

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Halil Akinci, Secretary General of the  
Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States  
at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Ministers  
(Baku – 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2012)**

**Mr. Chairman,  
Secretary General of the ECO,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,**

I would first of all like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan for his election as chairman in office of ECO.

I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Excellency Dr. Shamil Aleskerov on his appointment as Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization and wish all the success in his responsible work.

It is a great honour for me to address to the 20<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers Meeting (COM) on behalf of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, shortly known as Turkic Council. I would like to express my gratitude to Your Excellency Mr. Chairman for giving me such an opportunity.

Turkic Council is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Istanbul, Turkey established by Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Turkey by Nakhchivan Agreement signed in 2009, with the overarching aim of promoting comprehensive collaboration in all areas among Turkic Speaking States.

Though we are considered as a young organization, two Summits of the Heads of State of the Turkic Council have been held since our establishment. The latter took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan where two important agreements were signed: namely on the establishment of Turkic Academy in Astana and Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation in Baku.

Turkic Council is an organization dedicated to strengthening peace and stability, promoting wide-ranging cooperation and disclosing the potential for common development amongst its Member States.

Although it brings together a particular group of countries, the organization does not take an exclusive approach. On the contrary, by promoting deeper relations and solidarity amongst Turkic speaking countries, it aims to serve as a new regional instrument for advancing international cooperation in Eurasian continent, particularly in Central Asia and Caucasus. Our intention is to engage in mutually

beneficial collaboration with all organization having a similar scope in a transparent manner.

The fact that all Member States of Turkic Council are also ECO members provides us with great opportunity. With institutional cooperation between Turkic Council and ECO, a greater added-value could be created for all stakeholders concerned. We consider that endorsement of observer status of Turkic Council by Council of Ministers is a pertinent step in this direction. I thank all the Member States of ECO.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my profound thanks to ECO for their kind invitation and express my congratulations to the Government of Azerbaijan for excellent organization of this event and finally, wish all the success to the Meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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