

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

ASTANA DECLARATION

The Sixth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries was held on 3-4 December 2015 in Astana with participation of the members of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the both houses of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey.

The Participants of the Sixth Plenary Session,

- *Expressing* their strong will to further deepen cooperation amongst the parliaments and in this regard referring to the Istanbul Agreement on the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries of 21 November 2008 and Nakhchivan Agreement on the establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States of 3 October 2009 and previous TURKPA declarations;
- *Noting* the special role of parliaments in developing close and multifaceted cooperation among Turkic-speaking Countries based on common historic, linguistic and cultural links;
- *Welcoming* substantive development of cooperation within the Assembly's framework since the last Fifth Plenary Session in 2014;
- *Emphasizing* that interaction among the parliaments of Turkic-speaking countries contributes to sustainable social and economic development, advancement of culture and education, strengthening of the rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms in the member countries;
- *Being aware* that comprehensive and deepening relations among Turkic-speaking Countries strengthen political dialogue and enhance stability and security both in the region and the world;
- *reaffirming* its commitments to the norms and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, especially, the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of states;

Declare the following:

- 1) The Parliamentary Assembly highly appreciates the results of the Fifth Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States (Turkic Council) held on 11 September 2015 in Astana, which identified the current agenda of cooperation among Turkic-speaking countries, and reaffirms its readiness to give legislative backing to the decisions and undertakings adopted within the framework of the Turkic Council;
- 2) The Parliamentary Assembly supports the efforts of the Turkic Council on strengthening cooperation among the mass media of the member-countries and expresses its readiness to facilitate achievement of set goals and objectives in this field;
- 3) The Parliamentary Assembly acknowledges that the economic cooperation among the member countries has contributed to strengthening of ties among them and in this regard, calls for further improvement of business and investment environment in the member countries;
- 4) The Parliamentary Assembly encourages the member states to take the advantage of transport and transit projects that are being commissioned in the member-countries and, in this regard, calls to take further action on simplifying of legal and technical procedures aimed at increasing transport flows and transit potential of the member countries;
- 5) The Parliamentary Assembly commends the activities of the newly established Commission on Environment and Natural Resources and underlines the importance of cooperation among the countries in the areas, such as rational use of natural resources, development of alternative energy sources and protection of biodiversity;
- 6) The Parliamentary Assembly fully supports the cooperation initiatives on environmental issues with relevant national authorities of the member countries;
- 7) The Parliamentary Assembly positively assesses ongoing cooperation between TURKPA and International Kazakh-Turkish University (IKTU) in Turkestan and Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University (KTMU) and expresses hope that preparation of qualified interpreters from one Turkic language into another, compilation of relevant dictionaries and language learning educational materials will help advance cultural, educational and humanitarian ties among the member-states;
- 8) The Parliamentary Assembly positively assesses the activities of election observation missions during presidential election In the Republic of Turkey, early presidential election in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Turkey, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and suggests the Commission on Legal Affairs and International

Relations to take up deliberations on possible elaboration and adoption of common legal grounds and standards with regard to the activities of the Assembly's observers mission;

9) The Parliamentary Assembly highly appreciates the activities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, in particular its continued efforts on the accumulation of TURKPA's legislative experts potential and on the wider exchange of parliamentary experience and share of best practices among the member countries and calls the member parliaments to host expert meetings between parliament apparatus departments starting with legislation, foreign relations, public relations and information technology departments, each of which is to be hosted by a different parliaments;

10) The Parliamentary Assembly expresses its readiness to continue addressing the issues of good governance, rule of law and development of civil society in order to adequately meet the modern challenges and trends;

11) The Parliamentary Assembly expresses the need for enhanced and sustainable coordination of activities among the Turkic Council, TURKPA, TURKSOY, Turkic Academy and Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation in order to ensure efficient interaction and overall integrity of institutionalized cooperation of Turkic states;

12) The Parliamentary Assembly highlights the progress achieved in developing cooperation with other regional and international organizations with the view of increasing visibility of TURKPA within global international platforms;

13) The Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic in obtaining the status of partner for democracy to PACE, expresses satisfaction with commencement of practical cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) keeping in view that the parties jointly held a conference on 26-27 March 2015 in Istanbul dedicated to the accountability of elected bodies and the International Conference on Migration in Central Asia on 2 June 2015 in Bishkek under the auspices of the Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyzstan;

14) The Parliamentary Assembly also expresses satisfaction with the commencement of interaction with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and positively assesses the conclusions of the Second Meeting of the parliamentary committees of the member countries on social policy and healthcare held on 21 November 2014 in Baku with participation of the IOM representatives and dedicated to the migration challenges;

15) The Parliamentary Assembly supports the ongoing cooperation between TURKPA and the Union of Architects and Engineers of the Turkic World, particularly joint efforts to hold the

Congress of Engineering, Architecture and Urban Planning expected to take place in Baku in 2016;

16) The Parliamentary Assembly favourably assesses the ongoing cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and notes the participation of TURKPA in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and OSCE activities, including the OSCE 21st Ministerial Council in December 2014, as well as the visit of the Secretary General to Vienna to address the OSCE Permanent Council on 23 July 2015;

17) The Parliamentary Assembly reaffirms its support to the development of cooperation with the Hungarian National Assembly within the framework of its observer status and notes the visit of Secretary General of TURKPA to Budapest on 24-25 March 2015 and negotiations with the leadership of the Hungarian Parliament and officials of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry;

18) The Parliamentary Assembly unequivocally condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism which cannot be justified under any circumstances, regardless of their motivation, in all their forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomever committed. It also reiterates its resolve to strengthen cooperation and coordination among member states in fight against terrorism, radicalization and extremism including transnational organized crime, trafficking in narcotics, smuggling of arms, persons and migrants;

19) The Parliamentary Assembly stresses the importance of interreligious dialogue, welcomes the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan on convening Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and confirms the importance of joint implementation of principles and ideas outlined in the Declaration by the Participants of the V Congress on 10-11 June 2015 in Astana.

20) The Parliamentary Assembly highly appreciates the achievements of Azerbaijan in promoting intercultural dialogue worldwide, and in this regard notes with satisfaction the 3rd World Forum of Intercultural Dialogue held on May 18-19, 2015 in Baku and commends the efforts of the Government of Azerbaijan to host the 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Baku in 2016;

21) The Parliamentary Assembly underlines with concern the challenges that the global humanitarian system is facing and calls on the member countries to participate at the highest possible level to the World Humanitarian Summit to be held on 23-24 May 2016 in Istanbul at the level of Heads of States and Governments;

22) The Parliamentary Assembly reiterates the importance of the earliest settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

23) The Parliamentary Assembly welcomes the resumption of the comprehensive negotiation process in Cyprus on 15 May 2015 and the progress achieved so far in the process; confirms its strong support for a negotiated and mutually agreed, just and lasting political settlement in Cyprus based on political equality of the two peoples in the Island, and expresses its solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal and constituent partner in Cyprus, in their aspirations for a peaceful, secure and prosperous future;

24) The Parliamentary Assembly congratulates the election of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN Human Rights Council in the period of 2016-2018 and wishes success to the Republic of Kazakhstan during the candidacy process for non-permanent membership of the United Nations' Security Council in the period of 2017-2018 and the candidature of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Economic and Social Council for the term 2017-2019;

25) The Parliamentary Assembly highly appreciates the First European Games hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan on 12-28 June 2015 in Baku and congratulates the Government and people of Azerbaijan for excellent organization of the Games, which once more demonstrated the contribution and adherence of Azerbaijan to dissemination of universal principles of sport, promotion of the ideas of cultural diversity, tolerance and mutual understanding;

26) The Parliamentary Assembly calls on the member states to provide utmost support for Turkey's and Kazakhstan's efforts to organize the specialized exhibitions, EXPO 2016 Antalya and EXPO 2017 Astana respectively, as well as Turkey's efforts to organize the 23rd World Energy Congress on 9-13 October 2016 in Istanbul, and wishes success to both countries during these events;

27) The Parliamentary Assembly commends the successful organization of the First World Nomad Games hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic on 8-14 September 2014 in Issyk-Kul and welcomes the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic to host the Second World Nomad Games in 2016 and calls on the member countries to popularize nomad games through comprehensive media coverage of the Second World Nomad Games in its countries;

28) The Parliamentary Assembly congratulates the election of Turkey to the presidency of UNCCD Conference of the Parties as well as to the presidency of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Network, and calls on the member states to provide utmost support for Turkey's efforts to organize events to combat desertification;

29) The Parliamentary Assembly appreciates the traditional hospitality extended in Astana as well as the outstanding organization of the Sixth Plenary Session of TURKPA by the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

30) The Parliamentary Assembly decided to hold its Seventh Plenary Session in 2016 in the Kyrgyz Republic.
