



**Center for Global & Strategic Studies
Islamabad**

**Role of the Informal Summit of the Cooperation
Council of Turkic Speaking States in Joining Together
Regional Allies**

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On 31st March 2021, the unofficial virtual Summit of the Cooperation of Turkic-speaking States (hereinafter referred to as Turkic Council) took place. Representatives from this Council's member States and countries having observer status participated in



this online meeting to show their support for this Council's initiative for enhancing multi-faceted cooperation and increasing mutual trust. The agenda of this conference was also to strengthen the interests of shared prosperity and sustainable development. In the following lines, it has been elaborated how the Turkic Conference was a success in present era. Moreover, a general overview of this conference ideas and objectives with its inclusive nature for other regional states like Pakistan, is mentioned in considerable length.

The Background and Objectives of Turkic Conference:

On 3rd October 2009, the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States was formed under the Nakhchivan Agreement to adhere to the principles enshrined in the United Nations' charter. The members of this Council are joined by broader characteristics and elements of Turkic identity. However, Turkic Council's broader objectives affirm its commitment to creating a deep and inclusive cooperation network within the ambit of its members and beyond the region. Following the Nakhchivan agreement's positive

provisions, the summit of Turkic-speaking States is held at regular intervals with varying themes and objectives for the betterment and prosperity of the Turkic countries and the wider region.

The Turkic Conference has many affiliated institutions under its umbrella, including Parliamentary Assembly of Turkish Speaking Countries, Turkish Business Council, International Turkic Academy,



International Organization of Turkic Culture, The Turkic Cultural Heritage Fund, and Turkic Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These institutions perform a wide range of activities in line with the positive agenda of Turkic conference in furtherance of its main aims.¹

Role of Recently Concluded Summit of Turkic-Speaking States in Enhancing Regional Cooperation:

The virtual summit of the Turkic-Speaking States was attended by the highest delegates from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The Prime Minister of



¹ “TURKIC COUNCIL (THE COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES).” mfa.gov.tr. Republic of Turkey; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, n.d. Accessed April 6, 2021. <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turk-konseyi-en.en.mfa>



Hungary and an official representative from Turkmenistan participated with observer country status. The theme of this year's summit was "Turkistan – A Spiritual Capital of the Turkic World" .² After careful analysis of the averments of leaders of and final joint declaration, this conference can be deemed successful for many reasons. Presently, important Western countries are deciding to break away from their traditional alliances and moving towards isolation. However, the platform of the Turkic Council is trying its best to bring the world closer. In this regard, the following are the important takeaways from the summit that can have positive effects on its member states and countries as well:

- **Initial Plans and Strategies for Enhancing Collaboration between Turkic Countries:**

The initial drafts for starting "Turkish World Vision – 2040" and "Turkic Council Strategy 2020-2025" were appreciated by the Turkic organization's leaders. It was decided that close cooperation will be initiated between the member states through official communication channels for expeditiously starting these programs by the start of the next summit.

² Ağlarıcı , Merve Gül Aydoğan. "Turkic Council Members Agree to Change Body's Name." aa.com.tr. Anadolu Ajansı, April 1, 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkic-council-members-agree-to-change-bodys-name/2194711>

- **Making Turkic Council an International Organization: Plans and Strategies**

In his special address at the Turkic Council meeting via video link, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan emphasized the idea of making the Turkic Council an international organization. He believed that cooperation groups globally have gained more significance during the changing scenarios in recent times.

President Erdogan stressed that the Turkic organization had gained a high international reputation during the past 12 years. The region's capacity to give uninterrupted access to Europe via the Trans-Caspian East-West-



Middle Corridor initiative (also called Middle Corridor) will also increase the strategic value of Turkic countries.³ The Secretary-General of the Turkic Council, Baghdad Amreyev, has also shown the same ambition of making a united Turkic world out of the Turkic Council.⁴

³ Kurukiz, Hatice Senses, and Berk Ozkan. "Time to Dub Turkic Council Int'l Organization: Turkey." aa.com.tr. Anadolu Ajansı, March 31, 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/politics/time-to-dub-turkic-council-int-l-organization-turkey/2194255>

⁴ Aydoğan, Merve. "Turkic Council Eyes Forming 'United States of Turkic World'." aa.com.tr. Anadolu Ajansı, March 30, 2021. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/turkic-council-eyes-forming-united-states-of-turkic-world/2192579>



Showing Solidarity and Appreciation for People of Azerbaijan:

Turkic Council members showed their solidarity and full support towards the government and Azerbaijan's people for their victory against Armenia in the recently concluded Nagorno-Karabakh war. The council members also showed their full support for the rehabilitation and rebuilding of the lands liberated by the brave Azerbaijani forces during the recent war.

- **Support for Normalization of Relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia:**

The Turkic Council member countries also weighed on the prospects of durable peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia in the coming years. It was agreed during this summit that normalization of relations between these two countries can be achieved based on mutual respect and understanding of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity based on the relevant provisions of international law.

- **Plans for Expeditious Implementation of Regional Projects:**

The Turkic Conference' declaration also emphasized the need for effective and fast implementation of strategically important regional projects like transport, customs, energy, and infrastructure sectors.⁵

Collaborating with Turkic Council: Benefits and Options for Pakistan

The Turkic Council is an inclusive group that is always ready to join nations outside its ambit for promoting wider political, socio-economic and geostrategic cooperation.

⁵ Ibid.



Pakistan is an important country, that can positively influence and help Turkic countries organization in pursuance of their goal of regional harmony and collaboration. The following points construe the valid prospects for cooperation between the Turkic Council and Pakistan:

- **The Need for Collaboration vis-à-vis the Afghan Conflict:**

The countries, part of the Turkic Council, must join hands to make sure that lasting peace is established in Afghanistan as the end of the decades-long Afghan war is coming closer. Afghanistan's socio-economic prosperity is in many ways a prime responsibility not only for its immediate neighbor Pakistan but also for Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and other Turkic Council's countries.

- **Turkic Council's Cooperation with Pakistan: Economic Prospects**

The countries that are part of the Turkic Council can provide safe and viable economic activities between Europe and the rest of Asia. If Pakistan can form economic alliances with these countries after establishing sustained peace in Afghanistan, it can receive huge economic dividends in the future.

- **Strategic and Geopolitical Influence of Alliances:**

In South Asia, Middle East, and elsewhere, many countries are trying to push back and minimize the role of important countries in the Asian and Bosphorus regions like Pakistan, Turkey, and Azerbaijan, among others. However, all three countries have proved their mettle by exterminating domestic and international threats lingering



around because of their strong militaries and strategic insight. Under such circumstances, Turkic Council countries must join hands with Pakistan to counter the overt and covert threats imposed by their enemies. Efficacious collaboration with these states will acquire a new sense of strength and power.

Conclusion:

The virtual meeting of the intergovernmental organization of the Turkic-Speaking States provided an opportunity for the countries to have Turkic identities to gather together and discuss issue of mutual interest. The proactive collaboration and the ambition of this organizations' member states to make it an even bigger international organization needs special applause. Forming this positive alliance, these countries have chosen a united path that can take these countries towards a path to prosperity and cohesion. Most importantly, Pakistan, with many socio-culture similarities with these nations, has much to offer to this positive alliance. A country with one of the most efficient armed forces globally, Pakistan can provide invaluable and ingenious input to these member states regarding multiple issues. It can gain plenty of economic benefits by joining hands with the countries in the Turkic Council.