



INFORMATION NOTE ON THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF THE TURKIC SPEAKING STATES (TURKIC COUNCIL)

I. Turkic Summits and the Establishment of the Turkic Council

Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) is an intergovernmental organization, whose overarching aim is to promote comprehensive cooperation among Turkic states. The organization was established by the Nakhchivan Agreement, which was signed at the Turkic Summit held in Nakhchivan in 2009. The founding and current members are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey.

Turkic Council reflects the common political will that emanates from the Process of Summits of the Heads of States of the Turkic Speaking States.

The process began at the very first Summit of the Heads of Turkic Speaking States held in Ankara in 1992, which brought together the leaders of newly independent Turkic states, namely, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan as well as Turkey. Subsequent summits were: Istanbul Summit in 1994; Bishkek Summit in 1995; Tashkent Summit in 1996; Astana Summit in 1998; Baku Summit in 2000; Istanbul Summit in 2001; Antalya Summit in 2006; Nakhchivan Summit in 2009; Istanbul Summit in 2010.

At the Tashkent Summit of 1996, the need for regular multilateral consultations and technical meetings was recognized, as well as the need for consistent implementation of the decisions. Accordingly, it was decided to establish the Secretariat of the Summit of Turkic Speaking States.

At the Astana Summit of 1998, the Statute of the Secretariat was adopted and at the Baku Summit of 2000, it was decided to establish the Permanent Secretariat in Turkey. However, due to Uzbekistan's attendance at a lower level at subsequent summits and due to Turkmenistan's reservations over some issues, concrete steps towards the establishment of the Secretariat could not be taken.

At the Nakhchivan Summit of 2009 the **Nakhchivan Agreement on Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States** was signed and, subsequently, entered into force in November 2010.

At the Istanbul Summit of 2010 the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States began its activities with headquarters in Istanbul.

The summits after the establishment of the Turkic Council were renamed as “Summits of Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”. Four Summits have been held in Almaty, Bishkek, Gabala and Bodrum since the establishment of the organization and the next one will be hosted by Kazakhstan in the summer of 2015. These major annual events are convened with the participation of the Presidents of Member States, Foreign Ministers and other Ministers as appropriate.

First Summit of the Turkic Council

The Almaty Summit, which was the first Turkic summit organized under the organizational framework of the Turkic Council, was hosted by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev on 20-21 October 2011 and was attended by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbayeva and Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdog. This Summit was also the first Summit organized under a specific topic: “Economic Cooperation”. During the Summit the “Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States regarding the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” was endorsed; “Rules of Procedure of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”; “Regulation of the Council of Elders of the Turkic Speaking States functioning under the auspices of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” and “Regulation for the Staff of the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” were adopted. At the end of the Summit “Declaration of the First Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” was signed by the Presidents.

Second Summit of the Turkic Council

The Second Summit of the Turkic Council was held on 22-23 August 2012 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Bishkek Summit was organized under the topic of “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”. The Summit hosted by President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev was attended by President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Turkey Abdullah Gul, and Prime Minister of Azerbaijan Artur Rasizade. During the Summit “Agreement on the Financial Rules of the Secretariat of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”, “Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Academy” and “Charter of the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation” were signed. At the end of the Second Summit “Declaration of the Second Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” was also signed by the Presidents.

Third Summit of the Turkic Council

The Third Summit of the Turkic Council was held on 15-16 August 2013 in Gabala, Azerbaijan. Hosted by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the Summit brought together the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev, the President of Turkey Abdullah Gul, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Sapardurdy Toylyyev. The main theme of this Summit was “Transport and Connectivity”. In the framework of the Summit, a “Protocol of Cooperation among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Turkic Council” was signed and the 20th Anniversary of TURKSOY was celebrated. In addition, “Declaration of the Third Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States” was signed by Heads of States.

Fourth Summit of the Turkic Council

The Fourth Summit of the Turkic Council was held on 4-5 June 2014 in Bodrum, Turkey. Bodrum Summit was organized under the topic of “Cooperation in Tourism”. Hosted by the President of Turkey, Abdullah Gül, the Summit was attended by the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, the President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Atambayev, and the President of Turkmenistan, Gurbangulu Berdimuhamedov. In the framework of the Summit, Foreign Ministers of the Member States signed the “Decision on the Approval of the Rules of Procedure of the Turkic Academy”. Moreover, Heads of States signed the “Declaration of the Fourth Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States”, along with the “Decisions on the Appointments of the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary Generals of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and the President of the Turkic Academy”.

Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council

The Fifth Summit of the Turkic Council will be held in 2015 in Kazakhstan.

II. Structure of the Turkic Council, Its Objectives and Tasks

Nakhchivan Agreement sets out the main purposes and tasks of the Organization as follows:

- Strengthening mutual confidence among the Parties;
- Maintaining peace in the region and beyond;
- Promoting common positions on foreign policy issues;
- Coordinating actions to combat international terrorism, separatism, extremism and trans-border crimes;
- Promoting effective regional and bilateral cooperation in all areas of common interest;
- Creating favorable conditions for trade and investment;
- Aiming for comprehensive and balanced economic growth, social and cultural development;

- Discussing questions of ensuring rule of law, good governance and protection of human rights;
- Expanding interaction in the fields of science, technology, education and culture;
- Encouraging interaction of the mass media and wider communication;
- Promoting exchange of legal information and enhancing legal cooperation.

In order to fulfill the objectives and tasks of the Turkic Council, following structures were established:

- Council of Heads of State;
- Council of Foreign Ministers;
- Senior Officials Committee;
- Council of Elders;
- Secretariat.

The state that hosts the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of State assumes the chairmanship of the Turkic Council until the next meeting.

III. Affiliated Organizations of the Turkic Council

The Turkic Council is designed as an umbrella organization for the cooperation mechanisms among the Turkic Speaking States. The affiliated Organizations of the Turkic Council in this context are as follows:

- **TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture)** was established in 1993 with headquarters in Ankara. It aims to enhance cooperation among the parties on the issues of education, science, culture and art; introduction and promotion of the common values of the Turkic World on the international level; as well as deepening of the cultural relations among Turkic states. Presently, preparations are being carried out under the leadership of the Turkic Council with the aim of renewing TURKSOY's constituent instrument in order to strengthen the organization's legal basis.
- **TURKPA (Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries)** became operational in 2008 with the Istanbul Agreement. Its headquarters is in Baku. It is operating with the purpose of deepening inter-parliamentary cooperation among Turkic states.
- **Turkic Business Council** was established in 2011. The joint Business Council has a crucial role to play in the activities of Turkic Council. Its aim is to enhance economic cooperation among Turkic countries through engaging business organizations and entities of the four countries.
- **Turkic Academy** was inaugurated as a national institution of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2010. The Agreement on the Establishment of the Turkic Academy as an international organization that would answer the intellectual and academic demands of the Turkic world was signed in August 2012. Its headquarters is in Astana. Its aim is to coordinate and promote research in the field of Turkic languages, literature, culture, history and ethnography. Also

among the goals is conducting research on cultural and spiritual heritage of Turkic peoples, promoting their contributions to the development of the world civilization and informing the public of their achievements.

- **Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation** was established in August 2012. The Foundation will provide assistance in the protection, study and promotion of Turkic culture and heritage through supporting and funding various activities, projects and programs. It will carry out its activities in cooperation with TURKSOY and the Turkic Academy.

IV. Activities of the Turkic Council

Turkic Council, in accordance with adopted operational principles, aims to transfer existing bilateral cooperation in various areas between the member states into multilateral cooperation. In this regard, existing or potential cooperation barriers are identified, afterwards actions are taken in order to eliminate or prevent them, then necessary steps on development of cooperation are made and new areas of cooperation are opened. In this connection, working groups consisting of experts of member states on all cooperation areas of Turkic Council are formed. Decisions taken by these groups are reflected as a separate document and are followed carefully. The whole work is done single-handedly and duplication is avoided.

A) Political Cooperation:

The main mechanism of the political cooperation among Turkic Speaking States is the annual summits of Heads of State.

Member States also collaborate within the framework of various international organizations through coordinating their positions regarding international issues and by supporting each other's candidacies.

Foreign Ministers of Member States meet on a regular basis on the sidelines of the Summit at the meetings of Council of Foreign Ministers. Additionally, in order to discuss the topics of common concern Foreign Ministers hold additional meetings. In this regard, unofficial meetings of Foreign Ministers were held on the sidelines of General Assemblies of UN in 2011, 2012 and 2013 in New York and on the sidelines of the 12th OIC Summit in Cairo in 2013.

Additionally, from 2013 Security Consultations among the Turkic Council Member States started to be held regularly. As a result of the first meeting held in April 2013 in Baku, senior officials developed a common view on Afghanistan which was later expressed by Foreign Minister of Kyrgyz Republic, as the Chairman-in-Office of the Turkic Council, at the Ministerial Conference of Istanbul Process on Afghanistan held on 26 April 2013 in Almaty. Turkic Council aims to bolster its role and cooperation in Istanbul Process in the future. The second round of the Security Consultations was held on March 5, 2013 in Astana.

Expression of the common view by Turkic Council Foreign Ministers at the meetings of the organization and other international organizations when necessary is a concrete example of political cooperation developed in the frame of the Turkic Council. Along with abovementioned common view on Afghanistan, Joint Statement on Egypt was done at 3rd Summit in Gabala. Recently, a “Joint Statement” was issued at the 20th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the OSCE that was held in 2013, where Turkic Council participated as a guest of the Chairman-in-office, Ukraine.

On the other side, in accordance with the related article of the Cooperation Protocol among the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, signed at the 3rd Summit of the Turkic Council, Junior Diplomats Joint Training Program was incorporated into the areas of activity of the Turkic Council. In this framework, Turkic Council Junior Diplomats 1st Joint Training Program was organized in Turkey on 13-25 April 2014. During the program the participants were lectured by prominent Turkish scholars and visited various historic sites of Anatolia. The next program is planned to be held in Azerbaijan.

Finally, Turkic Council also participates in the election processes of the Member States by commissioning observer missions in order to ensure fair, transparent and democratic elections. Turkic Council already observed the Presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan in 2011, Parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan in 2012, Presidential elections in Azerbaijan in 2013 and Presidential Elections in Turkey in 2014.

B) Economic Cooperation:

Turkic Council attaches great importance to economic cooperation among Turkic countries as well as to their economic ties with the rest of the world. Mutually beneficial economic cooperation is the sound basis and the core of the Turkic cooperation at large. In this context, the First (Almaty) Summit of the Turkic Council was organized under the theme of Economic Cooperation and stressed its significance for the Turkic Council.

A number of events and activities have been organized in the context of economic cooperation since the establishment of the organization including annual meetings of Ministers in Charge of Economy of the Member States. In this direction three Working Groups on “improving the investment climate”, “diversification of the economies” and “promoting entrepreneurship” regularly conduct their activities. Also Memorandum of Understanding amongst Investment Promotion Agencies of Member States was signed at the Third Meeting of Ministers in charge of Economy.

In addition, the Joint Investment Portal of Turkic Council has been launched. The aim of this portal is to contribute to the development of the economies by bolstering investments to and increasing business ties among the Member States.

Additionally, Turkic Business Council, under the auspices of Turkic Council, also makes its contributions to fostering economic cooperation. The institution brings together entrepreneurs from the Member States and aims at enhancing cooperation among them. The Business Council, through organizing regular Turkic Business Forums and Exhibitions, creates an important impulse for cooperation of private sectors of Member States. In this connection, 2nd Turkic Business Forum was conducted on 19 February 2014 in Istanbul with participation of more than 100 businessmen from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey representing various sectors participated at the Forum. In parallel with the Forum 2nd Meeting of Turkic Business Council was convened.

The preparation process regarding conferment of the Turkic Business World Awards to the investors of the Member States who are active in other Member States are still going ahead.

The Fifth Meeting of Working Groups on Economy and the Fourth Meeting of Turkic Council's Ministers in charge of Economy were held on 19-20 June 2014 in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan.

C) Customs and Transport Cooperation:

Turkic Council attributes great importance to cooperation in areas of customs and transport. With the aim of discussing customs and transport cooperation among Member States and in order to promote facilitation of trade and development of transportation, meetings of Ministers of Transport and meetings of Heads of the Customs Administrations of the Member States are held regularly together with the meetings of Working Groups in these fields.

A Letter of Intent among the Heads of Customs Administrations of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Georgia on Promoting and Facilitating Trade among Silk Road Countries was signed during the Fifth International Forum on the Role of Customs Administrations on Promoting and Facilitating Trade among Silk Road Countries in November 2012 in Istanbul. This document is an indicator of the importance that Turkic Council Member States as well as the neighboring nation of Georgia attach to this subject. The Letter of Intent highlighted the support of Turkic Council to the national projects of Member States on revitalization of the Silk Road such as Kazakhstan's "Silk Wind" and Turkey's "Caravanserai".

As a result of the Second Meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations, border-crossing point visits to Aktau Port, Karasu-Aktilek and Subatay Baatyr – Chaldybar were carried out in July 2013 within the framework of the Caravanserai project and the studies on the Northern Route were conducted. the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Cooperation was held in March 2014. The Forth Meeting of the Working Group on Customs Administrations and the Third Meeting of Heads of Customs Administrations were held on 16-17 June 2014 in Symkent, Kazakhstan.

In a similar vein, in accordance with the instruction of the Council of Heads of States and in order to introduce a high-level mechanism of improving cooperation in the field of transport, the First Meeting of the Ministers in Charge of Transport was held in Baku on 3 July 2013. Moreover, by the decision of the Ministers, a Coordination Council at the level of Deputy Ministers, who have sufficient authority to bring pragmatic solutions to the problems confronted by operators, was established. Also the Coordination Council, which is expected to act as a problem resolving mechanism that shall support cooperation in transport and act as an intermediary body between Working Group and the Ministerial Meeting held its first meeting on 12-13 December 2013 in Istanbul. The Second Meeting of Ministers of Transport and the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on Transport Cooperation were held on 21-22 May 2014 in Astana.

Furthermore, within the scope of the first meeting of Ministers of Transport, “Joint Cooperation Protocol on Development of Transport among the Member States” and “Memorandum of Understanding on Sister Seaport Relations and Cooperation among the Ports of Baku, Aktau and Samsun” were signed. The First Meeting of Sister Seaports was hosted by Samsun on April 17-18, 2014. During the meeting, issues pertaining to increasing the freight flow through the sister ports in the context of the ever increasing East-West trade were discussed. The next meeting will be hosted in Baku and will concur with the official opening of Alyat Port.

Additionally, meeting of transport agencies and customs authorities of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan on development of Ro-Ro ferries and cargo-passenger transportation between Aktau and Baku seaports was held on May 13-14, 2013 in Aktau. It is expected that the second meeting will be hosted by Baku.

D) Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation:

Common culture, language and history of the Turkic states are the main pillars that underpin the cooperation under Turkic Council, making this regional cooperation unique in comparison to others. It was therefore symbolic that the Second Summit of the Turkic Speaking States was held under the theme of “Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation”. In this context, the first meeting of Ministries of Culture was organized in the run up to the Second Summit of the Turkic Council. As a result, it was agreed to take the necessary steps to initiate the creation of the Union of Writers of the Turkic States and the Union of Cinema Artists of the Turkic States.

Turkic Council highlights the significance of education and science as these are considered major fields that form the quintessence of the cooperation amongst Turkic states. The sound basis of this cooperation is the affinity of culture, language and history. In this respect, following the meeting of Ministries of Culture, the first meeting of Ministers of Education was organized ahead of the Second Summit in Kyrgyzstan. With a view to supporting this vital area of interaction, Ministers decided to meet

on a regular basis. Ministers, in line with recommendations of Council of Elders, agreed to establish Working Groups in order to prepare a common history textbook and a common Turkic Literature textbook.

Second meeting of the Ministers of Education was held in November 2013 in Eskişehir, Turkey and was preceded by the Meeting of Senior Officials Committee. At the meeting, such issues as teaching languages of member states as elective courses, starting short term student exchange programs among secondary/high schools of member states, cooperation in the field of vocational and technical education among the Member States, making available various means including special scholarships to encourage Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. students of Turkic Speaking States to focus their academic studies on general Turkology, as well as mutual support of educational institutions and Cultural centers were deliberated. It is expected that activities regarding the preparation of common history book will be carried out by Turkic Academy.

Furthermore, under the aegis of the Turkic Council, a Joint Terminology Committee with the aim of developing common terminology was created. The first meeting of the Committee was held in November 2012 in Istanbul. The principles of developing a common terminology as well as the working principles of the Committee were discussed and approved at the meeting. The Committee agreed to develop dictionaries of common vocabulary and comparative dictionaries including illustrated ones. The common alphabet to be used for scientific purposes was also adopted at the meeting.

In the meantime, four meetings of the Turkic University Union composed of 15 universities from 4 member states were held at the level of Rectors/Vice-Rectors, the first in March 2013 in Istanbul, the second in May 2013 in Bishkek, the third in November 2013 in Eskisehir, and the fourth in March 2014 in Izmir. At the second meeting “Directive for the Establishment of the Turkic University Union and its higher Education Area” was adopted. Following its endorsement at the meeting of Ministers of Education of the Turkic Council in November 2013, the Directive came into force. This process that has been launched with the aim of enhancing cooperation in higher education among the Member States comprises projects including student and academics exchange programs was named “Orkhon Process”. The establishment of the Student Council of the University Union and its Quality Assurance Council are among the issues on the agenda of the Union.

Also Turkic Council took a concrete step in the direction of establishing the Joint Educational TV Channel by convening a first meeting for the Establishment of Joint Educational TV Channel on 17 February 2014. Managers of National TV Channels of Member states and relevant authorities of Ministries of Education of Member States attended this meeting. In the framework of popularising common Turkic history by means of TV, preparing animated films introducing Turkic heroes and broadcasting them on national channels of Member States were among the decisions taken at the meeting.

Preparations for the establishment of the Turkic Scientific Research Fund that would support common academic research on Turkic world are underway.

The first World Nomadic Games was hosted by the Kyrgyz Republic on 9-16 September 2014. More than 400 athletes from 19 countries gathered on the shores of prominent Lake Issyk-Kul to compete in wrestling, archery, Kok Boru (a game where mounted riders face off over a dead goat), Ordo (a Kyrgyz board game), Kyz Kumai (chasing women on horseback), Toguz Kargool (mancala game) and other disciplines. The Games will give a powerful boost to rehabilitation of original national sport disciplines and reviving the spiritual consciousness and historical memory not only of Turks but also of all nomadic peoples of the world.

E) Diaspora Cooperation:

The vital role of Diasporas in promoting the image of their motherlands and influencing public opinion in countries where they reside is one of the main issues of the Turkic Council. In this regard, in order to discuss further action and cooperation among the Diasporas of the Member States, two meetings of the Ministers and Heads of the Institutions in charge of Diaspora Affairs of the Turkic Council and two meetings of Contact Group were convened. In this respect, the Turkic Speaking Diaspora Joint Activity Strategy of the Turkic Council was approved by the Ministers and Heads of Institutions in charge of Diaspora Affairs on 14 May 2013 in Ankara.

In addition, First Turkic Council Diaspora Forum was held in Baku where more than 600 representatives from 50 countries, including heads of relevant state agencies and diaspora organizations participated. The Forum participants reciprocated this gesture with their appeal to the Presidents of the Member States. “The Strategy” was also made public.

The Forum will be convened every two years while the Contact Group will hold its regular meetings throughout the year. It was also decided to organize meetings of regional diaspora groups in the countries that they reside.

F) Tourism Cooperation

It is deemed that the tourism potential of the Member States has a special place in the multi-dimensional and comprehensive cooperation process. With this in mind, Heads of States at the Gabala Summit had instructed to organize the 4th Summit, hosted by Turkey, under the theme of “Tourism Cooperation”.

In the framework of Tourism Cooperation it is aimed to increase touristic visits among Member States, as well as promotion of historical and cultural treasures, along with natural beauties located on historical Silk Way; also to share cultural values of Turkic World, traditional handicrafts, dances and music with the world.

The First Meeting of the Working Group on Tourism Cooperation of the Turkic Council was convened on 10 December 2013 in Istanbul. At the meeting, alongside promotion of personal touristic destinations, emphasis was given to the identification of joint touristic destinations on historical Silk Road. In this regard, it was deemed appropriate to develop a joint tour program named “Turkic Council-Modern Silk Road” as a pilot project and to promote it on tourism market of Turkic Council Member States and of third countries. In addition, it was agreed to prepare joint tourist guide with regard to the promotion of joint tour packages. In this regard, it was decided that it is essential to take steps in collaboration with public and private sector; alongside with regional and international organizations.

Meanwhile a joint photo exhibition was organized in the framework of 13th International Travel and Tourism of Azerbaijan Fair which will take place on 3-5 April 2014 in Baku. Also on the sidelines of the Fair, Information Tour on Tourism in Azerbaijan for the representatives of tourism sector and media was realized as Turkic Council activity on 2-6 April 2014. At the same time, 57th Meeting of the UN World Tourism Organization Commission for Europe and Seminar on Development of Effective Tourism Cluster was attended.

The Second Meeting of Working Group and First Meeting of Ministers in Charge of Tourism were held in Istanbul on 10-11 April. At the meeting, Ministers signed a joint cooperation protocol. Additionally, it was decided to establish a Task Force under the leadership of Kazakhstan that would bring together representatives of relevant ministries and private sector representatives in order to shape joint tour packages. The Task Force will start its field activities in order to determine joint tour routes in 2015. The Ministers also agreed to establish a common structure bringing together the umbrella bodies of private entities engaged in tourism sector. Furthermore, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey organizes vocational trainings on service sector for the other member states. Also, next photo exhibitions are planned to be held in December 2014 and January 2015 in Turkey. The Second Meeting of Ministers will be hosted by Azerbaijan in 2015.

G) International Cooperation:

As a newly emergent international organization, Turkic Council values cooperation with its counterparts. Currently, for example, Turkic Council has developed ties with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and United Nations (UN).

In this vein, during the 12th ECO Summit hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan on 13-16 October 2012, observer status of the Turkic Council to ECO was endorsed. Hence, Turkic Council regularly participates in ECO meetings as an observer. Moreover, further cooperation means are discussed.

In the framework of the cooperation with OSCE, Turkic Council upon invitation participates in the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OSCE and other related meetings. Recently, upon the invitation of Chairman-in-office, Turkic Council participated in the 20th Meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of OSCE that was held in December 2013 in Vienna. In addition, Turkic Council addressed the Permanent Council of OSCE for the third time in December 2013 and made intensive rounds of bilateral meetings including the Secretary General of the OSCE.

It should also be mentioned that the Nakhchivan Agreement on the Establishment of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States was registered by the UN on 24 September 2012. The negotiations regarding the observer status of the Turkic Council that began at the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly are currently underway.

Additionally, the Secretariat of the Turkic Council applied for observer status in the OIC on 1 February 2013. With this, Turkic Council, as an International Organization the members of which are also OIC member countries, aims to strengthen and institutionalize its relations with the Islamic World.