COMMISSION ON SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

REPORT

On «NEW STAGE OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN RELATIONS OF TURKIC-SPEAKING NATIONS» AND THE CONCEPT OF THE «BILGE-KORKYT» PROGRAM AIMED AT BOOSTING CULTURAL COOPERATION OF TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

1. The first summit of Turkic-speaking countries was held on 21 October 2011 in Almaty. Cultural relations of Turkic-speaking countries were discussed thoroughly at the summit. The Turks, whose population is 200 million people, have contributed significantly to the history and culture of humanity. It happened that work of our ancestors who retained inextinguishable traces in the history of mankind were not investigated by some the scientists of west. Some of famous thinkers like A. Toynbee, K. Jaspers, N. Danilevskiy, O. Shpengler did not fully recognize contributions of Turkic world in world civilization when they made the typology of civilization.

2. Nowadays, the Turkic Academy recently established in Astana started research on history and cultural values of Turkic-speaking countries. Nursultan Nazarbayev invited to work together with the Turkic Academy. The initiative of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to establish a cultural fund of Turkic-speaking nations in Baku was supported at the summit. These efforts will boost cultural and spiritual relations of Turkic-speaking nations. President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed to hold international

symposium “Modern Turkic World: today’s situation and future development” and “Astana - the cultural capital of the Turkic world” in Turkestan in 2012. Therefore, the commission should actively participate by making proposals. This should be the foundation of project plan.

3. The work of the Commission on social, cultural and humanitarian issues should not be limited by this program. It should also include the arrangements of conferences, exhibitions and film festivals. It is also important to develop cooperation in the arts. I believe that examining fine arts and exhibitions will boost cultural relations. Turkic-speaking countries should submit their proposals to the Ministries of Culture of their countries to implement projects in cultural area.

4. The Kazakhstan's side proposed the «Bilge-Korkyt» program to members of the Commission to enhance educational and scientific cooperation.

a. The aim of program:

Keeping and investigating the integrity and cultural-spiritual values of the Turkic world, the studying Turkic civilization’s position in world civilization is important. Issues regarding investigation of cultural values from Korkyt period till nowadays will be studied in the project.

b. The objectives of program:

Given «Bilge-Korkyt» program will give an opportunity for Bachelor’s degree holders to earn Master’s degree in the field of Turkology in the Turkic academy in Kazakhstan and in universities in Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan.
To enhance relations of Turkic nations in Turkology, education, science and technology.
Share experience between Turkic speaking countries.
Within the program member-countries of TurkPA will closely cooperate with leading universities.
To teach languages of Turkic speaking people (according to a curriculum)

c. To assist to Master’s degree holders to find a job in labor market of TurkPA members in the following areas:

– Education,
– International Cooperation,
– Research and development,
– Pedagogical activities,
– Public and Cultural fields,

– Business sector.

d. Project Implementation and Management

– In order to implement and manage the program the members of TurkPA should submit their proposals to the Ministries of Education and science of their countries

– To tackle financial issues

– To clarify position on the Turkic academy in Astana

– To give proposals

– To identify commitments of other scientific, cultural and social organizations of Turkic countries on the program implementation.

e. Programme is called Bilge Korkyt because Korkyt lived in the Middle Ages and shared the vision of Turkic peoples on the philosophy of life. "Bilge" means knowledge, wisdom and is a common word for all Turkic speaking peoples. A European analogue of this program "Erasmus-Mundus" has been successful in educational and scientific area. By the time over millions of European students were trained by "Erasmus Mundus" program.We need to take the main issue into consideration at preparing for Masters by «Bilge-Korkyt» program. Turkic Academy is in humanitarian field. If Turkic speaking countries prepare masters in humanitarian field, it should be in Turkology. For instance, there are many branches in "Erasmus-Mundus" program since this program is financed by the European Union. Turkic speaking countries do not have such funds yet. If member countries start to prepare for masters in turkology in Turkic academy, the Program will broaden in the future.