



## PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC STATES

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COMMISSION ON LEGAL AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### TENTH MEETING

March 9, 2023, Ankara (online)

### REPORT

### “TURKPA 15<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES”

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Activity Plan for 2023 adopted at the Eleventh Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) held in the city of Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, it was decided to organize the Tenth Meeting of the TURKPA Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations in Türkiye and entered into the calendar. The subject of the meeting was evaluated as “TURKPA 15th Anniversary Cooperation Among Member States”.

The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) is an inter-parliamentary institution of independent Turkic states on the basis of multilateral relations. In this respect, it is the institutionalized dimension of multilateral relations between parliaments. TURKPA, like other international parliamentary institutions, is a manifestation of parliamentary diplomacy. TURKPA today provides oversight to regional problems and harmonizes legislation and policies for regional integration. Moreover, making proposals for legislation, election observation and good governance issues are also included in the working areas of TURKPA.

In addition to being a regional international organization, TURKPA is important in terms of being the carrier of the international values of parliamentary diplomacy.

In this report, it is aimed to bring together information to evaluate the effects of TURKPA on cooperation among member states over a 15-year historical process. It is possible to gather TURKPA activities under five headings:

- 1) Plenary Sessions
- 2) The Work of the Commissions
- 3) Election Observation
- 4) Coordination Activities of Turkic Cooperation Institutions
- 5) Activities in the Field of International Relations

In the fifteen-year period that TURKPA has left behind, the acquis that emerged on the basis of communication and cooperation feeds the ideas of the common future of the member countries. TURKPA supports increasing operational consistency and efficiency in regional and global parliamentary cooperation by setting the common agenda and generating the added value of this cooperation.

## **1. Plenary Sessions**

A total of eleven general assembly meetings have been held within TURKPA so far. The General Assembly is the top governing body in that it includes the Assembly Council, which consists of the heads of the national parliaments of the parties in the capacity of delegation. Each parliamentary delegation has equal rights, one vote, and all decisions are taken unanimously in the General Assembly, which meets not less than once a year.

In addition, with the presentation ceremony held in the General Assembly, those who contribute to the strengthening of relations and the development of relations between the Turkic states within the scope of an important principle of covenant loyalty of the laws of the states are awarded with medals and medal certificates.

#### **a) The First Plenary Session of TURKPA (Baku, 29 September 2009)**

The First Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) was held on September 29, 2009 in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mr. Oktay Asadov, the Speaker of the Assembly of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Ural Muhamedjanov, Chairman of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Aydybay Tagayev, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Mr. Mehmet Ali Shahin, the parliamentarians of the member states and the administrative administrators of the parliaments.

In the General Assembly, the TURKPA Statute, the Secretariat Regulation and also the election of the Secretary General and Deputy Secretaries General were discussed. Those who spoke at the meeting expressed their views on the issues on the agenda and made recommendations. As a result of the negotiations, the Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat Regulation and the annual budget of the TURKPA were adopted. In addition, the Baku Declaration was adopted.

#### **b) The Second Plenary Session of TURKPA (Astana, 27-28 April 2011)**

The Second Plenary Session of TURKPA was held in Astana, the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on April 27-28, 2011.

The plenary session was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the independence of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The Plenary Session was held with the participation of the Speaker of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan Oktay Asadov, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ural Muhamedcanov, the Chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kayrat Mamin, the Chairman of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Ahmatbek Keldibekov, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Mehmet Ali Shahin and the parliamentary delegations. The presidency of TURKPA passed from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Assembly Council.

Moreover, the Parliamentary Union of the organization of the Islamic Conference Secretary-General of Mahmud Erol Kilic, Secretary General of the organization of the Turkic States Ambassador Halil Akinci,

enhancing mutual trust and cooperation measures in Asia, Assistant Secretary General of the organization of the conference, Mr. Serhad Assets, general secretary Mr Firat purtaş also participated as a special guest.

At the Plenary Session, the budget of the General Secretariat foreseen for the years 2011-2012, the annexes and amendments to the bylaws of the Board and the Secretariat Regulation, the official flag and emblem of TURKPA were adopted. In addition, four new permanent commissions of TURKPA were established. The new regulation essentially sets out the powers and operating directions of the standing commissions.

With the new additions to the Istanbul Treaty, English, one of the official languages of the UN, was added to the official languages of TURKPA and the number of delegations of the member states in TURKPA was increased from seven to nine, and the Chairman of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan was included in the membership of the TURKPA Assembly Council.

### **c) The Third Plenary Session of TURKPA (Bishkek, 14-15 June 2012)**

The Third Assembly Council and General Assembly of TURKPA was held on 14-15 June 2012 in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

The Plenary Session was attended by official delegation of Azerbaijan headed by Mr. Oqtay Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan, delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan headed by Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Chairman of Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic headed by Mr. Asilbek Jeenbekov, Chairman of the Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyzstan and delegation of the Republic of Türkiye headed by Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, as well as representatives of international organizations of Organization of Turkic States, PUIC, PABSEC and UTWM. The Chairmanship in TURKPA was handed over from the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Kyrgyz Republic.

The final decisions of the TURKPA Election Observation Mission on the presidential and parliamentary elections held in Türkiye, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have been announced. At the General Assembly session, the draft budget of the General Secretariat for 2013 was approved. At the end of the meeting, where the vice-presidents of the standing commissions were elected, the Bishkek Declaration was adopted.

#### **d) The Fourth Plenary Session of TURKPA (Ankara, 11-12 June 2013)**

The Fourth Plenary Session of TURKPA was held on 11-12 June 2013 in Ankara, the capital of the Republic of Türkiye.

The Plenary Session is dedicated to the 5th anniversary of the Istanbul Agreement and the establishment of TURKPA.

The Plenary Session was attended by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan headed by Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan headed by Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Chairman of Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan, delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic headed by Mr. Asilbek Jeenbekov, Chairman of the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of Kyrgyzstan, delegation of the Republic of Türkiye headed by Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. In addition, representatives of the National Assembly of Hungary, PUIC, the Organization of Turkic States, TURKSOY, the Conference on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (AIGK), PABSEC and the World Union of Turkic Youth attended the Plenary Session.

In the Plenary Session, the budget of the General Secretariat for 2014 was accepted. The new secretary general and assistant general secretaries who will serve for a period of four years were elected.

#### **e) The Fifth Plenary Session of TURKPA (Baku, 12-13 June 2014)**

The Fifth Plenary Session of TURKPA was held on 12-13 June 2014 in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Plenary Session was attended by Mr. Kabibulla Jakupov, Chairman of Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Asilbek Jeenbekov, Chairman of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic and Mr. Cemil Çiçek, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. TURKPA Chairmanship was handed over from the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye to Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the General Assembly Meeting, the proposal on the structuring of the Assembly Council, the "Social, Cultural and Human Relations Commission", the "International Relations and Legal Affairs Commission" and the "Economic Cooperation Commission" on the structuring of the TURKPA standing commissions was approved. It was decided to establish the "Environment and Natural Resources Commission". In addition,

TURKPA 2015 budget was adopted. Election observation regarding the presidential elections held in Azerbaijan was on the agenda.

**f) The Sixth Plenary Session of TURKPA (Astana, 3-4 December 2015)**

The Sixth Plenary Session of TURKPA was held on 3-4 December 2015 in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Asilbek Jeenbekov, Chairman of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Ahmet Aydin, Vice Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and Ms. Marta Matrai Vice Chair of the Hungarian National Assembly in capacity of the observer in TURKPA.

Representatives of the Organization of Turkic States, TURKSOY, IPA CIS, Turkic Academy, Union of Turkic World Engineers and Architects, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) took part in the Session.

During the Council's meeting, the chairmanship was handed over from Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan to the Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan.

The Council's meeting was marked also by the presentation of TURKPA medal of merit. Chairman of Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan Kabibulla Jakupov, Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyzstan Asylbek Jeenbekov and Chairman of the Grand National Assembly Ismet Kahraman were awarded the medals for their contribution to strengthening cooperation among the peoples of the Turkic countries.

The agenda of the Sixth Plenary Session included the annual activity report of TURKPA, election of chairs and vice-chairs to the permanent commissions, adoption of reports and recommendations of the said commissions, as well as reports of the TURKPA international observers' mission on presidential and parliamentary elections in the member countries. The Session was ended with adoption of Astana Declaration.

#### **g) The Seventh Plenary Session of TURKPA (Bishkek, 8 December 2017)**

The Seventh Plenary Session of TURKPA was convened on 8 December 2017 in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, with the main agenda of "Transparency in Parliaments: New Technologies in the Decision-Making Process".

The meeting was attended by Mr. Dastanbek Dzhumabekov, Chairman of Joqorku Kenesh of Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ismayil Kahraman, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Ms. Gulmira Isimbayeva Vice-Chair of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as Ishtvan Yakab, Vice-Chair of Hungarian National Assembly in capacity of observer in TURKPA, parliamentary delegation of Uzbekistan headed by Mr. Nariman Umarov, Vice-speaker of Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis as an honored guest. The delegation from Uzbekistan took part in the TURKPA Plenary session for the first time. The chairmanship was handed over from Majlis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan to the Joqorku Kenesh of Kyrgyz Republic.

Representatives of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS), TURKSOY, IPA CIS, Turkic Academy, Union of Turkic World Engineers and Architects, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) took part in the Session.

At the Plenary Session, the Secretary General and Deputy Secretaries General were elected. In addition, the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the TURKPA commissions were approved. At the end of the meeting, the Ala-Archa Declaration was signed.

#### **h) The Eighth Plenary Session of TURKPA (Izmir, 20-21 November 2018)**

The Eighth Plenary Session of TURKPA was held on 20-21 November 2018 in Izmir.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Dastanbek Dzhumabekov, Toraga of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr.

Binali Yıldırım, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and TURKPA Chairman-in-Office, as well as Mr. László Kövér, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly, in capacity of observer in TURKPA and Mr. Hatamzhon Ketmonov, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as a guest.

Representatives of the Organization of Turkic States, TURKSOY, International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), as well as the Union of Engineers and Architects of the Turkic World, Ahmet Yesevi University and the World Union of Turkic Youth attended the meeting.

The reports and recommendations of the meetings of the TURKPA commissions were adopted and the reports of the missions of TURKPA international observers on the presidential elections in Azerbaijan and the presidential and parliamentary elections in Türkiye were also adopted. At the end of the meeting, the Izmir Declaration was adopted as the final document of the Eighth Plenary Session.

#### **i) The Ninth Plenary Session of TURKPA (Baku, 18 December 2019)**

The Ninth TURKPA General Assembly was held on December 18, 2019 in Baku. The main theme of the meeting was "Parliamentary Diplomacy in the Turkic World: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Peace and Security".

Mr. Ogtay Asadov, Chairman of Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan and TURKPA Chairman-in-Office, Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin, Chairman of Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. Dastanbek Dzhumabekov, Chairman of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, as well as Mrs. Tanzila Narbayeva, Speaker of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in the capacity of guest, took part in the event. The meeting brought together parliamentary delegations, representatives of Turkic cooperation institutions and international organisations such as the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS), TURKSOY, International Turkic Academy, Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States



(PUIC), Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS (IPA CIS), GUAM and Women Platform of the Turkic World.

At the meeting, the reports and recommendations of the meetings of the commissions, the Report of the Election Observation Mission on the early presidential elections in Kazakhstan, the revision of the Secretariat Regulations and Election Observation Regulations were adopted.

At the meeting, the model law on the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Turkic World and Tourism was evaluated and adopted. The Women Parliamentarians Group and the Young Parliamentarians Group were established. At the end of the Plenary Session, the Baku Declaration was adopted.

**j) The Tenth Plenary Session of TURKPA (Turkistan, 28 September 2021)**

The Tenth Plenary Session of TURKPA was held on 28 September 2021 in Turkistan, the Spiritual Capital of the Turkic World. The theme of the General Assembly was "Expectations for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation among Turkic States".

Chairman of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan and TURKPA Chairman-in-Office Mr. Nurlan Nigmatulin delivered an opening speech. Heads of TURKPA member parliaments – Chairperson of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mrs. Sahiba Gafarova, Chairman of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Talant Mamytov, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Mr. Mustafa Şentop, as well as First Deputy Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly Mrs. Marta Matrai in the capacity of observer and Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Ulugbek Inoyatov as a guest, made speeches during the Plenary Session.

Organization of Turkic States, TURKSOY, International Turkic Academy, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, CIS PA, Conference on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, Khoja Ahmet Yassawi International Turkish-Kazakh University and Kyrgyzstan-Türkiye Manas University such as Turkic cooperation institutions and observer organizations participated in the meeting.

The elections of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the TURKPA permanent commissions have been approved. In addition, the Secretary General and Deputy Secretaries General were elected at the meeting. The Plenary Session ended with the adoption of the Turkistan Declaration.

#### **k) The Eleventh Plenary Session of TURKPA (Cholpon-Ata, 24 June 2022)**

The Eleventh Plenary Session of TURKPA, hosted by the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, was held on June 24, 2022 in Cholpon-Ata. The Plenary Session was convened under the title "Parliamentary Diplomacy: The Basis of Trust and Partnership".

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mrs. Sahibe Gafarova, the Speaker of the Assembly of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Yerlan Koşanov, Chairman of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Mr. Talant Mamitov and the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye Mr. Mustafa Şentop.

At the Assembly Council Meeting, Kyrgyzstan Assembly Speaker Mamitov took over the TURKPA Presidency from Kazakhstan. At the General Assembly, the name of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking States (TURKPA) was changed to the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA). It was decided to hold the 12th Plenary Session of TURKPA on 27-29 April 2023 in Istanbul.

At the end of the meeting, TURKPA 11. The Cholpon-Ata Declaration of the General Assembly was signed.

## **2. The Work of the Commissions**

In TURKPA, four permanent commissions divided according to their fields of expertise carry out their work. In the second half of 2011, the specialized commissions started their work. The first reports presented by the commissions entered the agenda of the Third Plenary Session.

The commissions address the issues in their areas of duty and prepare documents in the form of reports and recommendation decisions and submit them to the Plenary Session.

## **2.1. Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations**

The First Meeting of the Commission Legal Affairs and International Relations was held in Ankara on 19-21 December 2011. At the meeting, the report and recommendation on "Duties and Obligations of TURKPA Member Parliaments in the Constitutional System and the Role of Deputies" were discussed.

The Second Meeting of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations was held in Baku on 4-7 November 2012. At the meeting, reports and recommendations on the subject of "Regulations of TURKPA Member Parliaments and Powers of Parliaments" and "Cooperation between TURKPA Member States in Legislative Matters" were discussed.

The Third Meeting of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations was held on 28 April 2014 in Astana. The meeting, chaired by Mr. Nurlan Abdirov, Deputy of the Parliament of Kazakhstan and Deputy Chairman of the Commission, was attended by deputies, expert delegations and representatives of diplomatic missions from TURKPA member countries. Before the meeting of the Commission, opinions and suggestions on TURKPA establishment documents and other legal documents were discussed at the meeting organized by parliamentary experts.

The Fourth Meeting of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations was held in Bishkek on 29 April 2015. In addition to the participation of deputies, ambassadors and interested parties of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Türkiye were present at the meeting of the commission held in the Kyrgyz parliament. The agenda of the meeting, which was chaired by the Chairman of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations Mr. Haluk İpek, Member of Parliament Parliament, consisted of the report on "Elections, Electoral Systems and Election Observation Activities of the Assembly in the TURKPA Member States" and recommendations.

The Fifth Meeting of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations was held on 17 May 2016 in Ankara. The meeting was chaired by the Member of Parliament and the Chairman of the Commission Mr. Haluk İpek. The meeting was attended by members of parliament and experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye. The main agenda of "Combating Cybercrime: Improving the Legal Framework and

Cooperation among Member States" was discussed. In addition, TURKPA financial documents, the Regulation on Orders of Merit and the results of the Second Meeting of the Legislative Harmonization Study held in Ankara on 18 March 2016 were discussed.

The Sixth Meeting of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations was held on October 31, 2018 in Baku. The meeting was held with the participation of deputies and experts from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye. The main agenda item of the meeting was "Establishing a Common Attitude of TURKPA Member Countries on Anti-Terror Legislation".

The Seventh Meeting of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations was held on 1 March 2019 in Astana. At the meeting, deputies and experts from member countries, representatives of the relevant ministries of the member countries, as well as representatives of other institutions such as the International Turkic Academy and Ahmet Yesevi International Kazakh-Turkic University came together. As the main agenda item of the meeting, the issue of "Equivalence Process in Higher Education in TURKPA Member States" was evaluated. The draft Model Law on "Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage" was discussed and sent to the Plenary Session for its consideration.

The Eighth Meeting of the Commission Legal Affairs and International Relations was held on 20 September 2021 in virtual format. The meeting was attended by members of the Commission and representatives of the Secretariat. The meeting was moderated by Mr. Sautbek Abdrahmanov, Deputy of the Parliament of Kazakhstan and Deputy Chairman of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations. Participants discussed the topic of "Development of Tourism among TURKPA Member States: The Impact of the Covid-19 Outbreak and Expectations from the Future".

The Ninth Meeting of the Commission on Legal Affairs and International Relations was held virtual on June 9, 2022. The meeting was held under the title of "The Role of Parliaments in Foreign Policy Cooperation". The meeting, chaired by the Chairman of the Commission and Member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, Mr. Erol Kaya, was attended by the deputies of the commission and representatives of the Secretariat. The report and recommendation presented by Mr. Sautbek Abdrahmanov, Vice-Chairman of the Commission and Member of the Parliamentary

Assembly of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Mr. Erol Kaya, Chairman of the Commission, were adopted unanimously.

## **2.2. Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs**

The First Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs was held on 24-25 November 2011 in Astana. At the meeting, reports and recommendations on the Bilge Korkut Program and new processes of social, cultural and humanitarian relations between the Turkic states were discussed.

The Second Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs was held on 5 April 2013 in Ankara. At the meeting, the report and recommendation on "Basic Issues Regarding the Establishment of the Joint Turkic Terminology Foundation" were opened for discussion.

The Third Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs took place on 15 April 2014 in Bishkek. At the meeting, in order to strengthen the relations of the Turkic states, the issues of organizing the translation activity, issuing special words and "Day of Turkic Languages" were discussed.

The Fourth Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs was held on 2 December 2014 in Baku. At the meeting moderated by Ms. Sevinc Huseynova, Deputy of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and Deputy Chairperson of the Commission, the issue of increasing the exchange of information between the TURKPA member countries was evaluated.

The Fifth Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs took place on 24 May 2016 in Astana. The meeting, chaired by the Deputy of the Kyrgyz Parliament and Chairman of the Commission Mr. Sadık Şer Niyaz, was attended by the deputies of the member countries, representatives of the Organization of Turkic States and TURKSOY.

The Sixth Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs was held on 14 September 2018 in Bishkek. Member of the Parliament of Kyrgyzstan and Chairman of the Commission Mr. Sadiq Sher Niyaz chaired the meeting. Within the scope of the meeting, Turkic Cinema Days Opening Ceremony and expert group meeting were held. At the meeting, representatives of the Ministries of Culture, filmmakers, representatives of National Film Studios, animators and film

analysts came together. The main agenda item of the meeting was "Cinema and Animation as a Part of the Turkic Cultural Heritage in the Turkic States: Legislation and Implementation Aspects".

The Seventh Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs was held on 16 May 2019 in Ankara. The main agenda of the meeting was "Gender within the Framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: Modern Family Values in TURKPA Countries".

The Eighth Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs was held in virtual format on 20 September 2021 with the participation of parliamentarians and secretariat representatives. The meeting was moderated by Mr. Nizami Jafarov, Member of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Deputy Chairman of the TURKPA Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs. The main theme of the meeting was "Social Situation in Rural Areas of TURKPA Member Countries in the Pandemic Period". At the meeting, the draft Model Laws on "Attracting Foreign Investments in Cinematography and Production of Audio-visual Works" and "Cinematography" were discussed and sent to the Plenary Session for its consideration.

The Ninth Meeting of the Commission on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs was held on April 22, 2022 in Baku. The main agenda item of the meeting was "Supporting Social Entrepreneurship in TURKPA Countries". The draft Model Law on "Development of Social Entrepreneurship" was discussed and sent to the Plenary Session for its consideration.

### **2.3. Commission on Economic Cooperation**

The First Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on 27-28 October 2011 in Bishkek. The meeting was built on the main theme of "Expectations of TURKPA Member States for Economic Cooperation". The decisions taken regarding the agenda of the meeting were unanimously adopted and referred to the agenda of the Plenary Session.

The Second Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on 5 April 2013 in Ankara. At the meeting held in the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, the report and recommendations on "Improving the Investment Environment in TURKPA Member States" were discussed.

The 3rd Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Baku. Members of the commission consisting of deputies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye and the host country, representatives of the Organization of Turkic States and the Intergovernmental Commission of the Euro-Caucasus-Asia Transport Corridor (TRACECA) attended the meeting held in the Azerbaijan Milli Majlis. In addition, before the meeting, an expert group meeting was held with the participation of the Ministry of Transport and parliamentary commission representatives.

The Fourth Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on 10 November 2014. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Commission on Economic Cooperation and the Deputy of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Serikyan Kanayev. The main agenda of the meeting was "Cooperation between Turkic States in the Field of Energy Sector Development".

The Fifth Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Bishkek on 7 December 2017 within the framework of the Seventh Plenary Session of TURKPA. The main agenda of the meeting was "Diversification of the Economy in the Member States".

The Sixth Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held in Ankara on 27-28 September 2018. At the meeting, the main agenda of "Innovative Entrepreneurship Expectations in TURKPA Member States" was discussed.

The Seventh Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on April 8, 2019 in Baku. The main agenda of the meeting was "Development of Common Technology: Multilateral Cooperation between the Science and Business Communities of TURKPA Countries".

The Eighth Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation was held on 20 September 2021 in virtual format. The main theme of the meeting was "Green economy", the experience of legislative support for innovation and digitalization. At the meeting, the draft Model Law on "Electronic Commerce" was discussed and sent to the Plenary Session for its consideration.

The Ninth Meeting of the Commission on Economic Cooperation titled "Post-Pandemic Economy: State Support to SMEs" was held on 20 May 2022 in Nur-Sultan. In the evaluations, the experiences of the member states regarding the measures implemented to support small and medium-

sized enterprises in the pandemic and the post-pandemic period were shared.

#### **2.4. Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection**

The First Meeting of the Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection was held on April 2, 2015 by the member of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan Prof. Dr Ehliman Emiraslanov in Ankara. At the meeting, the subject of “Combating Desertification in Turkic States” was discussed.

The Second Meeting of the Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection was held in Baku on November 24, 2016. The subject of “Global Climate Changes: Causes and Consequences for TURKPA Member Countries” was discussed at the meeting.

The Third Meeting of the Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection was held in Astana on June 22, 2017. The main agenda item of the Third Meeting was: “Development of Alternative Energy Sources in Member Countries”. The meeting was associated with the EXPO-2017 Astana International Exhibition held within the scope of renewable energy resources.

The Fourth Meeting of Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection was held on 14 September 2018 in Bishkek. The main agenda item of the meeting was "Effects of the Spread of Genetically Modified Organisms".

The Fifth Meeting of the Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection was held in Bishkek on 30 May 2019. The main agenda item of the meeting was "Ecological Use of Natural Resources: Legislative Support". The draft Model Law on “Tourism” was discussed and sent to the Plenary Session for its consideration.

The Sixth Meeting of the Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection was held online on September 20, 2021. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Ahliman Amiraslanov, Chairman of the Health Commission of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chairman of the TURKPA Environment and Natural Resources Commission. At the



meeting, the topic of “Water Resources and Soil Management” was discussed. Moreover, the draft Model Law on “Conservational Utilization of Energy Resources and Energy Efficiency” was discussed and sent to the Plenary Session for its consideration.

The Seventh Meeting of the Commission on Environment, Natural Resources and Health Protection was held in Ankara on May 11, 2022. The main agenda item of the meeting was "Harmonization of Health Systems in TURKPA Member States". At the meeting, the draft Model Law on “

### **3. Election Observations**

Since 2010, TURKPA observation missions have been monitoring presidential, parliamentary elections and referendums in member states Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Türkiye and in brotherly country Uzbekistan.

Election Observation is one of the priority areas of activity of TURKPA. The missions are composed of members of the parliaments of the TURKPA member countries and representatives of the TURKPA Secretariat.

TURKPA observers regularly meet with senior officials of the Central Election Commissions and government officials in member countries before the elections. The TURKPA observation mission observes the election process in all its stages, visits the electoral districts and evaluates the preparation process. The observation mission meets with all stakeholders of the election, including voters, representatives of electoral districts, officials, representatives of political and social organizations.

Observers comply with the principles of objectivity, transparency and impartiality set out in the International Code of Conduct for Observers adopted by the United Nations in 2005, the recommendations of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and other international norms.

Observation missions share the results of elections and referendums with the public through press conferences. Election observation has been carried out in the following twenty-five election processes within the body of TÜRKPA so far.

- i. Early Presidential Elections of the Republic of Kazakhstan (November 20, 2022)
- ii. Constitutional Referendum of the Republic of Kazakhstan (June 5, 2022)
- iii. Parliamentary Elections of the Kyrgyz Republic (November 28, 2021)
- iv. Presidential Election of the Republic of Uzbekistan (October 24, 2021)
- v. Constitutional Referendum of the Kyrgyz Republic (April 11, 2021)
- vi. Presidential Elections of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Referendum on Determining the Form of Government (January 10, 2021)
- vii. Parliamentary Elections of the Assembly of the Republic of Kazakhstan (January 10, 2021)
- viii. Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan (February 9, 2020)
- ix. Early Presidential Elections of the Republic of Kazakhstan (June 9, 2019)
- x. Presidential and Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Türkiye (June 24, 2018)
- xi. Early Presidential Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan (April 20, 2018)
- xii. Presidential Elections of the Kyrgyz Republic (October 15, 2017)
- xiii. Early Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Elections in Maslikhat (March 20, 2016)
- xiv. Early General Elections of the Republic of Türkiye (November 1, 2015)
- xv. Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan (November 1, 2015)
- xvi. Parliamentary Elections of the Kyrgyz Republic (October 4, 2015)
- xvii. General Elections of the Republic of Türkiye (June 7, 2015)
- xviii. Early Presidential Elections of the Republic of Kazakhstan (April 26, 2015)
- xix. Presidential Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan (October 9, 2013)
- xx. Early Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Kazakhstan (January 15, 2012)
- xxi. General Elections of the Republic of Türkiye (June 12, 2011)
- xxii. Presidential Elections of the Kyrgyz Republic (October 30, 2011)

- xxiii. Early Presidential Elections of the Republic of Kazakhstan (April 3, 2011)
- xxiv. Parliamentary Elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan (November 7, 2010)
- xxv. Elections to the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic (November 10, 2010)

#### **4. Coordination Activities of Turkic Cooperation Institutions**

Among the issues that the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) focuses on is the development of political dialogue among the member states. In this direction, TURKPA actively supports other institutional mechanisms working towards the establishment of political unity in the Turkic world.

TURKPA is in close cooperation with the Organization of Turkic States, TURKSOY, the International Turkic Academy and the International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation in order to create a common model for economic, political and cultural cooperation among the Turkic states.

TÜRKPAA attaches great importance to strengthening the interaction between Turkic cooperation institutions. Dec. In this context, he takes part in the the Coordination Committee Meetings of Turkic Cooperation Institutions in order to ensure the effective implementation of the cooperation agenda.

While TURKPA continues to work in cooperation with sister organizations such as the Organization of Turkic States, TURKSOY, the Turkic Academy and the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, it also works closely with organizations such as the Union of Municipalities of the Turkic World, the Union of Engineers and Architects of the Turkic World, Ahmet Yesevi University and Kyrgyzstan-Türkiye Manas University.

#### **5. Activities in the Field of International Relations**

TURKPA uses parliamentary diplomacy to strengthen peace, trust and friendship in the region and the international public opinion. Since its establishment, TÜRKPAA has been developing international collaborations and its visibility in the regional and global international relations system is an indispensable part of its activities.

As stated in the Strategy Document, it focuses on the multifaceted development of international cooperation and the search for opportunities for communication with leading international organizations and for constructive cooperation with them.

TURKPA also implements inter-parliamentary diplomacy towards regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC). The National Assembly of Hungary, the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) have observer status in TURKPA. Thus, TURKPA strengthens its position among parliamentary associations.

On 23 February 2023, Memorandum of Understanding was signed between TURKPA and the Parliamentary Network of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM PN), established on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, on cooperation between the two institutions.

The organizations in which TURKPA has observer status are the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (PUIC), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the International Union of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) and the Conference on Cooperation and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

At the same time, TURKPA has carried out joint activities with many international organizations over the past fifteen years and came together on a common working ground.

## **II. CONCLUSION**

Parliamentary assemblies have a distinctive place among the structures that bring together the international community led by the United Nations system. Assemblies owes this importance to the parliaments, which are the citizens' will emerged through elections. In this direction, TURKPA

contributes to international efforts for peace, security and development by participating in global discussions with its high representation power from the citizens and publics of member countries.

As an assembly that brings together the parliaments of four member states, TURKPA has taken serious steps towards developing the economic, socio-cultural and legislative potential of their countries so far. Dec. TURKPA strives to strengthen multilateral political cooperation mechanisms.

The parliaments and governments of the member states should take advantage of the opportunities available to stimulate cooperation in all areas in the TURKPA region, in order to achieve consolidation in the process of establishing peace, security and political stability by achieving a great deal of harmony among the member states in order to successfully achieve the common goals of Turkic Cooperation.

It is obvious that the parliamentary cooperation among the member states contributes positively to the effectiveness of the activities in the region. At the same time, the convergence in the legislation of the member states provides a solid basis for the development of integration processes. With the strength it has gained on this ground, it is important for the Assembly to work more closely with other Turkic cooperation institutions in the process of effectively implementing the Turkic World 2040 Vision, which is the common target program of the member states for the future.

Within the framework of the leading international forums, TURKPA member countries mutually support each other and adopt common attitudes on issues that concern their common interests. In this context, regular meetings of the delegations of the TURKPA member states in the leading inter-parliamentary institutions will serve as a useful consultation mechanism and support for common interests.

As a special instrument of cooperation between member states at the level of parliaments, TURKPA plays an important role in the development of parliamentary diplomacy and in promoting actions aimed at intensifying relations and common interests in the political, economic and socio-cultural spheres.