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**Statement by H.E. Dr. Asad M. Khan at International Forum “Interrelation of Times and Civilizations-Basis of Peace and Development” dedicated to the 300<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Magtymgully Fragi**  
(October 11, 2024-Ashgabat)

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**His Excellency Serdar Berdimuhamedow, honorable President of Turkmenistan,  
Heads of Delegations,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentleman,**

I am extremely grateful to the honorable President of Turkmenistan, H.E. Serdar Berdimuhamedow for the invitation to partake in this august gathering, dedicated to the 300<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Magtymgully Fragi, an outstanding thinker, philosopher, poet and literary giant.

I must also thank the government and people of Turkmenistan for the warm hospitality being extended to us in the beautiful and serene capital city of Ashgabat and for the excellent arrangements for this important forum.

Magtymgully Fragi was not only an iconic Turkmen poet, philosopher and chronicler of history but also a true cosmopolitan. Inclusion of his works in the UNESCO’s “Memory of the World” register, and dedicating 2024 as “The Year of the Great Poet and Philosopher”, by International Organization of Turkic Culture (Turksoy), are manifestations of his international outlook.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As a powerful defiant voice of his time, Magtymgully through his poetry champions the value of unity, friendship, and shared resilience, which he viewed as the bedrock for peace, strength, and social harmony. Magtymgully’s poems highlighted the ideal of living in harmony,

discouraging division and enmity, and promoting compassion among all people. His verses reflect a desire for a world where respect and peaceful coexistence prevail.

Today in a world torn with strife and conflict, Magtymgully's work is more relevant than ever before.

The essence of Magtymgully Fragi's message is completely in sync with the vision that underpin the very creation of ECO, which seeks to pursue peace and development through cooperation by bringing closer together a region and its people, connected by bonds of history, culture language, geography and economy. For us, it is iconic figures like Fragi that provided the inspiration for seeking a culturally and economically aligned and integrated region.

This important celebration therefore is not just a celebration of Turkmenistan's national poet but of a literary giant whose works continue to inspire millions throughout the region and the world.

### **Distinguished Guests**

Turkmenistan as one of the key members of the Economic Cooperation Organization plays significant role in promoting global peace and development. Through its policy of permanent neutrality and commitment to hosting major international events, the country fosters dialogue and cooperation. It is on account of the efforts of Turkmenistan that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 as the "International Year of Peace and Trust".

Mobilizing the international community to foster an environment of peace and trust is a timely and essential step toward expanding multilateral cooperation. This aligns with the ECO's shared vision of greater stability and integration.

I am glad to recall that Turkmenistan's stewardship in ECO was also exemplified when it graciously hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> ECO Summit, where the Ashgabat Consensus for Action was adopted under the stewardship of President Serdar Berdimuhamedow. This inclusively produced and mutually agreed document continues to guide our collective efforts towards sustainable development in the region.

With its strategic location at the heart of the ECO region, rich energy and connectivity potential, ECO deeply values Turkmenistan for its unwavering commitment to advancing our region's aspirations and goals for development. We also appreciate Turkmenistan for its collaborative engagements with the Organization in various sectors, most significantly regional transport and energy cooperation. We look forward to Turkmenistan's enhanced involvement and contribution to promoting greater regional trade and transport integration.

### **Dear Delegates**

Availing this opportunity, I would like to sincerely congratulate the people and the government to Turkmenistan for establishing the smart city of Arkadag as an inspirational model of development. This remarkable achievement, recognized with three awards during the World Smart City

Expo 2024 in South Korea, sets a new benchmark for innovation and sustainability. We also anticipate an early and successful organization of the First ECO Sustainable Development Forum in Arkadag.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Turkmenistan for graciously hosting this important forum and providing us with the opportunity to engage in a meaningful dialogue.

I am confident that the outcomes of this gathering will significantly contribute to our collective efforts toward fostering peace, unity, and sustainable development.

Turkmenistan's leadership and vision in promoting these values will undoubtedly inspire productive collaborations that benefit both the region and the wider global community.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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