

**Address by H.E. Ambassador Ramil HASANOV**  
**Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States**  
**to the Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council**  
(23 July 2015, Vienna)

**Thank you Mr. Chairperson,**  
**Excellencies,**  
**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I have a distinct pleasure to be here at the OSCE Permanent Council, on behalf of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States in short as the Turkic Council. I would like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Vug Zugic as Chairperson for giving me this opportunity to address the Permanent Council for the first time in my capacity as Secretary General of the Turkic Council. I was previously here in this meeting hall as Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic Speaking Countries-TURKPA. Therefore, I am familiar with this audience that strives in a continuous and comprehensive manner to strengthen dialogue, trust and cooperation in the OSCE geography. However, I would like to underline that I am especially honored to take the floor today in such a historic year that marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. This visionary document left an unforgettable legacy to us, and, without any doubt, its everlasting principles will guide the future of Eurasia that has been passing through a challenging period.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey my gratitude to the previous Swiss Chairmanship for invitation of the Turkic Council to the Basel Ministerial Council Meeting. During their Chairmanship, they significantly contributed in the progress of the “Helsinki+40 Process” that has brought dynamism to work of the OSCE, the largest regional security organization. We firmly believe that this Process shall increase OSCE’s cooperation and coordination with international and regional organizations working in similar fields, in compliance with the guidelines provided by the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted in 1999 and 2003 Maastricht Strategy of the OSCE.

In this regard, let me remind you that at the Turkic Council Summits, Heads of State of the Turkic Council Member States refer regularly to the commitment of the Council to the goals and principles of the UN Charter, the OSCE documents, and above all to the Helsinki Final Act. This is a proof that Turkic Council is committed to the goal of developing a close and mutually beneficial regional collaboration with the OSCE as well as other organizations sharing similar values and common grounds. Based on this commitment, we are glad to develop our relations with the OSCE.

Since the beginning of my tenure, at the productive meetings that I had with Secretary General Ambassador Lamberto Zannier we elaborated on the connection between the agendas of our organizations.

Furthermore, upon invitation of the host countries, senior representatives of the Turkic Council Secretariat participated in the 2014 OSCE Mediterranean Conference in Neum, as well as in the 2015 OSCE Asian Conference in Seoul. As a result, all these contacts have displayed the fact that there are ample opportunities ahead of our organizations for enhancing organization-to-organization ties on the issues of common interest.

## **Excellencies,**

I assume that you are already familiar with the philosophy behind the establishment of the Turkic Council and its activities in three dimensions of the OSCE, speaking with the terminology of the Organization. Ahead of its 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of States to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> of September of this year in the Republic of Kazakhstan with the theme of “Common Information Space and Media Cooperation”, the Turkic Council has broadened its agenda with **an inclusive, comprehensive and cooperative approach**. Meanwhile, during the last year, the affiliated organizations of the Turkic Council, namely the International Turkic Academy in Astana focusing on regional cooperation in scientific and educational fields as well as the Turkic Cultural Heritage in Baku contributing in the preservation of historical and cultural heritage in the region became functional.

The Turkic Council, with all its affiliated and related institutions, has centered its efforts to strengthen cooperation among its Member States with a view to contributing in the development of regional collaboration as well as intensifying interaction with regional and international actors. In this regard, I would like to summarize the major activities and projects of the Turkic Council which, at the same time, intersect with the overall goals of OSCE.

As a rising player in Eurasia, the Turkic Council firmly continues to hold regular senior officials and Ministerial Meetings in a wide range of areas from economy, sustainable development, transport, customs and tourism to media, sports, education and foreign policy. Simultaneously, based on the idea of regional ownership, it deepens its relations with regional and international stakeholders.

We are persuaded that comprehensive peace and security in our geography is highly dependent on broader economic cooperation among the regional countries. Thus, **economic dimension** serves as the backbone of regional and global security. In this regard, the Turkic Council has been focusing on pragmatic initiatives to support economic growth of our Member States and create synergy among us as well as our neighbors. Accordingly, in the field of economic affairs, the Council bolsters its activities on improvement of investment climate, diversification of economic activities and promotion of entrepreneurship for its Member States. In this regard, the Turkic Business Council continues to organize Business Forums in the Member States. And at the same time, we embark on cooperation with the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry- EUROCHAMBRES.

Meanwhile, we are also working on revival of the traditional Silk Road with the Caspian Crossing to render it an attractive transport corridor. Our ultimate target is to develop efficient, integrated and sustainable transport systems among our Member States with an aim to integrate them into international transport network. While materializing our activities in these fields, we have cooperated, among others, with UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and World Customs Organization (WCO). Meanwhile, we also give importance to transformation of the traditional Silk Road into an attractive tourism destination, and we deepen our ties with the UN World Tourism Organization to this end. If I may give an example, the MoUs for Cooperation that we recently inked with the WCO and UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) draws the outlines of our collaboration with them. These documents also allow the participation of their representatives in the relevant work of the Secretariat and developing shared agendas of mutual interest.

I would like to further mention that the Turkic Council has developed strong ties with UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States located in

Istanbul. As a first outcome these relations, we will co-organize a global conference regarding the International Communication Technologies and e-transformation in Post-2015 Development Agenda to be held on 27-28 October 2015 in Istanbul.

Taking all these steps into account, let me reiterate the readiness of the Turkic Council to intensify cooperation with the OSCE in economic dimension to create favorable conditions for greater stability, security and prosperity in the region and beyond.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Turkic Council attaches equal importance to **human dimension of security** within its cross-dimensional structure. In this regard, over the last two years, upon invitation of the host countries, the Joint International Election Observation Mission of the Turkic Council monitored the 2015 Presidential Election in the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as the first round of 2014 Presidential and the 2015 Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Turkey with long-term missions. The reports of the Missions were shared by other international organizations including the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE.

In the meantime, the Turkic Council Secretariat has arranged conferences for civil society organizations and academicians to brainstorm on how to increase regional cooperation in Eurasia. The MoU signed in April 2015 among the Foreign Policy Research Centers of the Member States will be instrumental to this end. Furthermore, efforts within the Turkic Council on further engaging youth in the activities of the Organization have also increased similar to the developments on the agenda of the OSCE. (The establishment of Turkic University Union Student Council and the organization of the Turkic Council International Youth Camp remain among the projects in this direction.)

### **Esteemed Ambassadors,**

Taking the recent developments in Eurasia and beyond, threatening not only regional stability but also global harmony, the Turkic Council is of the opinion that **political dimension** of the comprehensive security needs a reexamination. Thus, our Member States, who are also the Participating States of the OSCE, on several occasions, have reiterated their eagerness to contribute to the building of a community that is “free of dividing lines, conflicts, spheres of influence and zones of different levels of security” as mentioned in “Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards A Security Community”.

With this in mind, after the second round of the Security Consultations among the Turkic Council Member States convened in March 2014 in Astana, the third round will be hosted by the Republic of Turkey before the end of 2015 where the issue of dealing with “foreign terrorist fighters”, that is also included in the priority list of the OSCE, will be broadly discussed.

Furthermore, another important item of the agenda of security consultations will continue to be the situation in Afghanistan that has a crucial role in the long-term security and stability in Central Asia. In this regard, the Turkic Council attended the Fourth Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process hosted by People’s Republic of China as guest of the host country, and has expressed its readiness to become a supporting organization of the Process to contribute in the international efforts. On the other hand, resolution of the longstanding conflicts existing in Eurasia with respect to the UN parameters, and the **Helsinki Decalogue**

including sovereign equality, territorial integrity and peaceful settlement of disputes will continue to be cornerstone of the security consultations and other relevant meetings of the Turkic Council.

**Distinguished Permanent Representatives,**

It has been demonstrated that regional cooperation has a positive impact on securing global peace and prosperity. Therefore, over the last two years, after finalizing its institutional process, the Turkic Council has made an extra effort to cooperate with regional relevant actors. As an observer to the Economic Cooperation Organization-ECO since 2012, the Council continues its dialogue with organizations including Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization-BSEC, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia-CICA and Islamic Cooperation Organization-OIC.

Meanwhile, we launched an interaction process with EU following my official visit to Brussels in February 2015 where I met with senior officials of the European External Action Service. In the same month, during my official visit to Moscow, I had a fruitful meeting with our Russian colleagues on the issues of common ground. Moreover, during my official visit to New York on May 2015, I had productive meetings with senior officials of UN bodies and agencies including ECOSOC, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees Representative Office as well as with Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Permanent Representative of Russian Federation to the UN.

Following the meetings, at the lunch that we hosted at the UN premises, we found ground to exchange views with these senior officials on the issues of shared interest on how to enhance stability and prosperity in Eurasia. In this regard, I need to reiterate that we are ready to work hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, with regional and international stakeholders for a more stable and prosperous Eurasia and to take further responsibility to this end.

**Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished delegations,**

I tried to set forth the prevailing thematic issues on our agenda that would bring added-value to OSCE's continuous efforts to provide security and stability in the region, based on the perspective of pragmatic cooperation.

From xenophobia, radicalization to migration, climate change, we all face common challenges. Overcoming these indivisible challenges, of course, needs coordinated and harmonized action, as **“action always speaks louder than words.”** Therefore, we are truly convinced that there are significant rooms to extend our collaboration in all three dimensions of OSCE to materialize common goals shared by our organizations.

I shall conclude my statement by welcoming the incoming German Chairmanship, and I reaffirm our desire to cooperate with them during their upcoming term. Let me express once again my gratitude to the Serbian Chairmanship and Mr. Chairperson Ambassador Zugic for their kind invitation allowing me to brief you on the mission and vision of the Turkic Council.

Thank you very much for your attention.