



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES

COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND HEALTH PROTECTION

SEVENTH MEETING

Ankara, May 11, 2022

“HARMONIZATION OF HEALTH SYSTEMS IN TURKPA MEMBER STATES”

REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the Plan of Activities for 2022 of the Secretariat adopted during the 10th TURKPA Plenary Session held in Turkistan, Kazakhstan, it was decided to take up subject "Harmonization of health systems in TURKPA member countries" for the seventh meeting as a main item of agenda.
2. Commission addresses the issue concerning the healthcare in the TURKPA region for the first time. During the Tenth meeting of the Council of Assembly of TURKPA held in Turkistan, there was adopted decision on the renaming of the Commission on Environment and Natural Resources to the “Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection” and from now on all issues relating to the health protection will be dealt within the framework of this commission.
3. Work on the harmonization of national policies and legislations for better development of healthcare infrastructure, communications and health information systems among Member States, were especially indicated in the health section of the Turkic World Vision – 2040 which was adopted by the Heads of State of the Organization of Turkic States.
4. Parliamentarians play an essential role in health by enacting legislation, approving budgets and mobilizing resources, providing oversight to ensure government accountability and transparency, encouraging multisectoral action, ensuring national implementation of global commitments, fostering the participation of constituencies, and engaging in international partnerships.

5. “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” which is the 3rd Goal of the Agenda 2030, with its specific goals and targets for improving health outcomes, is serving as a global compass to direct public and private stakeholders towards the most pressing health issues.
6. TURKPA member countries address health issues at regional and international levels by taking concerted actions in the context of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and further Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that serve as umbrella tasks for all the countries.
7. Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Currently, the world is facing a global health crisis unlike any other — COVID-19 is spreading human suffering, destabilizing the global economy and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe. In this direction, TURKPA held Meeting of the Heads of Committees on Health Issues of the member parliaments on 17 September 2020 on the topic “COVID-19 pandemic: its impact and future outlook”.
8. TURKPA member countries are very interested in addressing issues and finding solutions to the problems regarding health issues. TURKPA member countries intend to develop and strengthen cooperation in the field of health, based on the principle of equality and reciprocity, on the basis of mutual benefit and in accordance with the legislation of their countries.
9. The purpose of this report is to work out priorities of regional cooperation on the issue. Report is based on the contributions received from the relevant ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey, as well as data of relevant international institutions.

II. ACTIVITIES TO HARMONIZE THE HEALTH SYSTEMS AMONG TURKIC STATES

10. There is an Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Health and Medical Sciences between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which was signed in Baku on April 26, 2016 and is in force.
11. The Health System Restructuring Program (AZ-SSYP), established by the Azerbaijan Medical Regional Units Management Association (TABIB) with the support of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, envisages the establishment of a modern national health system which aims to improve the health status of the people living in the country, to facilitate the access of the citizens by providing quality health services, to ensure the sustainability of the services and to ensure citizen satisfaction.
12. Chairman of the Board of Directors of Azerbaijan Medical Regional Units Management Union (TABIB) and the accompanying delegation made an official visit to Turkey on 31 August 2021 to prepare a roadmap for the harmonization of health systems. During the meetings, cooperation in the fight against COVID-19, close cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Turkey in the development of the Azerbaijani health system and human resources, and preparation of the necessary

- legal basis for joint scientific research were discussed. The delegation also met with Rector of the Ankara University Prof. Dr. Necdet Ünüvar and Rector of the University of Health Sciences Prof. Dr. Cevdet Erdöl. During the meeting, the possibilities of developing cooperation in the field of health personnel training were discussed.
13. The text of the draft "Action Plan for Cooperation between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan" was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for delivery to Azerbaijani colleagues. As a result of mutual discussions, the Action Plan is expected to be signed as soon as possible.
 14. Relations between Kazakhstan and Turkey in the field of health are carried out within the framework of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medicine, dated 10 September 1997.
 15. In addition, the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Health Investments between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan was signed on 15 October 2019 in Nursultan.
 16. Hoca Ahmet Yesevi International Turkish-Kazakh University Faculty of Medicine was established in 1991 in Kentav City under the name of Alternative and Treatment-Medicine. Over time, new departments such as General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Human Anatomy and Physiology have been opened and grown. Currently, most of the departments are in the city of Turkistan. In addition to the main building of the Rectorate, the Faculty of Medicine Hospital, one of the most modern hospitals of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with a capacity of 100 beds, was established in the Turkistan Campus of the University.
 17. An agreement was reached between Turkey and Kazakhstan to develop a new agreement to replace the agreement which exists since 1997, and the draft "Agreement on Cooperation in Health and Medical Sciences between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of Kazakhstan" was sent to Kazakhstan. The mentioned agreement is expected to be signed during the official visit of the President of Kazakhstan to Turkey on May 10-11, 2022.
 18. Relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey are carried out within the framework of the Agreement on Cooperation in the Fields of Health and Medical Sciences between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 3 June 2014.
 19. "Memorandum of Understanding in the Field of Health and Medical Sciences" was signed between TIKA and the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic in order to strengthen the existing cooperation with Kyrgyzstan in the health sector. Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, the construction of health institutions throughout Kyrgyzstan, which is among the health projects carried out by TIKA, and equipping them with medical equipment; It is envisaged that projects will be carried out in a more coordinated manner with the support of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, in matters such as increasing the specialization of healthcare professionals.

20. A Joint Statement between the Kyrgyz Government and Development Partners was signed in support of the “Healthy People – Prosperous Country” 2019-2030 State Program for the Protection of Public Health and Improvement of the Health Services System in the Kyrgyz Republic.
21. The construction of the Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Friendship Hospital with the coordination of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Bishkek Coordinatorship under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, started in June 2016 and was completed a year later in November 2017. The hospital was temporarily put into operation for the treatment of infected patients when the cases of the COVID-19 outbreak peaked in Kyrgyzstan in March 2020. The hospital has 72 beds and 21 intensive care units.
22. Ibn-i Sina Faculty of Medicine and Vocational School of Health Services, opened by the University of Health Sciences in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, started education on October 17, 2019.

III. CONCLUSIONS

23. As mentioned above, member countries are cooperating intensively in the field of health and real activities are being carried out. As in all other possible areas, the harmonization of the health systems can make a significant contribution to the rapprochement of TURKPA member countries.
24. Health is centrally positioned within the 2030 Agenda, with one comprehensive goal (SDG 3) and its 13 targets covering all major health priorities, and have links to targets in many of the other goals.
25. TURKPA member countries acknowledges the need to consolidate, stimulate and strengthen the healthcare communities as an essential element for sustainable growth and economic development. International cooperation is the key to advancing the agenda for research and development for health information. The health information challenges faced by the TURKPA region can only be efficiently and sustainably addressed through broad international cooperation: harmonization, cooperation and the sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices.
26. Expansion of cooperation and interaction among member countries by holding of joint events and actions such as seminars, conferences or experience exchange programs would strengthen cooperation on the matter.
27. Meeting of the Heads of Committees on Health Issues of the member parliaments on 17 September 2020 on the topic “COVID-19 pandemic: its impact and future outlook”, played an important role in strengthening cooperation among the relevant structures.
28. The meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Organization of Turkic States was held on November 12, 2021 in Istanbul, chaired by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the theme "Green technologies and smart cities in the digital age". In the Summit Declaration which was signed at the end of the summit with participation of ministers of health and scientists of the member and observer states, it was agreed to organize the "Turkic Medical World Congress" in October of each year.

29. The organization of such meetings will enable to the realization of legal arrangements necessary for the harmonization of legislation for the benefit of the society in member countries.
30. At the same time, organization of such meetings will contribute to the development and preparation of model laws in the relevant areas, which is one of the main activity directions of TURKPA.