

## THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES: A NEW PLATFORM FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

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**Abstract:** This article analyzes the conceptual and legal significance of the development of the Organization of Turkic States for Central Asia. In particular, the article analyzes that this structure is becoming an important platform for multilateral, mutually beneficial cooperation, that Uzbekistan is one of the central pillars of this huge geopolitical space, linked by fundamental values and a common language. The key points of the concept “Turkic World Vision – 2040” and promising areas for the implementation of the Charter of the Turkic World are also outlined.

**Key words:** Organization of Turkic States, Central Asia, Charter of the Turkic World, “Turkic World Vision – 2040”, geopolitics, “Middle Corridor”.

### INTRODUCTION

Against the backdrop of geopolitical changes taking place in the world, the status and strategic importance of the Turkic States Organization as a promising regional structure is increasing. In the coming decade, this structure, which unites countries with a population of 173 million, plans to create a market for investments, labor, goods and services.

The total gross domestic product of these countries, located in a large and important geopolitical region with a total area of 4,242,362 square kilometers, exceeds 1 trillion US dollars. [1] Therefore, the Turkic States Organization occupies a significant place in the world economy.

The existence of structures such as the Council of Heads of State, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Council of Elders and the Secretariat, as well as the International Turkic Culture Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States, the International Turkic Academy, the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Turkic Languages, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Turkic States, and the Office of the Turkic States Organization in Hungary, testify to the universal nature of the organization. In addition, the Development Bank, the Turkish Investment Fund were established within the structure, and an agreement on the simplification of customs procedures was signed.

The development of the organization of Turkic states remains one of the urgent issues. The association complements other regional platforms and initiatives in Central Asia and contributes to strengthening interregional relations.

### DISCUSSION

The organization is becoming an important platform for multilateral, mutually beneficial cooperation between member states. Of course, a stable and safe region of the Organization of Turkic States serves the general security and stability of Eurasia and beyond. As observers note, in this regard, measures to strengthen economic integration and strengthen trust within the organization can have a positive impact on the world situation, ensuring peace and stability in the broader ethnolinguistic space.

The focus on economic integration, security cooperation and cultural exchange is welcomed by many countries. In addition, the observer status at the United Nations and cooperation with other international structures indicate that the OTS is gaining international prestige. Many states recognize the organization's potential to promote cooperation and stability in the Eurasian space. However, there are also concerns about its geopolitical consequences and the possibility of its use as a tool for promoting narrow national interests. Therefore, the international community looks at the Organization of Turkic States with cautious optimism.

## RESULTS

The ability of the Turkic States Organization to address these concerns and build trust with the international community will be crucial for its contribution to regional cooperation in line with long-term and sustainable development goals.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, emphasized, the conceptual visions established until 2040 are consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and serve as the basis for joint efforts to expand cooperation within the Turkic States Organization. [2]

According to official sources, the main goal of Uzbekistan's participation in this organization is to develop cooperation in completely new conditions in such areas as mutual trade, economy, agriculture, transport, industrial cooperation, climate change. Our country is also interested in developing and implementing major projects in such areas as youth policy, ecology, digital technologies, culture and tourism.

It should be noted that one of the noteworthy issues during the Uzbekistan presidency was the adoption of the organization's concept "Turkic World Vision – 2040". As noted in the document, there are wide opportunities for cooperation between the Turkic peoples. In particular, it is planned to hold forums to develop cooperation in the field of sports and education between young people, entrepreneurs and representatives of the diaspora.

From this point of view, the expansion of cultural and human ties is of particular importance, since the peoples of the member states of the Organization of Turkic States have historically common roots. In particular, the scope of partnership between educational and scientific institutions can be expanded through academic exchanges and general cultural ties.

Within the framework of this conceptual program, the countries have set the goal of harmonizing the educational process. This includes issues such as mutual recognition of diplomas and academic qualifications. Experts propose to strengthen research in the field of the common history, language, culture, literature of the Turkic peoples, and even include them in the curricula. And in order to develop this cooperation, it would be necessary to increase the academic mobility of students, and create conditions for young people to communicate more and more closely with each other.

This consistently developing cooperation is multifaceted and mutually beneficial. It is important that Uzbekistan, connected by fundamental values and a common language with the Turkic world, is one of the central pillars of this vast geopolitical space.

As is known, the geographical location of the Turkic states allows you to connect all transport nodes in the North-South, East-West directions. Our countries have the means of connecting Europe and Asia. In this regard, the need to develop the "Middle Corridor", starting from China and extending through the Caspian Sea to the Caucasus, and then to Europe, has been repeatedly emphasized.

Almost the entire territory of the "Middle Corridor" passes through the territory of the Turkic states (with the exception of Georgia, the length from East to West is 542 km). The total length

of the entire route is more than 11 thousand kilometers, and it is also a railway connecting China and the European Union through Central Asia, the Caucasus, Turkey and Eastern Europe. Therefore, the Turkic States Organization can be a regional structure with high potential, uniting the peoples of this region.

Thus, this organization, which is expected to be a “bridge” between the East and the West, can create the necessary basis for integration by strengthening the “Central Asia - South Caucasus - Turkey” interconnection. This can become an integral part of regional security not only in the field of transport and logistics, but also through the implementation of trans-Caspian energy projects.

The fact that Uzbekistan’s foreign economic activity is expanding day by day within the framework of its membership in the organization indicates that there is great potential in this regard. Uzbekistan is committed to establishing a strategy for economic cooperation between the countries of Central Asia, eliminating trade barriers, expanding e-commerce and increasing trade volumes. The most important priority of this platform for Uzbekistan is to increase the volume of mutual trade through economic ties. This is associated with improving infrastructure and developing joint projects.

Indeed, the conceptual program “Turkic Vision – 2040”, which sets out long-term strategic goals, includes a reference to the creation of a free trade area between the countries of this region. That is, a bold step towards integration would be taken if there was free movement of capital, goods and services, and people. From an economic point of view, this is a very important point.

Despite the positive steps taken within the framework of the development strategy until 2040, a number of serious obstacles are also being encountered. One of them is the lack of significant trade turnover between the Turkic states. Although there is potential for its development, the lack of a synchronized tariff regulator not only hinders the transportation of goods between each other, but also reduces the attractiveness of using this route by third countries.

In addition, the level of development of the countries of the Turkish state organization differs fundamentally from each other. Although the modernization of infrastructure on the shores of the Caspian Sea continues, its pace is slow and sometimes lags behind the standards of modern transport.

In recent years, bold steps have been taken within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States to strengthen multilateral and long-term ties conceptually and legally.

The adoption of the Charter of the Turkic World at the 11th summit of this organization in Bishkek on November 6, 2024 was an important initiative. The Charter was proposed by the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on November 3, 2023, with the aim of strengthening the principles of mutual respect, trust and openness. [3]

The document has become a broader agenda that includes issues of economy, security and cultural cooperation.

With the adoption of this Charter, many important events have occurred and are expected: the preservation and strengthening of the ideals of the Turkic world, the adoption of a new flag of the organization reflecting the symbols of Turkic unity, common heritage and values, the future development of a common alphabet and language, and others.

By signing this document, the leaders of the Turkic states have adopted the idea of prioritizing the bonds of brotherhood, solidarity and preserving a common Turkic world. This document has established new principles for expanding cooperation between states and strengthening peace in accordance with the generally recognized principles of international law. Moreover, these principles can be presented as a model of Turkic cooperation. [4]

It is no secret that in recent years, the Turkish vector in the foreign policy of the Central Asian states has been gaining strength, and the Organization of Turkic States has emerged as an institutional basis for multilateral cooperation. The unstable and dangerous situation in some regions of the CIS space gives these processes a new meaning and dynamics. In particular, there is activity in the modernization and diversification of the defense industry, strengthening cultural unity, and developing new transport routes. From this point of view, the Central Asian states perceive this organization more as an important element of the system of multi-vector relations.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be noted that the Organization of Turkic States is currently establishing itself as a coordinating center for the search for new priority areas of cooperation in its space. This is mainly manifested in political dialogue, multilateral cooperation, joint actions, and common approaches between member states.

From this point of view, the Organization of Turkic States, with its common history and geography, has every opportunity to become a new place open for interregional trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian cooperation.

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