

**THE ISTANBUL AGREEMENT
ON THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

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Parliaments of the Turkic-speaking countries (hereinafter referred to as "Parties") leaning on historical, cultural and a linguistic community, with a view of the closest interaction in rapprochement of national legislations and other questions, concerning inter-parliamentary activity, have come to the following agreement:

Article 1

The parties establish the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (hereinafter referred to as "Assembly") as an advisory body in order to develop and strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Article 2

Assembly:

- Develops inter-parliamentary cooperation;
- Accepts recommendations on approximation of legislations of the Parties, including legislation on preservation and transfer to the future generations of cultural heritage and values of history, art, literature and other areas which are of importance for Turkic countries;
- Discusses political, social and economic, cultural and humanitarian questions;
- Carries out exchange of the information of legal and other character among the Parties;
- If necessary, creates working and other groups from members of parliaments and parliaments' staff;
- Assists in the organization of mutual visits of members of parliaments and parliaments' staff;
- Accepts regulations of work of Assembly and other documents determining its activity, an emblem and symbols.

Article 3

On discussed issues, the Assembly adopts decisions at plenary sessions on the basis of consensus.

The assembly adopts the decisions in the form of the following documents:

Declarations;

References;

Recommendations.

Article 4

The assembly consists of delegations of the Parties.

Parliamentary delegation consists of 9 members of Parliament of the Participant-Party.

Parliamentary delegations are headed by heads of corresponding parliaments.

Each Party in Assembly possesses the equal rights and has one voice.

Article 5

Coordination of the activity of the Assembly is carried out by the Council of Assembly consisting of heads of parliaments (chambers of parliament) of the Parties.

The Council of Assembly defines the general and effective ways and prospects of development of cooperation among the Parties, adopts the decisions on performance of the aims and duties of the Assembly. On discussed issues, the Council adopts decisions on the basis of consensus.

Article 6

The administrative body of the Assembly is Secretariat which provides its permanent activity.

The activity and structure of the Secretariat are determined by Regulations on the Secretariat approved by the Council of Assembly.

Article 7

The ordinary plenary sessions of the Assembly and sessions of the Council of Assembly are held not less than once a year on territories of the Parties in alphabetical order. The country where the session takes place presides over the session.

Extraordinary meetings of the Assembly and the Council of assembly are convened due to proposal of any Party and consent of all Parties.

The country holding sessions of the Assembly and the Council of Assembly reimburses organizational expenses.

Each Party covers expenses of its delegation's participation in sessions of the Assembly and the Council of Assembly.

Article 8

State languages of the Parties to Agreement and English are Assembly's working languages.

Article 9

Representatives of the international parliamentary organizations and national parliaments of other countries which are not participants of this Agreement can participate in sessions of the Assembly as observers' subject to the decision of the Council of Assembly.

Article 10

Parliaments of other Turkic-speaking countries can join the present Agreement by the notice in writing to all Parties. For joining parliament, the Agreement comes into force from the moment of written approval by all Parties.

Article 11

The present Agreement is concluded *sine die*. Any Party can refuse participation in the present Agreement. For this Party, the Agreement loses force after six months from the moment of acceptance by other participants of the Agreement of the notice in writing.

Article 12

The parties can make changes and amendments to the present Agreement by a mutual consent and by drawing up the separate protocol. Such protocol is an integral part of this Agreement.

Article 13

The present Agreement comes into force from the moment of its signing by the Parties.

Article 14

The agreement is made in four copies in the Azerbaijani, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Turkish languages and signed on November 21st, 2008 in the city of Istanbul. Texts in all languages are equally authentic for the Parties.

On behalf of the Milli Mejlis
of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Ogtay Asadov

On behalf of the Parliament
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Mukhambet Kopeyev

On behalf of the Jogorku Kenesh
of the Kyrgyz Republic
Aytibay Tagayev

On behalf of the Grand National
Assembly of Turkey
Köksal Topdan