, let's continue sharing our thoughts. I will now give the floor in order with your permission.



Assoc. Prof. Kürşat ZORLU, Faculty Member of Ahi Evran University

Yes, first of all thank you for this beautiful event. In fact, the implementation of such activities in other Turkic Republics is our heartfelt wish.

I would like to add something as a contribution to the Armenian issue. In fact, in light of global developments at the moment, the relations with Russia and the Ukraine and within the context of the embargo, I consider it would be useful for the Turkic Council to play a more active role through the joint diaspora center. I also believe that similar efforts would be beneficial to the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia. Of course, the most important part of the efforts towards the Turkic World is the work in the field. No matter how much work we do within a theoretical framework, it is necessary for the cooperation of experts in the field and the relevant people and institutions to take place on the right ground.

For example, I believe, most importantly, we need to eliminate the perceptual differences between our countries and our societies. How do we do that? In doing so, of course, our most important tools will be the mass media. In this context, for example, you mentioned a joint television, I wonder how do you assess the position of TRT Avaz on this issue, in this process? My first question is this.

The matter I want to mention secondly is this. We need to make the best use of not only

our economic resources, but also our human capital. We have seen in Turkey at various times, especially in the last few years, some activities which brought people together such as common media studies. If we cannot bring together the right people, our people in the Turkic Republics including our own country, in other words, if we do not use our human capital that will carry our unity and solidarity to a more solid ground correctly, we cannot expect our activities to give an accurate result.

Lastly, what are the latest developments regarding the inclusion of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the Council this year? It seems more plausible for Turkmenistan to become a member of the Council, but what sort of process is stipulated for the participation of Uzbekistan? Thank you.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV- I will answer your questions on the basis of recent developments. Later, we will take Ambassador Akinci's contributions.

With regard to the joint TV channels and TRT Avaz, there is currently participation from the TRT at the level of Deputy Director General in our ongoing meeting on the subject matter in Istanbul . In this context, the representatives of the television channels broadcasting internationally such as CVS in Azerbaijan, Habar in Kazakhstan and TRT Avaz in Turkey are discussing the details of our joint television project. I firmly believe that we will reach a good result by utilizing the existing potential. In the next stage, the Ministers in charge of media affairs will be meeting soon. The results of the Ministerial Meeting will be presented to our Heads of State at the Summit. There are already instructions by our Heads of State for the proper implementation of the cooperation on this issue. In the later stages of our work, the issues of where and how the joint TV station will be set up will be clarified.

On the other hand, I would like to add the following regarding Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Since Mr. Halil Akinci's terms of office as the General Secretary, both of the brother countries in question have been invited to almost all Turkic Council meetings. Turkmenistan tends to pursue a more active stance on this issue. Indeed, Turkmenistan participated in the Bodrum Summit at the level of the Head of State as the guest of the host country. For the first time in 2014, Turkmenistan's representatives have participated in the Ministers of Education Meeting.

We are carrying out bilateral and multilateral meetings with both Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In the case of Uzbekistan, I cannot tell you frankly that we have achieved a great result yet. The recent developments are promising. A visit to Uzbekistan by President of the Republic of Turkey is predicted. I believe the visit in question will also be a positive contribution for the Turkic Council. Also, Uzbekistan's participation in the Summit is expected at the invitation of the host country Kazakhstan. I see Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan becoming full members of the Turkic Council as probable on the condition that they determine the time and we are doing our best to speed up the process.

I would like to give the floor to Ambassador Akinci now.

AMBASSADOR HALİL AKINCI: Since hosting the Tashkent summit in 1996, Uzbekistan began to take a cold stance in the Summit Process. It started not participating in the summits in addition to not joining the organization as a member.

Uzbekistan's cooperation with the Council, its willingness to join the Council largely depends on the course of its internal conditions. It is not worthy of desire for them to remain outside the Council. I believe that as our success grows, they also could take considerable steps in this regard. In the first stage, we invite representatives of both countries to technical meetings. Turkmenistan is more interested, because it saw benefits. For example, there is the expectation that the port of Turkmenbashi will become more effective within the context of transportation via the Caspian Sea.

As for the Armenian question; first the differences between the dynamics of the Republic of Armenia and the Diaspora must be seen. We were always the one continuously looking for contact with Armenia. We were the ones trying to do something with the Armenians persistently. We need to grasp though that this policy will not bear any results. Come what may. After all, we are talking about historical past. In recent days, an interesting book appeared by Ambassador Altay Cengizer called "Just Memory of Light." He touches on this issue, I recommend you to read it.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASSANOV: Yes, go ahead please.



Prof. Bilgehan GÖKDAĞ, Chairman of Black Sea Research Center

First, I would like to thank you for inviting me to this meeting as the Chairman of the Black Sea Research Center.

I think that at no time in its history had Turkic language found an opportunity to spread over this wide area. Indeed, today a population of over 200 million in an area of 11 million square kilometers can communicate in Turkish and come together. Coming together is perhaps a historical situation. We can notice that there are some problems since the collapse of the Soviet Union. For example, some cannot join us, but we hope that in the future they may participate. When we look at the big picture, we can also see some very nice developments. At no time in its history had the Turkic World met so often, and had spoken about its problems and issues. Particularly, the establishment of the Turkic Council in Nakhichevan in 2009 is a very important step in this direction. The establishment of the Turkic Academy and some common mass media outlets, and the increase of Turkic World studies within the universities are very important services.

We heard today the Turkic Council, we also know it from its activities. The Turkic Council has been working with all its power to improve relations with a young Turkic World perspective and to increase the level of collaboration. I want to particularly mention the Turkic Academy as one of the Turkic Council's associated institutions. While applauding the efforts of the Turkic

Academy until now, I think it remains within a narrow framework. The reason is that both scientists and Turcologists are not invited to meetings and an understanding of just being stuck in Kazakhstan. Turkic Academy needs to deepen its work in the Turcology field. Can we get some more information on this subject? Finally, I want to finish my words with this. It is a very important step that civil society organizations are invited here today. The effort to do this encompassing all the Turkic World at the Baku meeting in May should be applauded beyond every kind of appreciation. With these words, I greet you all with respect.

AMBASSADOR HALİL AKINCI: The Turkic Academy which was established as a national Kazakh institution became an international organization beginning in 2012 with the agreement signed at the Bishkek Summit. However, the legal infrastructure of the Academy structure is not yet completed. In this context, the Academy's work today is just to prove their presence, the agreements related to its financial issues are at the signing stage. They are continuing their efforts with the grant made by the Kazakhs. Only in the period ahead will they begin to operate as an international organization. Now, we are working to expand the opportunities of the Turkic Academy through the voluntary contributions of our Member States. After the financial issues are resolved, the establishment and complementary agreements are completed; the Turkic Academy will be able to work in a way that could answer expectations. The Academy will undertake Turcology and history-related projects and will deal also with other sciences. So, it will become a complete center of science. In a sense, it will be an institution that brings together the science and research potential of the Turkic nations.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV: Thank you very much.

VOLKAN BUDAK: I am an intern at SAM Turkey. We talked about the projects of common history and literature books being written. We commemorate the history in a common way, but I think we are a little behind in benefiting from this in terms of building the future. Brothers Grimm toured all over Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries collecting European public stories and fairy tales, and created a common culture with their compilation. Although we have many mythological stories and tales, I see no moves towards such a compilation effort. I'm waiting for work done in this area. I also want to mention one final thing. On the Iran Turkic community, it seems that after Istanbul the city with the most Turkic-speaking population in the world is Tehran, this is obvious. Besides this, the Khalaj Turkic language is spoken in the best way. I wonder what kind of policies are followed by the Turkic Council and what kinds of work are being done in this regard?

AMBASSADOR HALİL AKINCI: Khalaj Turkic people was discovered in Iran by German Turcologist Doerfler. You know that the Khalaj people is a Turkic tribe. The name of one of our scientists is Halaçoğlu, comes from that. It is a Turkic tribe that dominates in India.

Naturally, they fall within the field of scientific study, they are citizens of another state. Future scientific work will continue on this subject. Taking the opportunity, I would like to raise another issue. When we focus on the words "Turkish and Turkic", a situation arises as such. In 1924, a distinction started to be made in Russian between "Turski and Türetski" to differentiate Turks living in Turkey and outside Turks. The British also start to use "Turkish and Turkic" to

accommodate this distinction. In fact, there is no concept of Turkic. Poet Alisher Navoi says directly “Türktili”.

A decision was made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in the 1990s to call the brother Turkic states as “Turkic Republics”. Turkic-speaking states is actually a translation from Russian. We were preparing the Delarations of the Summits in the 1990s in Russian and Turkish. “Türkdildeş (those speaking Turkic languages) countries” would perhaps be more accurate to say.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV: Please, go ahead. Are there any others who would like to ask a question?

Elçin GAFFARLI, Country Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan at TÜRKSOY

Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Ambassador, Mr. MP, dear participants, the meeting today is very important and I listened Halil Hodja with much curiosity telling us about the Turkic Council’s activities in the last five years. As I listened, I witnessed that great works have been accomplished that would not normally fit five years. I have been a representative at TURKSOY since 1998. We have been witnessing the establishment of the Turkic Council and the meetings



at Nakhichevan since then. We celebrated the 20th anniversary of TURKSOY at the Gabala Heads of State Summit with a grand TURKSOY concert. TURKSOY is a unifying institution in the field of culture like an arm of the Turkic Council. As our Halil Hodja said, TURKSOY is the first organization established in 1993 oriented towards the Turkic World. We can address a larger geography in the field of cultural cooperation. Because without being involved in politics, we work in the fields of culture and the arts and we encompass all the Turkic speaking peoples within the large geography from Siberia to the Balkans. We can say that the only organization that can unify our civilization, culture, arts, literature and history within the fields of culture and the arts is TURKSOY. In this regard, I wanted to give some information on TURKSOY. For instance, ss TURKSOY, we brought together 250 performers and played the K roĝlu Opera in five countries. We had K roĝlu Opera performances from Almaty to Istanbul, in all Turkic Republics and with the Turkey Turkish.

On 24th of March we will celebrate Nowruz at UNESCO in Paris and we will take between 100 and 120 performers from the Turkic World to Paris, and we will dedicate our concert this year to the 70th anniversary of UNESCO. In addition, we started Turkic World Culture Capital practice in 2012. In this framework, Astana in 2012, Eskişehir in 2013, Kazan, the capital of Autonomous Republic of Tatarstan in 2014 were declared Turkic World Culture Capital. For 2015, we chose the pearl of Turkmenistan, Merv as the culture capital. In addition, Turk Vision song contest event continues. TURKSOY also distributes every year press awards to journalists, TV personalities, in short members of the media who work on the Turkic World for encouragement.

SECRETARY GENERAL AMBASSADOR HASANOV-Dear participants, as the Turkic Council we wholeheartedly support the work of TURKSOY. Dear guests, we organized our meeting today as Turkic Council, SAM and AVİM. I would like to thank SAM Chairman Prof Dr. Ali Resul Usul and AVİM Director Ambassador Alev Kılıç for their cooperation.

I would like to thank you for your participation and contributions. We are planning to publish the results of the meeting as a report. Our productive activities will continue since we have now developed this platform. Our common activities might be carried out through this platform. I would like to thank all our speakers and the first Secretary General Ambassador Akıncı for being with us today.

I would like to repeat my gratitude to the Republic of Turkey, our Chairman-in-Office and its Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its support provided to us until now and for the future.

